

The Unconfirmed Minutes of the RMES Committee held at Rainsbrook on Friday 12th September 2025 at 7 pm

1.0 Present:

R D Thomas (Chairman) A T McGeechan (Vice-chairman) S Byatt (Treasurer)
H C Brewer (Secretary) J Dakin P J Hart M Morgan

1.1 Apologies for absence:

Phil Hancock.

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 25th July 2025 committee were accepted without change and were signed by the Chairman and Secretary as a true record.

3.0 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the above minutes other than the actions reviewed below. All other actions have either been completed or form part of the agenda of this meeting.

The following actions were reviewed – 4.1.2*, 4.3.4*, 4.3.5^, 6.1.1*, 6.3*, 6.7*, 6.8*, 6.9*, 6.13*, 8.3^, 8.4^ & 8.6*. 8.5 has now been superseded by 8.6 of these minutes.

*These items have been removed as completed

^These items now form part of this meeting.

4.0 General

4.1 Correspondence

4.1.1 NAME Delegates Meeting

As there was no committee member able to attend our apologies will be tendered.

Action: Secretary

There had been no postal correspondence. Email correspondence had also been dealt with by committee circulation prior to the meeting and included on the agenda as appropriate.

4.2 Membership Applications / Approvals

4.2.1 Simon Tudor

Had been contacted and offered a 3 month trial but no response had been received. This was followed up but still no response. It was agreed to try once more and then withdraw the application.

4.2.2 Jack Colby

Application was accepted at the July meeting and this was transmitted to him. Similar to the above there was no response to this or the follow up. The application is to be withdrawn if a final attempt fails.

4.2.3 Christine Rundle

Christine is Oscar's Grandmother and wishes to support him. Accepted by circulation and signed off at this meeting. Membership issued.

4.2.4 Edward Cole (Junior)

Edward is the grandson of John & Gill Nelson who are sponsoring him. This was accepted by the meeting and is WIP.

4.2.5 Kathryn Derby

Kathryn has applied for full membership to supervise her son who has just turned 10 they are local and keen to get involved. All application accepted – WIP.

- 4.2.6 Jason Derby
Is Kathryn's husband who has applied for associate membership to support his son.
- 4.2.7 Logan Derby
Is Kathryn and Jason's son who is very keen to get involved.
- 4.2.8 Matt Creak
Matt lives in Leicestershire and is building a 3.5" Gauge loco. He has enquired several times and then changed his mind. For this reason he is to be offered a 3 month trial (ends December) to see if he is going to be an active member.
- 4.2.9 David Bambrook
David is a member of Banbury MES and has visited us several times and filled in an application at the FMES Rally last weekend. It was agreed to accept his application.

Action: Secretary (All of the above)

4.3 Items for Discussion

- 4.3.1 Jobs List
An update of this list had been circulated by the chairman and this was looked at in detail and further updated at the meeting. Priority 1 jobs were looked at and the re-alignment of the main line up past the Laurels has been costed circa £1k and will take several months to complete. Coal Crusher has yet to be costed and actioned. The Legacy funded raised track steaming bays has been costed at circa £11k and work starts this month. The higher cost is mainly down to the amount of concrete required over the area of the bays. Priority 2, 3 & 4 jobs were also looked at and will be updated as costs are known.

Action: Chairman

- 4.3.2 Lapel Badges
These have been obtained and offered to members at £5 each. To date 28 of the 50 badges have been sold

Action: Secretary

- 4.3.3 Terrorism (protection of premises) Bill (Repeat)
This had been looked at in the recent past and it was thought we were outside of its remit. As for outdoor activities it was 800+ on site and for buildings 200+, neither of which we get close to. However it was decided that it would be a good policy to have a plan for evacuation in any circumstances.

Action: Safety Officer

- 4.3.4 Additional Storage?
The chairman put a proposal to the meeting for providing additional rail connected storage on site using the spur line put in last year for the 7¼" AGM. This would consist of 3 road storage in a standard 40ft container for 12 carriages. A traverser or 3 way point would be required to serve the 3 roads. The meeting thought this would be worth following up so costs are to be established.

