

The Unconfirmed Minutes of the RMES Committee held at Rainsbrook on Saturday 7th March 2026 at 9 am

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

1.1 Apologies for absence:

None – all committee members present.

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 23rd January 2026 committee were accepted without change and were signed by the Chairman and Secretary as a true record.

3.0 Matters Arising

There were no further matters arising from the above minutes other than the actions reviewed below.

Actions: 4.3.7, 4.3.8, 4.3.9 & 5.4 were reviewed and deemed completed.

All other actions have either been completed or form part of the agenda of this meeting.

4.0 General

4.1 Correspondence

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 Ken Bailey

This was a gift membership to Dawn Culling's father for his birthday and had been approved by circulation. This was signed off by the chairman.

4.2.2 Rachel Sherratt

Rachel is the partner of John Travis and is seeking associate membership. She is very interested in railways and steam and wishes to train as a guard.

4.2.3 Sheila Mace

Sheila was an associate to Roy's membership until his death a few weeks ago. It was not thought appropriate in this case to offer an honorary membership as she has not attended the club in many years.

The chairman had received feedback from a member at Roy's funeral about poor representation from the club. Also that no condolences had been sent*, the committee then discussed this and our only policy is to let members know of a member's death and the funeral arrangements. It is then left up to the members as to attendance. Three RMES members attended in this instance.

*See email sent on the 7th February for condolences expressed.

Action: Secretary (all the above)

4.3 *Items for Discussion*

4.3.1 Marketing progress

A report had been received from the marketing team and covered the following:

- Online – RVR website up and running – links to RMES website formed
- Advertising – Facebook, community pages, local schools and nurseries and poster distribution have all been actioned.
- Public Relations – Online reviews have been set up for Trip Adviser, Steam Heritage and Google. Also an article drafted for the Rugby Advertiser.
- On Site – Merchandise purchased, ready for sale. New signs produced for the Easter event and a quiz sheet for the children.

It is intended to ramp up their campaign over the next four weeks. The marketing team will be invited to the next committee meeting.

Action: Chairman

It was noted that some have difficulties locating us as our sign is for RMES not RVR. The 'A' Frame sign is to be re-purposed to put outside the gates to ensure people are aware that we are 'RVR'.

Action: Mike Morgan

4.3.2 Jobs List

The chairman went through the list by priority but had introduced a new tab 'Just do it'. This is intended for people looking for jobs on site and will be put on the Clubhouse whiteboard. Three items so far CS2 Soakaway; Potholes; Container Painting. Each has a contact person listed.

Priority 1: Sleeper replacement on ground level. Est. 180 6 metre panels will need replacing. It was agreed that we should attempt to replace 24 panel a year on top of the normal 'spot' re-sleepering. This would account for £2k spend each year on plastic and fittings. It was suggested we set up a plan with our plastic supplier for £1k spend every 6 months – this is to be followed up. Also a newsletter item?

Action: Chairman

Ballast washing facility: Plans already advanced and will use much of the materials already around the site. Situated in the cutting area will make use of the levels for offloading and drainage. Budget £300.

Priority 2: No new items but Box has been obtained for lift table and is awaiting fitting. Weedkiller has been purchased and will be used in the next couple of weeks.

Priority 3: New carriage build and RT signals covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Priority 4: New ride on mower covered elsewhere. The Ground track signal upgrade to use the RT pylons for a ring main to remove the need for a centre wire along the track. This makes track replacement easier and removes the problem of rusting wires.

4.3.3 Defibrillator

Sponsorship page set up and has received £350 so far. This is to be promoted at the AGM and public running events via the posters produced.

Action: Mike Morgan

4.3.4 Club Insurance – Pre-quote

We will drop the carriage (200) that is being converted into a well wagon but need to insure the new RT carriages being built (£1k). The values put on club locos was queried so Andy Walton is to be urgently consulted on this as we need to get this back to our insurers early next week.

Action: Phil Hancock

4.3.5 HLF Project

The presentation to our Dunsmore Ward councillors on 21 February was well received. The CEO of RBC has been written to and as a result a meeting has been set up for 24th March with the Chief Property Officer. This will be attended by our chairman and Don Currie. It appears that the HLF requirement is a 20+ years but it was agreed that we should get as many years on a new lease as we can to cover the whole site.

