

## The Unconfirmed Minutes of the RMES Committee held at Rainsbrook on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 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 Hancock                      P J Hart                      M Morgan

The meeting was joined by Don Currie & Dave Penney for the first 50 min. to discuss items 4.3.4 and 10.2 concerning safety (Dave takes over from Don as Safety Officer end of February) after which they left the meeting.

### 1.1 Apologies for absence:

None – all committee members were present.

### 2.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> December 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.

Action 6.6 (Empty gas cylinders) from the minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> December were reviewed and were accepted as completed. Actions 6.3 (Drainage into cutting) & 8.2 (Signal switch out) were agreed with the chairman to remove from the minutes.

Due to time constraints some items were deferred to the next meeting – annotated.

### 4.0 General

#### 4.1 Correspondence

##### 4.1.1 NAME Affiliation

We have received our notification of affiliation dues from NAME (£38.75 for 155 members); together with an update sheet for officers and boiler inspectors. This has been completed, circulated and agreed. Payment due 1<sup>st</sup> January and update sheet to be sent to the NAME secretary next week.

**Action: Treasurer / Secretary**

##### 4.1.2 FMES Affiliation

A fee of £10 is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> March to keep our affiliation with the Federation. This was agreed and payment to be made.

**Action: Treasurer**

There had been no other 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 Jack Colby

Despite many chases we have had no progress on this application since acceptance in July last year. It was therefore decide to withdraw the offer.

**Action: Secretary**

### **4.3 Items for Discussion**

#### 4.3.1 Marketing – 2026

The chairman reported good progress on this front. The website for RVR has been set up and much work has been done on the promotional side. Feedback has been given by committee to the work done so far but overall a very positive result.

**Action: Chairman / Marketing**

#### 4.3.2 Feedback

Some suggestions had been received from Ellen Penney. The suggestion of a season ticket was discussed and rejected but SEND access will be considered. The suggestion of sweets and cake in the café can be discussed with café staff. The suggestion of a kids table/bookshelf was rejected due to limited space.

**Action: Chairman (Marketing) / Phil Hart (Café)**

#### 4.3.3 Jobs List

The jobs list was briefly looked at priorities 1 thru 4:

1. Track re-laying it was discussed and agreed that we should aim for a 50m per year replacement target. To this end we will need to buy more plastic for sleepers both for spot replacement and winter re-laying. These can then be prepared during the summer so we have a stock ready.

**Action: Treasurer**

2. Lift table metal box – a like for like replacement has been found and this is to be kindly sponsored, details passed to the sponsor.

**Action: Phil Hart**

3. The repairs required to 'Scrappy' have been added.
4. Signal Box (SB) at the new station, details and siting of this were discussed and agreed. Only the controls currently at the station controllers post are to be moved to the new SB. All other existing controls are required for operation at events other than public running. The new SB has also been kindly sponsored.

**Action: Mike Morgan / Tony Shoobridge**

Jobs list to be updated, completed jobs removed and circulated to committee.

**Action: Chairman**

#### 4.3.4 Terrorism / Fire / Fatality

A paper on this had been prepared by Don Currie and circulated to committee 'Planning for Emergency's during Public Running'. Don talked through this to the meeting selecting points we need to address:

- The organiser is key and will need additional training
- Our emergency plan (Ops Manual 1.8) is not a plan and will need re-writing
- Training is needed by all staff duties at public running
- We fall into 'standard' tier of "Protection of Premises Act (Martyn's Law)" which is expected in law 2027 (i.e. 200 – 799 on site including staff).
- RMES will be responsible for implementing the act
- It's implied that training will be free
- We have no 'Safe Places' but other buildings / containers could be used
- A plan will need to be submitted to SIA (Security Industry Association)
- The first line of defence is 'knowing our public' but a decision on whether to implement bag searches will need to be made
- Protecting public and themselves, stopping trains, finding safe places to hide and communication all need to be addressed
- Equally important will be our plan for fire evacuation, Clubhouse fire, vehicle fire and briefs for these for the organiser will be required

- We still need to address our actions in the event of a fatality on site

All of the above will need further work before the act comes into force.