Action: Chairman

- 4.3.5 Defibrillator (Repeat)
We were asked by a doctor attending the SEN event about this and concern was expressed about lack of this facility. We had offered to host a Defibrillator via the 'OurJay' Foundation but our offer was not taken up. This is to be looked into again by Sue Morgan and Gill Nelson.

Action: Mike Morgan (liaison)

4.3.6 Fly Tipping

It has been noted that garden rubbish is still being brought on site despite the notice sent to all members several months ago. Recently rubbish tipped onto the bonfire was ignited from embers, luckily members were on site to control the blaze. A further notice is to be circulated to members.

Action: Secretary

5.0 Treasurers Report

5.1 Report on income and expenditure from 1st January to 31st August 2025

Income	£48,372.54	
Expenditure		£32,592.25

Liquid Assets 31st August 2025:

Current Account	£2,816.01	
Deposit Account	£30,115.54	(£10,246 set aside for new loco frame, £10,000 set aside for 5" steaming bay)
Petty Cash	£1,174.57	(Floats + Petty Cash)
Total	£34,106.12	(from £32,642.65 in July)

Recent Income includes:

Standing Orders	£90.00
Steam fund	£15.00
Subs	£24.00
Parties	£950.00
Public running	£4,160.27
Refreshments	£1,242.24
Donations	£70.98
Easy Fundraising	£24.56
MK insurance refund	£547.87

Recent Expenditure includes:

Electricity EDF	£228.93
Water bill	£212.97
Half year land rent	£596.00
Zinc paint for raised track	£38.99
CS2 roof replacement	£2,138.94
Fridge for clubhouse	£277.20
Diesel filter	£28.99
Weed killer	£90.22
New building electrical box	£49.67
5" coach buffers	£15.55
Refreshments supplies	£638.23
Coal	£1,115.80
Pin badges	£183.84
Criccieth Castle running total	£6,333.82
Total spend on new building	£68,745.51

John Groom legacy / £172.93
Steam fund remaining

The treasurer talked through the main income items these being public running, refreshments and parties. We had also received the agreed contribution to insure the Garratt for 2024/25. Expenditure items were CS2 roofing costs and purchase of coal. We have now regained our contingency fund of £10k and liquid assets are up by circa £1.5k on last month.

5.2 *Loan Repayment*

We have a further £2.5k in loans to pay back this year, due in October. This leaves £4.5k to repay over the next 2 years.

Action: Treasurer

5.3 *Heritage Lottery Grant*

The chairman presented slides outlining the findings of the HLF sub-committee, these now encompass the agenda items for Bridge funding and engine shed. Looking into the requirement for a grant it has become obvious that to 'tick all boxes' the scope needs to be widened beyond bridges and engine shed. The heritage aspect is still paramount so what has been added in will now improve greatly our chances of a grant. Slides are to be circulated to committee.

Action: Chairman

The proposals will need to go through several stages before we can submit an application to HLF. Members are to be consulted in the first instance to see if the plan has their support. To this end an EGM is to be called for 2nd November combined with an extra members running day.

Action: Chairman / Secretary

6.0 **Buildings and Grounds**

6.1 *Water Leak*

It is thought possible that this could be on the branch that used to feed a cattle drinking trough in the car park field. This section has been identified and the leak is being managed by turning a section off until the pipework can be replaced.

Action: Vice-chairman / Peter Barnett

6.2 *Green Maintenance*

Phil Hart reported that this was ongoing and the dry spell had helped with the mowing. He ask for a small spend for more wild flowers in the spring which was agreed.

Action: Phil Hart

6.3 *Drainage into cutting (Winter)*

The vice-chairman reported that a hole will need to be dug on the roadway alongside the cutting to expose the pipe and repair it. This therefore will need to be a winter job when the road is not in use. This is to be added to the jobs list.

Action: Vice-chairman

6.4 *Car Park Field Lease*

The chairman reported that he had followed this up with RBC but has yet to receive a reply.

Action: Chairman

7.0 **Elevated Track + Loco's and Rolling Stock**

7.1 *Signals*

Good progress is being made with the signalling system with all posts and heads installed. These are being connected and tested as they are fitted. Jumper leads are being installed across all joints and this is about 60% completed.

