

The Unconfirmed Minutes of the RMES Committee held at Rainsbrook on Friday 24th July 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

1.1 Apologies for absence:

None, all members were present.

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 5th June 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.

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

Items 4.3.5, 4.3.6 and 10.4 were reviewed. Items 4.3.5 and 4.3.6 were closed as completed. Item 10.4 was discussed further as below.

Staff behaviour at public running events

The chairman explained the situation; he had contacted the member concerned as per his agreed action from our previous meeting but had no response. He followed this up about a week later offering a one to one if preferred but has had no response at all. In the chairman's section of June newsletter he had highlighted the subject of our public image to all members and how easy it is to lose your reputation and respect. This may have been taken on board as at our last public run the member concerned acted rationally when faced with a vacuum brake problem on his train. The chairman then went round the table to get individual members' views. As a result of this the consensus was that by not responding the member showed contempt for the committee and this cannot be allowed. It was agreed that the member needed to recognise the seriousness of this and respond accordingly. A formal letter is to be written with appropriate warning that a response is required to prevent further disciplinary action being taken. The committee agreed that had it been any other member, suspension would have been almost immediate.

Additionally, committee members were concerned that another driver, whilst not directly involved in the original incident, was also the subject of a complaint made by the public due to the use of inappropriate language, but as yet, had not been contacted regarding his behaviour. The chairman agreed to follow up on a verbal basis with the individual member concerned.

Action: Chairman

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 Jonathan Pattle

The secretary had followed up this application and Jonathan had decided not to go ahead. Application is to be withdrawn.

4.2.2 Roger & Janet James & grandson Calum Rastall

These were discussed and it was agreed to offer membership to this family.

4.2.3 John Montgomery

We had asked for this applicant to come and discuss his objectives with us but no further response has been forthcoming. To be followed up to get him on site.

Action: Secretary (All the above)

4.3 Items for Discussion

4.3.1 Café operations & feedback

The new pricing of stock for sale appears to be working well with no detrimental comments. Ice creams are very popular and Gill had asked if we could have a dedicated proper ice cream freezer with a transparent top. This would allow them to be sold directly from the freezer; this was agreed and a budget of £500 was allocated. Also kick boards were needed to finish off the kitchen area, this was an agreed priority.

Action: Mike Morgan

4.3.2 Key request

The request for keys to main gate and clubhouse from John Thomas was approved.

Action: Vice-chairman

4.3.3 External and Internal Marketing

The committee went through the report and covered the questions highlighted.

- A3 poster replacements agreed plus an additional notice board.

Action: Mike Morgan

- Small TV - a suitable monitor has been donated and is in the new building.

Action: RVR Marketing

- No artist has come forward from the membership. Phil commented that his daughter Charlotte had shown some interest.

Action: Phil Hancock

- Naming conventions all agreed but 'Ingram Grove' to be re-considered to see if it could be made more personal to Liz.

Action: Mike Morgan

4.3.4 Allsorts Magazine?

This had been passed to Marketing and they would consider this for next year if we wanted paid advertising. RMES policy has always been to not pay for advertising but committee will re-appraise at the end of the year.

Action: RVR Marketing (to note)

4.3.5 Jobs list review

This had been circulated to committee and was reviewed in priority order:

- 1 – Ballast washing, proceeding; Coal crusher – material on site; new item added – the need to strengthen the new RT lift table.
- 2 – Heat reflecting paint on new RT traverser (new item)
- 3 – No new items
- 4 – Two new items – ramp for offloading low vehicles / trailers to new RT lift table; an automatic irrigation system for watering beds at Central Station.

Action: All (to note/action as appropriate)

4.3.6 Legacy recognition

The committee discussed the legacy left by Doug Pell with regard to some type of recognition for both the RT steaming bays and the Baldwin locomotive. The loco is a way off completion so that will be dealt with nearer the time. We understand that Aubyn has something in hand for a commemorative plaque for the steaming bays.

The other item discussed was the board in the clubhouse commemorating deceased members. It was agreed that this needed updating as several significant members have since died and have not been added to the board. Committee were asked to put forward names through the secretary. Additional Plaques will then be obtained.