**Action: Safety Officer / Committee**

4.3.5 Defibrillator

To progress the purchase of this for use on site a funding page is to be set up. This will be promoted to our public, visitors and membership on site. It is hoped to raise £2k from this to purchase and install the unit.

**Action: Mike Morgan**

4.3.6 HLF Progress

The chairman reported that we have invited our local councillors to a presentation on 21<sup>st</sup> February in the Rainsbrook Building. Two have accepted and the third has been chased. It was thought that we should keep the numbers down so a small team were selected consisting of Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, Phil Hart & Mike Morgan.

**Action: Chairman**

4.3.7 Storage Requests

Five of the requests were signed off and covered 5" stock as well as two 7¼". Three of these will need countersigning by their owners before scanning and listing in the member's area of the website. Three further requests were discussed:

*Andy Walton* – 15F – used a lot for public running last year and will only be on site during the running season – accepted.

*Peter Hill* – Florence – Open for anyone qualified to drive, could be used on public running and works trains – accepted,

*John Wildblood* – Princess – John wishes to do public running and has been passed out for this – accepted. It was suggested he does a couple of parties first.

The above will be notified.

**Action: Secretary**

4.3.8 Disciplinary Action taken

The committee were notified that disciplinary action has been taken against a member who dangerously let off a pyrotechnic on site. This did damage to the signal box but luckily did not cause any injury to them or other members. The member has forfeited their keys and will only be allowed on site on specific days in the company of other members. They are also repairing and paying for the damage done. The loss of privileges will be in force for six months and is conditional.

**Action: All to note**

4.3.9 Key Requests

Requests for keys have been received from:

*Mike Morgan* – Who needs to add a clubhouse and safe key to his holding, this was agreed and deposit will be transferred to the treasurer

*Mike Huddart* – who wishes access to the raised track

*David Huddart* – who also wishes access to the raised track

Both the above were agreed and will be issued with a key to the single gate, clubhouse key and safe key. Under the rules a £50 deposit is required and they will be notified.

**Action: Secretary (Notify) / Vice-chairman (Keys)**

## 5.0 Treasurers Report

### 5.1 Report on income and expenditure from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

#### Liquid Assets 31st December 2025:

Current Account	£2,625.78
Deposit Account	£30,718.78 (£9,526 set aside for new loco frame, £7,343 set aside for 5" steaming bay)
Petty Cash	£1,174.57 (Floats + Petty Cash)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£34,519.13</b> (from £33,269.84 in November)