Action: Chairman

4.3.6 AGM

All current committee members were willing to stand again. It was agreed that we should be looking at increasing subs in line with inflation after the £10 rise in 2027.

5.0 Treasurers Report

5.1 Report on income and expenditure from 1st January to 28 February 2026

Liquid Assets 28th February 2026:

Current Account	£2,693.28	
Deposit Account	£28,928.78	(£9,526 set aside for new loco frame, £7,343 set aside for 5" steaming bay)
Petty Cash	£1,074.57	(Floats + Petty Cash)
Total	£32,696.63	(from £34,462.84 in January)

Income

	2026 Jan	2026 Feb	2026 March	2026 April	2026 May	2026 June	2026 July	2026 August	2026 Sept	2026 Oct	2026 Nov	2026 Dec	2026 Total
Income													
Standing Orders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Member subscriptions	1,115.00	950.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,065.00
Party income	350.00	50.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	400.00
Public running income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refreshments income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clothing income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	190.00	2,005.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,195.00
Donations to development fun	90.00	90.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	180.00
Easy fundraising	-	16.24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.24
Gift aid payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Steam fund income	15.00	15.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30.00
Club and external events	-	79.58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79.58
Key sales	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.00
Club shares	1.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.00
Merchandise sales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry items	-	40.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40.00
Sub total	1,861.00	3,245.82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,106.82
Interest savings account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	1,861.00	3,245.82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,106.82

Expenditure

Electricity	523.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	523.01
Water	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Club subscriptions	-	48.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48.75
Rent	-	596.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	596.00
Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stationery	159.70	171.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	331.30
Fixed costs sub total	682.71	816.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,499.06
Raised track	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ground track	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building / site maintenance	17.58	2,993.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,010.93
Tools	118.04	185.17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	303.21
Locomotives	4.32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.32
Carriages	632.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	632.40
Steam fund expenditure	442.64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	442.64
New locomotives	9.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.60
Petrol	-	20.34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.34
Coal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refreshments supplies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clothing purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Club and external events cos	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New building expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merchandise supplies	-	207.88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	207.88
Sundry expenses	10.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.00
Running costs sub total	1,234.58	3,406.74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,641.32
Loan repayments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	1,917.29	4,223.09	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6140.38
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	- 56.29	- 977.27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-1033.56
Transfer from other funds	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(56.29)	(977.27)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,033.56)

5.2 *2025 Audited accounts*

The treasurer reported that these were with 'Cube Accounting' and should be back within the next week.

Action: Treasurer

5.3 *Loan repayments*

Loans of £4.5k are outstanding £2.5k falling due this year, £2k in May and £500 in October.

Action: Treasurer

5.4 *Purchase of Red Carriages etc.*

Two payments have already been made with a further three due this year.

The chairman outlined problems seen in the Café that delayed proceedings. This was time taken for the totalling of purchases by staff having to add these up mentally or using scraps of paper. The suggestion is to get a calculator with a till roll to make things much easier for the staff on duty. This was agreed a good idea and will be purchased.

The treasurer reported that he had received a gift aid form which will allow us to claim against the legacy left us last year.

Action: Treasurer (All the above)

6.0 **Buildings and Grounds**

6.1 *Water leak*

Work is still continuing to find the elusive leak which appears to be in the ground level steaming bays. Overnight leakage is recorded as 18 litres and with all taps closed (except clubhouse) 3 litres were recorded. Therefore still a significant leak to be found and repaired.

Action: Vice-chairman / Geoff Broad

6.2 *Green Maintenance*

A report from the team had been submitted to the meeting. The Mountfield had broken down but this has since been repaired. The request for a larger ride-on mower has been agreed on the understanding it will be paid for privately then be claimed back over at least 2 years. A maximum budget of £3k was allowed.

Action: Phil Hart

6.3 *Car Park field*

This has been overtaken by the HLF project and more should be known after the meeting with RBC on 24th March.

Action: Chairman

6.4 *Additional storage space*

The temporary storage container has been delivered and was financed privately by two members. This is now being prepared for rolling stock by fixing three roads to take a total of 12 carriages. Existing stock of bar rail is being used for this, so costs should be minimal.

