

The Unconfirmed Minutes of the RMES Committee held at Rainsbrook on Friday 1st May 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 J Hart M Morgan

We were joined by Ben and Dawn Culling for the first 50 min so item 4.3.1 was discussed first.

1.1 Apologies for absence:

Phil Hancock

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 7th March 2026 committee were accepted without change and were signed by the Chairman and Secretary as a true record.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 *Café Prices* (Prev. minute 9.1)

It was agreed that the committee need to take a closer interest in the Café operations and the stock held for sale. A balance between the mark up and a reasonable expected return is needed as a reward for all the hard work put in by the staff. The head of Café is therefore to be invited to the next meeting to discuss stock and pricing.

Action: Chairman

There were no further matters arising from the above minutes other than the action reviewed below. Action: 6.3 was reviewed and removed from minutes.

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 Rachel Sherratt

The associate membership has been issued.

There have been no new applications received since the last meeting. Membership now stands at **156** (all classes) at the beginning of the 2026 season.

4.3 *Items for Discussion*

4.3.1 Marketing

Ben Culling went through the original marketing brief he was given; to fill seats, RVR brand, price of tickets, same message across all publicity platforms, the coordination of Facebook and other social media. The results showed sell outs for our first two events with record revenues and a better understanding of what works and where we need to improve. For ticket sales it was agreed to have two events open for ticket purchase (max.). He also briefly went through what we had achieved so far (for full details see the Marketing Update presentation dated 1st May).

There then followed a discussion on what we need to do next:

Themed Events

27th May - is to be 'Dinosaur' themed as this had been announced.

21st June – Father's Day it was agreed to offer a free drink (Tea/Coffee) to all accompanied 'Dads', plus top ups. This in place of a suggested free rides for Dads as it was felt this would impact our revenue too much.

Other than Halloween the only event to possibly theme is 30th August as ticket sales were very low for the same time last year.

The 'under 3's' as opposed to '3 and under' has been sorted across all platforms. Children play from age of 3.

It was agreed to push parties – Wednesdays in particular.

A video / slide show was suggested for the Café area to showcase the work we do on site. A mission statement on a notice board in the Lobby area and possibly more posters where people queue was suggested.

Action: Marketing / Chairman

4.3.2 Jobs List

Priority 1 – Plastic has now been purchased for sleeper replacement but some of this will be used on the new tandem point. Angle iron removal is completed.

Priority 2 – Addition of Old Clubhouse wiring upgrade (£600) when funds allow.

Priority 3 – No new items

Priority 4 – Baldwin cylinders will need liners to overcome casting porosity. This will come out of the loco legacy fund. Gauge 1 Track added, (now not privately funded) at a cost of £3k.

Action: Chairman (list updating)

4.3.3 Defibrillator progress

This has now been purchased and is ready for installation. It is to be sited on CS2 external wall facing the containers. A direct power supply is required for this and will be from CS2 with an isolating switch.

Action: Mike Morgan

4.3.4 Rugby (RDC) & HLF Progress

A meeting has been held with David Collins (RBC) and a presentation given. Both the Lease for site and parking field were discussed. We have asked for the two to be combined into a new lease for 50 years excluding break clause 8 (HLF do not allow break clauses). This information is to be shared with RBC Head of Leisure and Wellbeing and a further meeting has been set for 11th May with this department. It appears we may have mutual ground as they have a lot of railway items but nowhere to display these. They are also approaching HLF for funding.

The gate in the fence of Upper Rainsbrook was also noted by RBC.

Action: Chairman

4.3.5 Gauge 1 Track

A site for this track has been agreed by committee and this information passed to the proposer. This project was to be privately funded but now requires club funding of circa £3k. It has been pointed out that this will therefore now be in competition with other club projects. A response is awaited from the proposer.