	2025 Jan	2025 Feb	2025 March	2025 April	2025 May	2025 June	2025 July	2025 August	2025 Sept	2025 Oct	2025 Nov	2025 Dec	2025 Total
<b>Income</b>													
Standing Orders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Member subscriptions	1,060.00	1,150.00	523.50	45.00	145.00	50.00	25.00	24.00	54.00	-	45.00	1,690.00	4,811.50
Party income	-	50.00	250.00	200.00	300.00	450.00	500.00	950.00	200.00	200.00	-	-	3,100.00
Public running income	-	-	-	2,306.33	2,560.96	3,176.63	2,202.00	4,160.27	158.44	4,245.34	-	-	18,809.97
Refreshments income	-	-	-	581.42	708.92	507.32	1,134.93	1,242.24	569.35	445.29	-	-	5,189.47
Clothing income	-	-	887.00	53.50	45.00	-	-	-	125.00	23.00	-	25.00	1,158.50
Donations	-	25.00	20,200.00	1,364.80	92.17	441.58	635.72	70.98	-	75.89	150.00	250.00	23,306.14
Donations to development f	110.00	110.00	110.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	80.00	1,130.00
Easy fundraising	-	54.21	-	-	37.05	-	-	24.56	-	-	71.25	-	187.07
Gift aid payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Steam fund income	10.00	10.00	15.00	10.00	10.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	34.43	15.00	15.00	15.00	179.43
Club and external events	-	-	-	-	-	30.00	-	-	540.00	-	-	-	570.00
Key sales	-	20.00	5.00	100.00	-	107.00	-	-	5.00	-	-	-	237.00
Club shares	-	1.00	2.00	-	2.00	1.00	1.00	-	1.00	-	1.00	-	9.00
Fridge magnet sales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150.00	-	150.00
Sundry items	-	45.00	-	30.00	6.00	-	4.00	547.87	321.37	-	-	-	954.24
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,180.00</b>	<b>1,465.21</b>	<b>21,992.50</b>	<b>4,781.05</b>	<b>3,997.10</b>	<b>4,868.53</b>	<b>4,607.65</b>	<b>7,124.92</b>	<b>2,098.59</b>	<b>5,094.52</b>	<b>522.25</b>	<b>2,060.00</b>	<b>59,792.32</b>
Interest savings account	-	-	48.49	-	-	90.59	-	-	94.46	-	-	88.78	322.32
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,180.00</b>	<b>1,465.21</b>	<b>22,040.99</b>	<b>4,781.05</b>	<b>3,997.10</b>	<b>4,959.12</b>	<b>4,607.65</b>	<b>7,124.92</b>	<b>2,193.05</b>	<b>5,094.52</b>	<b>522.25</b>	<b>2,148.78</b>	<b>60,114.64</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>														
Electricity	303.59	489.75	423.20	372.43	300.00	139.29	255.70	228.93	221.12	82.97	371.17	351.78	<b>3,539.93</b>	
Water	-	1,418.44	-	-	-	-	162.85	212.97	-	-	-	10.69	<b>1,804.95</b>	
Insurance	-	-	3,436.08	-	-	-	1,119.69	-	-	50.01	-	-	<b>4,605.78</b>	
Club subscriptions	10.00	209.77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28.00	-	<b>247.77</b>	
Rent	-	596.00	-	-	-	-	-	596.00	-	-	-	-	<b>1,192.00</b>	
Rates	-	-	-	-	125.62	63.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>188.62</b>	
Stationary	-	57.75	-	-	-	-	77.00	-	-	-	-	-	<b>134.75</b>	
<b>Fixed costs sub total</b>	<b>313.59</b>	<b>2,771.71</b>	<b>3,859.28</b>	<b>372.43</b>	<b>425.62</b>	<b>202.29</b>	<b>1,615.24</b>	<b>1,037.90</b>	<b>221.12</b>	<b>132.98</b>	<b>399.17</b>	<b>362.47</b>	<b>11,713.80</b>	
Raised track	-	-	100.80	188.39	-	-	-	38.99	632.04	1,608.08	765.17	-	<b>3,333.47</b>	
Ground track	33.50	8.55	-	1,602.60	239.95	132.17	-	-	9.00	81.14	-	-	<b>2,106.91</b>	
Building / site maintenance	24.40	936.82	591.37	36.47	97.32	254.38	560.37	2,531.35	312.52	183.63	-	64.00	<b>5,592.63</b>	
Tools	16.45	33.00	52.78	76.00	-	77.00	-	-	-	75.00	-	69.68	<b>399.91</b>	
Locomotives	2.40	12.00	8.40	-	-	-	-	-	18.00	-	6.24	-	<b>47.04</b>	
Carriages	75.18	111.10	36.61	-	-	9.12	4.44	15.55	111.95	500.00	73.79	8.34	<b>946.08</b>	
Steam fund expenditure	20.70	28.28	377.95	-	-	-	-	-	3.60	-	-	405.60	<b>836.13</b>	
New locomotives	104.00	-	-	1,034.40	-	515.46	720.00	-	-	-	-	-	<b>2,373.86</b>	
Petrol	51.74	-	-	49.93	409.79	44.07	-	-	-	6.97	26.00	-	<b>588.50</b>	
Coal	-	-	-	-	62.70	-	65.20	1,075.00	81.60	-	-	-	<b>1,284.50</b>	
Refreshments supplies	-	-	400.00	-	749.21	261.06	355.80	638.23	-	302.63	-	-	<b>2,706.93</b>	
Clothing purchases	-	-	769.20	-	55.80	-	-	183.84	-	-	-	-	<b>1,008.84</b>	
Club and external events co	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	294.96	-	-	-	<b>294.96</b>	
New building expenditure	-	16.87	320.65	2,686.40	80.07	101.35	477.52	49.67	-	-	-	-	<b>3,732.53</b>	
Sundry expenses	-	97.00	70.00	42.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	185.51	-	<b>394.51</b>	
<b>Running costs sub total</b>	<b>328.37</b>	<b>1,243.62</b>	<b>2,727.76</b>	<b>5,716.19</b>	<b>1,694.84</b>	<b>1,394.61</b>	<b>2,183.33</b>	<b>4,532.63</b>	<b>1,463.67</b>	<b>2,757.45</b>	<b>1,056.71</b>	<b>547.62</b>	<b>25,646.80</b>	
<b>Loan repayments</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>	
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>641.96</b>	<b>4,015.33</b>	<b>6,587.04</b>	<b>6,088.62</b>	<b>4,120.46</b>	<b>1,596.90</b>	<b>3,798.57</b>	<b>5,570.53</b>	<b>1,684.79</b>	<b>5,390.43</b>	<b>1,455.88</b>	<b>910.09</b>	<b>41,860.60</b>	
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	538.04	(2,550.12)	15,453.95	(1,307.57)	(123.36)	3,362.22	809.08	1,554.39	508.26	(295.91)	(933.63)	1,238.69	18,254.04	
Transfer from other funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	538.04	(2,550.12)	15,453.95	(1,307.57)	(123.36)	3,362.22	809.08	1,554.39	508.26	(295.91)	(933.63)	1,238.69	<b>18,254.04</b>	