Action: Secretary / Mike Morgan (Plaques)

4.3.7 Mobile Phone?

It was established that the mobile phone found, then left in the key safe is a kiddie's one. As this has not been claimed over the last 3 months it is to be disposed of.

Action: Vice-chairman

4.3.8 RBC & HLF Progress

The chairman reported he had been in contact with David Collins (RBC Property Manager) a week or so ago and had a response that things were progressing.

Action: Chairman

4.3.9 Cub Scout visit

This was left open as the requester has not come back with a proposed date.

4.3.10 Pre-event photography request

It was agreed that this could happen for pre-event only. Images must be for personal use only and not published or shared without the committee's written consent. The requestor is to be informed.

Action: Secretary

5.0 Treasurers Report

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

Liquid Assets 31st May 2026:													
Current Account				£4,730.44									
Deposit Account				£19,881.79		(£8,889 set aside for new loco, £59.20 set aside for 5" steaming bay)							
Petty Cash				£1,074.57		(Floats + Petty Cash)							
Total				£25,686.80		(from £25,267.56 in May)							

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Income													
Standing Orders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Member subscriptions	1,115.00	950.00	400.00	-	-	45.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,510.00
Party income	350.00	50.00	350.00	550.00	1,016.00	400.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,716.00
Public running income	-	-	-	6,607.86	3,932.01	2,896.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,435.87
Refreshments income	-	-	-	1,031.80	999.62	987.61	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,019.03
Clothing income	-	-	-	843.00	166.00	170.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,179.00
Donations	190.00	2,005.00	138.57	55.00	289.08	120.32	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,797.97
Donations to development f	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	85.00	85.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	530.00
Easy fundraising	-	16.24	-	-	20.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36.84
Gift aid payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Steam fund income	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	90.00
Club and external events	-	79.58	-	-	-	70.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	149.58
Key sales	100.00	-	-	-	50.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150.00
Club shares	1.00	-	-	-	-	1.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.00
Merchandise sales	-	-	-	40.80	113.74	24.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	178.62
Sundry items	-	40.00	-	10.00	594.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	644.52
Sub total	1,861.00	3,245.82	993.57	9,243.46	7,281.57	4,814.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,439.43
Interest savings account	-	-	77.75	-	-	65.26	-	-	-	-	-	-	143.01
Total Income	1,861.00	3,245.82	1,071.32	9,243.46	7,281.57	4,879.27	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,582.44

Expenditure													
Electricity	523.01	-	328.22	428.62	388.64	259.14	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,927.63
Water	-	-	7.61	-	57.27	51.41	-	-	-	-	-	-	116.29
Insurance	-	-	-	3,660.29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,660.29
Club subscriptions	-	48.75	-	-	28.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	76.75
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	50.26	42.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	583.94
Fixed costs sub total	682.71	816.35	381.20	4,259.28	578.17	406.55	54.00	54.00	54.00	-	-	-	7,286.26
Raised track	-	-	1,309.35	1,053.35	4,997.74	1,479.84	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,840.28
Ground track	-	-	10.98	1,016.96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,027.94
Building / site maintenance	17.58	2,993.35	3,935.31	46.50	1,004.61	385.48	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,382.83
Tools	118.04	185.17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	303.21
Locomotives	4.32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.32
Carriages	632.40	-	203.49	768.99	-	123.11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,727.99
Steam fund expenditure	442.64	-	4.80	46.08	10.36	9.26	-	-	-	-	-	-	513.14
New locomotives	9.60	-	-	27.60	600.00	360.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	997.20
Petrol	-	20.34	60.28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80.62
Coal	-	-	-	-	-	1,283.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,283.20
Refreshments supplies	-	-	-	591.21	620.06	311.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,522.47
Clothing purchases	-	-	-	-	900.98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	900.98
Club and external events co	-	-	143.55	-	-	55.91	-	-	-	-	-	-	199.46
New building expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merchandise supplies	-	207.88	-	-	284.57	23.98	-	-	-	-	-	-	516.43
Sundry expenses	10.00	-	29.00	46.00	95.00	21.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	201.50
Running costs sub total	1,234.58	3,406.74	5,696.76	3,596.69	8,513.32	4,053.48	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,501.57
Loan repayments	-	-	-	-	2,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000.00
Total expenditure	1,917.29	4,223.09	6,077.96	7,855.97	11,091.49	4,460.03	54.00	54.00	54.00	-	-	-	35,787.83
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(56.29)	(977.27)	(5,006.64)	1,387.49	(3,809.92)	419.24	(54.00)	(54.00)	(54.00)	-	-	-	(8,205.39)
Transfer from other funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(56.29)	(977.27)	(5,006.64)	1,387.49	(3,809.92)	419.24	(54.00)	(54.00)	(54.00)	-	-	-	(8,205.39)