4.3.6 Solar Panels on Rainsbrook Building (Repeat)

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

5.0 Treasurers Report

 5.1 Report on income and expenditure from 1st January to 30th April 2026

Liquid Assets 30th April 2026:													
Current Account		£6,386.38											
Deposit Account		£21,616.53	(£9,489 set aside for new loco, £5,056 set aside for 5 th steaming bay)										
Petty Cash		£1,074.57	(Floats + Petty Cash)										
Total		£29,077.48	(from £27,689.99 in March)										

	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	400.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,465.00
Party income	350.00	50.00	350.00	550.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,300.00
Public running income	-	-	-	6,607.86	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,607.86
Refreshments income	-	-	-	1,031.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,031.80
Clothing income	-	-	-	843.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	843.00
Donations	190.00	2,005.00	138.57	55.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,388.57
Donations to development fu	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	360.00
Easy fundraising	-	16.24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.24
Gift aid payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Steam fund income	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60.00
Club and external events	-	79.58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79.58
Key sales	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.00
Club shares	1.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.00
Merchandise sales	-	-	-	40.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40.80
Sundry items	-	40.00	-	10.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50.00
Sub total	1,861.00	3,245.82	993.57	9,243.46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,343.85
Interest savings account	-	-	77.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77.75
Total Income	1,861.00	3,245.82	1,071.32	9,243.46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,421.60

Expenditure													
Electricity	523.01	-	328.22	428.62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,279.85
Water	-	-	7.61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.61
Insurance	-	-	-	3,660.29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,660.29
Club subscriptions	-	48.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48.75
Rent	-	596.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	596.00
Rates	-	-	-	55.36	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	-	-	-	325.36
Stationery	159.70	171.60	45.37	115.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	491.68
Fixed costs sub total	682.71	816.35	381.20	4,259.28	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	-	-	6,409.54
Raised track	-	-	1,309.35	1,053.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,362.70
Ground track	-	-	10.98	1,016.96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,027.94
Building / site maintenance	17.58	2,993.35	335.31	46.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,392.74
Tools	118.04	185.17	3,600.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,903.21
Locomotives	4.32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.32
Carriages	632.40	-	203.49	768.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,604.88
Steam fund expenditure	442.64	-	4.80	46.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	493.52
New locomotives	9.60	-	-	27.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37.20
Petrol	-	20.34	60.28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80.62
Coal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refreshments supplies	-	-	-	591.21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	591.21
Clothing purchases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Club and external events co	-	-	143.55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	143.55
New building expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merchandise supplies	-	207.88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	207.88
Sundry expenses	10.00	-	29.00	46.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85.00
Running costs sub total	1,234.58	3,406.74	5,696.76	3,596.69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,934.77
Loan repayments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	1,917.29	4,223.09	6,077.96	7,855.97	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	-	-	20,344.31
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(56.29)	(977.27)	(5,006.64)	1,387.49	(54.00)	(54.00)	(54.00)	(54.00)	(54.00)	(54.00)	-	-	(4,922.71)
Transfer from other funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(56.29)	(977.27)	(5,006.64)	1,387.49	(54.00)	(54.00)	(54.00)	(54.00)	(54.00)	(54.00)	-	-	(4,922.71)

The treasurer talked through the various items of income where public running had made the most contribution followed by refreshments and parties. Expenditure main items were insurance, raised track (steaming Bays), round track (plastic sleepers) and electricity. He noted that this month we had made an operating surplus of around £1.4k.

5.2 *Loan repayments*

The main payment to NAME (£2k) will be made after the May public running income is in. Other private loans are not due until October.

Action: Treasurer

5.3 *Purchase of Red Carriages*

A further payment of £500 has been made.

Action: Treasurer

5.4 *Audited Accounts*

The treasurer confirmed that our audited accounts for year-end December 2025 have been submitted and acknowledged by the FCA.

5.5 *Smart Meter*

EDF Energy wish to fit a Smart Meter but as it is 3 Phase, they asked to come and inspect. They were told Wednesday's between 9 and 4pm, so they made an appointment for a Tuesday! This has been rejected and we await a Wednesday appointment.

Action: Treasurer

5.6 *Gift Certificate?*

TryBooking do a gift certificate, so it was discussed and agreed that, if suitable, this could be used for raffle prizes.

Action: Treasurer / Secretary

6.0 **Buildings and Grounds**

6.1 *Water Leak*

This continues to be managed until pipework can be replaced.

Action: Vice-chairman

6.2 *Green Maintenance report*

Phil gave his report to the meeting and said the new mower was working well and he and Greg were keeping up with the seasonal growth. Extra help had been given by Brian Taylor last month and Ben Culling had also done some mowing. A small mower is required to cut grass around the clubhouse (Hayter mower has expired) £200 was agreed for this.