Action: Secretary / Peter Hill

7.2 *New Carriage stock*

This is slowly progressing with painting being done at present. It was agreed that at least one new carriage set will be required for the start of next season.

Action: Phil Hancock / Engineering

7.3 *Level area in front of lift table (2nd Repeat)*
This is to be levelled using the digger when this is next available.

7.4 *Steaming Bay water supply*
Some confusion had existed about the valves to allow mains water into the IBC which had resulted in an overflow. This has been sorted with the person concerned.

8.0 Ground Level Track + Loco's and Rolling Stock

8.1 *Club Loco update*
Jason reported that Cricc was now serviceable and some driver training had been carried out. It was asked if the Garratt and Shay would be available for 12th October running, this is to be confirmed ASAP.

Action: Jason Dakin

8.2 *Garratt – Insurance*
The contribution to this has been received from the member concerned for 2025.

8.3 *Turntable*
This has been painted but the boards need fully attaching to complete the job.

Action: Phil Hancock / Engineering

8.4 *Signals 'Switch Out'*
This still requires fitting when resources allow.

Action: Secretary / Peter Hill

8.5 *Carriages on loan*
The chairman had been in contact with the member concerned and he is willing to accept £1k per carriage. It was agreed this was a good price and purchase should go ahead providing an agreement on stage payments can be arranged.

Action: Chairman

8.6 *Storage Policy*
This had been circulated to committee several weeks ago and the secretary went through the various aspects of the policy with the meeting. Members working on their locos on site were not covered and it was agreed to add this as part of the 'Short Term' policy. Such work should also be carried out in the engineering workshop or the 7¼" workshop as available. Also the policy on insurance of members locos is to be changed to reflect 'no liability to the society'. The draft document is to be updated and circulated to committee for acceptance. It can then be circulated to members and it was agreed will come into force from 1st January 2026.

Action: Secretary

8.7 *Carriage Maintenance & Repair*
Some repair work has been carried out on carriages but a formal 'team' is yet to be formed.

Action: Vice-chairman

9.0 Events

9.1 *Calendar for 2026*
This was looked at by the meeting and it was agreed to stay with the 3rd Sunday concept but with a few changes. It was agreed to try an Easter Sunday event and move the normal running to the end of the month. Father's day remains as 21st June but the mid-week August running moves to the Sunday. The October mid-week moves to the end of the month as a 'Halloween' event. Calendar to be updated and circulated to committee for finalisation at the next meeting.

Action: Secretary

9.2 *Additional revenue earning events*
As Phil Hart had to leave early this will be added to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Secretary

9.3 Marketing suggestions for 2026

Feedback had been received from Brian Taylor, Ben Culling and Ellen Perry. The meeting needed more time to digest the many suggestions, so committee members are asked to comment and copy all so a full discussion can take place at the next meeting.

Action: All Committee members

9.4 Christmas Event?

Due to the need to close part of the ground level track early in November it was decided not to run a Christmas event this year. The membership is to be informed.

Action: Secretary

9.5 New Year's Day Member's running?

It was agreed that this could go ahead if members wished to run on a shortened ground level track. The raised track would be un-affected and remain open until after this event. The membership is to be informed.

Action: Secretary

10.0 Safety**10.1 Safety Concerns**

No new safety concerns have been received since the last meeting.

01/2025 – remains open as further discussion is required on railings.

02/2025 – is complete and is now closed.

10.2 Speedo's on all Guards Carriages (3rd Repeat)

All of the 300 series guards' carriages are now fitted with speedos. The 100 series guards carriages also need to have these fitted (only one has) to complete the job.

Action: Phil Hancock / Engineering

11.0 Any Other Business**11.1 Solar Panels?**

This can be considered as part of the HLF grant on the new buildings.

11.2 2026 Meeting dates

The schedule for committee meetings next year is to be formulated ready for finalisation at the 12 December meeting.

Action: Secretary

11.3 Date of next Meeting:

The next meeting of the RMES Committee is to be held at Rainsbrook on Friday 24th October 2025 at 7 pm

The meeting closed at: **22.00**

12.0 Confirmation of Minutes

Approved as a true record:

Date: _____

Date: _____

R D Thomas – Chairman

H C Brewer – Secretary