The treasurer talked through the main items of income as annual subscriptions and donations whilst main expenditure items are Shay boiler and electricity. It was suggested that we might follow up on Gift Aid for the donations over the past year including the £20k legacy.

**Action: Treasurer**

### 5.2 *Loan repayments*

Loans totalling £2.5k is repayable this year, £2k due in April and the £500 in October.

**Action: Treasurer**

### 5.3 *Purchase of Red Carriages*

The second payment for purchase has been made. Three further payments are due this year.

**Action: Treasurer**

### 5.4 *Donation from Mike Hughes Funeral*

The secretary passed to the treasurer the £190 donation from Mike Hughes funeral collection and the Hughes family were thanked for this.

## 6.0 **Buildings and Grounds**

### 6.1 *Water leak*

(Deferred to the next meeting)

### 6.2 *Green maintenance*

A report from Phil Hart had been circulated to committee. Due to time constraints more detailed discussions will take place at the next meeting.

### 6.3 *Car Park field*

(Deferred to the next meeting)

### 6.4 *Additional loco storage space*

(Deferred to the next meeting)

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

### 7.1 *Signals*

The signalling system is now installed with some further testing to do. It is thought that all the jumper connections are now made and the system will be fully operational for the new season.

**Action: Secretary / Peter Hill**

### 7.2 *New carriage stock*

(Deferred to the next meeting)

### 7.3 *New steaming bays*

(Deferred to the next meeting)

## 8.0 **Ground Level Track + Loco's and Rolling Stock**

### 8.1 *Club locos update*

(Deferred to the next meeting)

### 8.2 *Carriage maintenance and repair*

A further carriage (302) has been subject to a bogie swap and more will follow as engineering refurbish bogie sets. Paint has been obtained to refresh carriages when the weather is suitable for doing this.

**Action: Vice-chairman / Phil Hancock**

### 8.3 *Track maintenance*

The work at the Laurels is now complete with the track useable for the New Year's Day member's running. Work has now started to repair 3 sections of bar rail track that feed the steaming bay and platform 3 at the old station. Ballast is to be washed and sleepers replaced with useable second hand ones.