Action: Phil Hart

6.3 *CS3 progress*

Attempts to gain access to the three roads in CS3 using symmetrical lift out sections have failed as the 300 series carriages will not tolerate the tight radii required. This means we need to build a 'tandem' LH point to do the job. The design for this has been done via the internet and the sleeper plastic obtained. We will be using the surplus 4lb/yd. rail and a table has been set up in CS3 to construct it on.

Action: Chairman / Track Gang

6.4 *Ballast washing facility*

Work has started on this with foundations dug and concrete foundations underway. The plan has been revised by Geoff Broad in that the plant has been turned through 90° so that washed ballast can be slid via a chute into ballast wagon to save barrowing.

Action: Chairman / Geoff Broad

7.0 Elevated Track + Loco's and Rolling Stock

7.1 *New carriage stock*

The seating is away to be upholstered and footboards are to be made. This is to be followed up.

Action: Mike Morgan / Tony Shoobridge

These must be available for use by the Sweet Pea Rally in June. If there are hold ups then 'plan B' is to make rough seating out of timber to ensure they are useable for the event.

7.2 *New Steaming Bays*

Two of the traversers have already been built but these will need painting. A lift table is required (circa £1k). Concrete has been delivered and laid with one more delivery required to finish. The plan has been changed so that the non-steam bays will now be shorter in length. This will reduce the cost for both concrete and steel to keep close to the overall budget.

Action: Chairman / Aubyn Mee

7.3 *Signals*

These are experiencing some teething problems but recent modifications to the rail insulators it is hoped will cure the problem.

Action: Secretary / Peter Hill

8.0 Ground Level Track + Loco's and Rolling Stock

8.1 *Club Loco update*

8.1.1 Shay

Work is progressing on the pipework but no firm date for steaming yet

8.1.2 Dr John

Work stopped as concentration on Shay

8.1.3 Scot

Work continues but a long term project for later in the year

8.1.4 Criccieth Castle

Work still required on brake hangers but runnable – use at parties?

8.2 *Carriage maintenance team*

The modifications to the 300 series bogies is now complete, our thanks to Phil Hancock. Other maintenance, repair and cleaning / painting will be carried out by the team as required.

Action: Vice-chairman

9.0 Events

9.1 *Themed events?*

These have been agreed as Dinosaurs (May), Father's Day (June) and Halloween (Oct) with an option on late August running if required.

Action: Marketing

9.2 *SEN event?*

We are waiting on Rugby Lions for a proposed date before this can be confirmed.

Action: Secretary / Gill Nelson

9.3 *Standard Gauge Event (8/9 August)*

We still have no one to organise this event. A call is to be put out to members for help. It will need to be a local member to coordinate properly over the weekend.

Action: Secretary

9.4 *Stand at Northants County Show (22/23 August)?*

We have been offered a stand at this show which is held in Deene Park. Having discussed it was decided to decline due to distance and other commitments. Organiser to be notified.

Action: Secretary

9.5 *MMEE – (15 – 18 October)*

We have been offered a limited area for a stand which we have decided to accept. Once this has been confirmed a call will be put out to the membership.

Action: Secretary

9.6 *IMLEC 2027*

No further news on this. Dates will need to be established by October when we start looking for the events schedule for next year.

10.0 Safety

10.1 *Safety Concerns*

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

10.2 *Safety Officers Report*

The report from the 26th April running was discussed in detail. It was agreed that the findings will need further discussion and actions.

Action: Chairman / Safety Officer

10.3 *Speedos on all Guards Carriages*

All 300 series have working speedos 100 still to be sorted but speedos in stock. It was noted that the red carriages will also need a speedo fitted.

Action: Vice-chairman

10.4 *Safeguarding*

Work on this is progressing.

Action: Safety Officer / Martin Rose

10.5 *Terrorism Plan*

Work on this is in hand and will need completing before next season.

Action: Safety Officer / Don Currie

11.0 Any Other Business

11.1 *Rabbits Dell?*

It is thought that we should dedicate this area to Liz Ingram but more discussion with the family is required first.

Action: Chairman

11.2 *Notification of Payment*

Phil Hancock had requested that he is notified when payment is made to him for purchases made on behalf of the club.

Action: Treasurer

11.3 *Donation Box*

We now have a donation box in the lobby. The key to this was handed over to the treasurer.

11.4 Date of next Meeting:

The next meeting of the RMES Committee is to be held at Rainsbrook on Friday 5 June 2026 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