Action: Chairman / Vice-chairman

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

7.1 *Signals*

The secretary reported that the signals were now all installed and individually tested. Full functionality will be tested once trains are running by the signal engineers.

Action: Secretary / Peter Hill

7.2 *New carriage stock*

It was reported that painting was underway and that upholstery was being sorted. It was stressed that these need to be available for the Easter event as three trains have been scheduled to run on the raised track.

Action: Phil Hancock / George Cannon

7.3 *New steaming bays*

Work is continuing on this project with more digging work being done this weekend. A dumper truck is to be hired the following weekend to remove the large pile of spoil elsewhere on site. More metalwork is on order so that fabrication can commence.

Action: Chairman / Aubyn Mee

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

8.1 *Club Loco Update*

This was provided by Phil Hancock on behalf of engineering.

8.1.1 Garratt

Awaiting its commercial boiler test but otherwise ready for service

8.1.2 Shay

This is being re-assembled with boiler in place and back on its bogies. It may be ready for a test steaming early April

8.1.3 Dr John

Awaiting completion of painting of its saddle tank and assembly before test steaming

8.1.4 Scot

Longer term project but progressing and should be in steam later in the season

8.1.5 Criccieth Castle

In runnable condition, it was suggested that it is used on parties initially

8.1.6 Netta

Loco is serviceable

Action: Phil Hancock / Engineering

8.2 *Carriage Maintenance & repair*

Work continues on upgrading of bogies but is held at the moment for more laser cut parts. Two bogies are complete and awaiting swap out when time allows. It is intended to get all 300 series on upgraded bogies within the next few months.

Action: Vice-chairman / Phil Hancock

9.0 **Events**

9.1 *Additional revenue earning events*

It was suggested that perhaps extending one of our double sessions but only run non-steam during the third and last session may bring in extra revenue. The concern is that members will not wish to be on site for a further one and a half hours. Staffing for two sessions is still a problem so three could be even more difficult.

Are Café prices realistic? Time was taken to discuss this and we need to increase our revenue by selling pre-packaged unpriced items so we can charge a reasonable mark up. We don't want to overcharge but a reasonable return is required. It was suggested that Phil Hart acts as liaison for this and the head of Café staff is to be approached.

Action: Chairman / Phil Hart

9.2 *2026 Ticket prices – single ride tickets?*

This discussion is carried over from the last meeting where we ran out of time. It was discussed and agreed that we would drop the single ride ticket this year and also not charge for spectators. It was thought that this would encourage grandparent etc. to come and watch their family ride and use the Café, giving us income that way.

9.3 *Standard Gauge event – organiser?*

The Standard Gauge event is in need of an organiser as Ed Parrott is unavailable. A possible candidate for this was discussed and will be approached.

Action: Phil Hancock

9.4 *IMLEC 2027 - hosting*

The secretary reported that we had received confirmation from Neil Wyatt (Editor ME & W) that we can host IMLEC next year. Dates should be in July 2027 but will be sorted between Neil and our organiser's Glyn & George Winsall.

10.0 Safety

10.1 *Safety Concerns*

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

10.2 *Speedos on guards carriages (Repeat)*

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

Action: Vice-chairman

10.3 *Safeguarding*

The chairman announced that Martin Rose had accepted the post of Safeguarding Officer and would be attending the seminar on safeguarding run by FMES at their AGM on the 14th March.

Action: Phil Hancock / Martin Rose

11.0 Any Other Business

11.1 *Solar Panels on Rainsbrook Building?*

The meeting was attended briefly by Ed Parrott who had recently had solar panels installed. This prompted discussion as it was thought that the inverter / battery bank needed to be in close proximity to the meter to be able to sell electricity back to the grid. Because of the way the building is fed our meter is a long way away from the building. More information on this is required before further discussion can take place.

Action: Phil Hancock / Ed Parrott

11.2 ***Date of next Meeting:***

The next meeting of the RMES Committee is to be held at Rainsbrook on Friday 24th April 2026 at 7 pm

The meeting closed at: **12.10**

12.0 Confirmation of Minutes

Approved as a true record:

Date: _____

Date: _____

R D Thomas – Chairman

H C Brewer – Secretary