**Action: Track Gang**

**9.0 Events**

9.1 *Additional revenue earning events*  
(Deferred to the next meeting)

9.2 *Ticket pricing for 2026*

A lot of discussion transpired concerning how much these should be increased. No increase has been made for the last 5 years we did however reduce the session time by 30 minutes last year which, in effect, decreased the ticket value. After much discussion it was agreed to increase the online ticket to £8. It was also agreed to charge the same on the gate but only those tickets that remain unsold. This will not be publicised online. A decision has yet to be made about spectators and £2 single ride tickets.

**Action: Treasurer / Chairman / Marketing**

9.3 *Visit from Norwegian Model Engineer Association*

We have had a request from a Norwegian miniature railway group to visit us on 14<sup>th</sup> October. They are over here for the MME that week, after some discussion this was agreed. The group are to be notified that the visit can go ahead.

**Action: Secretary**

9.4 *Visit from Woolsey's miniature railway*

This group visited us last year at a member's running. It was agreed that this could go ahead on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Woolsey's to be notified.

**Action: Secretary**

9.5 *Green Frog Holiday event*

We have been asked to host a visit of SEND children on a holiday in our area. Sandra is willing to organise and the committee have agreed this for 19<sup>th</sup> August.

**Action: Secretary / Sandra Burchell**

9.6 *IMLEC 2026 Hosting?*

We have been asked if we are willing to host the IMLEC event this year. Dates put forward are 17-19 or 24-26 July. The first clashes with our public running and the second is too close to other events planned. There was also concern that our RT steaming bays would not be fully ready, so the event will need to be declined for this year. Given at least a year's notice we would be willing to host another year and this will be passed back to the organisers.

**Action: Secretary**

**10.0 Safety**

10.1 *Safety Concerns*

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

10.2 *Incident Report 01 2025*

This report concerns the dropping of a fusible plug on the Garratt (Mount Kilimanjaro) and injury caused by scalding. A full report had been written by Don Currie and this was talked through by him at the meeting. Some questions were asked why this occurred, operational considerations and decisions made at the time. The meeting then concentrated on the recommendations given at the end of the report:

- Loco failures to be immediately reported to the organiser
- If water cannot be fed into the boiler – loco is failed and moved to a safe place
- Examination for blocked boiler tubes must be carried out before lighting up and swept if required (Driver's responsibility)
- Condition of the fusible plug to be checked before lighting up
- All steam locos should carry a clinker shovel to allow fire cleaning or fire dropping in an emergency. Ash pits and/or trays to be provided at station to allow this
- ALL injuries are to be recorded in the accident book

It was agreed that all the above points are relevant and should form part of operational training and this will be added to the slides. It was agreed that a 'fitness to run' examination before a loco is used must be carried out by the driver.

**Action: Safety Officer / Trainers**

*10.3 Speedo's on all guards carriages*

Speedos and batteries have been purchased and designs are being finalised to fit these on all the 100 series guards carriages.

**Action: Vice-chairman**

## **11.0 Any Other Business**

*11.1 Change meeting day to Saturday?*

It had been suggested it may be easier to hold our meetings on a Saturday. This would suit some but Phil Hart has problems with this as most Saturdays are taken up with his auto sport interests. Other committee members were OK with either. A compromise was agreed in that Saturdays would be used in the winter (closed) season but Friday's remain for the summer.

This decision was carried but as several wanted an early start on Saturday's, 9am was agreed. Meetings for the rest of the year going forward are as follows:

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> March; Fri 24<sup>th</sup> April; Fri 5<sup>th</sup> June; Fri 24<sup>th</sup> July; Fri 11<sup>th</sup> September; Sat 24<sup>th</sup> October and Sat 12<sup>th</sup> December.

*11.2 FMES AGM – Delegate?*

We have been notified of the FMES AGM which is to be held in Coventry on Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March. We were asked to send a delegate and Phil Hancock volunteered for this; FMES to be notified.

**Action: Secretary**

*11.3 Date of next Meeting:*

The next meeting of the RMES Committee is to be held at Rainsbrook on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 9 am.

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