The treasurer talked through the main items. Income – public running, refreshment and parties. Expenditure – Coal and electricity. Overall the surplus for the month was £400+.

5.2 *Loan repayments*

A further £500 becomes due in October and £2k next May to finish outstanding loans.

Action: Treasurer

5.3 *Purchase of red carriages*

A further payment of £500 was made earlier this month, purchase completion 2027.

Action: Treasurer

5.4 *Smart Meter*

The energy provider has decided that they cannot fit this.

5.5 *Ticket sales and availability*

The treasurer had been considering offering a yearly ticket for perhaps £100 and put this proposal to the meeting with mixed reaction. Good for cash flow at the start of the year but could cause other complications, though the certificate system now used for raffle prizes could be adopted. Re-visit later in the year for next season?

Action: Treasurer

The treasurer said he would not be available to look after tickets and sales for 30th August but could give another member limited access to TryBooking. After discussion it was decided that Ben & Dawn were best placed to deal with this for us.

Action: RVR Marketing

5.6 *Commercial Combined Insurance*

Problems were encountered as renewal fell between meetings. It was decided that the cover should be discussed between officers in future if this happens again.

Action: Treasurer

5.7 *Gift Aid*

The treasurer reported that his previous submission had not appeared on the HMRC website for some reason, so he had re-submitted for tax years 2024 – 25.

Action: Treasurer

6.0 Buildings and Grounds**6.1** *Water Leak*

The leak continues to be managed until such time that the offending limb is replaced.

6.2 *Green Maintenance*

Phil Hart had submitted his report that was accepted by the meeting. It showed that little mowing was required in the dry weather. Help was provided by Alain Foote on areas around the clubhouse and new building. Greg continues to tend the wildflowers. Weed killing had been done on both tracks and blowing as required, all equipment was serviceable and working well.

Action: Phil Hart / Greg Winton

6.3 *CS3 – progress*

Progress on the tandem point is slow but progressing. A flangeway plate is currently being machined to overcome the closeness of the two turnouts.

Action: Chairman / Don Currie

6.4 *Ballast Washing facility*

This is progressing with more blocking laid recently. A trench has recently been dug to take the waste water away and this has been lined.

Action: Chairman / Geoff Broad

6.5 *White Gates*

The white gates leading to the containers are beyond repair but urgently needs replacement. It was decided to replace with a temporary drop barrier until such time that replacement steel gates can be made.

Action: Mike Morgan

6.6 *Solar Panels on Rainsbrook Building*

It was felt that this was too expensive to consider at this time. However solar would be incorporated in any future buildings i.e. Testing Plant and engine shed.

6.7 *Replacement of old clubhouse immersion heater*

This work is reported in progress.

Action: Phil Hart

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

7.1 *New carriage stock*

Two of these were successfully used at the last public running. Tilt problems on one were resolved as was 'bottoming out'. These have no brakes so can only be used on a train with a braked driving truck. Upholstery for all four carriages has been received and fitted to the two in service. A foam insert may be required between carriages to stop small fingers being trapped, or some other means of closing the gap.

Action: Jason Dakin / George Cannon

7.2 *New Steaming Bays*

Issues with long locos were resolved by grinding back the rails to give a better slope. Heat reflecting paint is being sourced to mitigate expansion in the hot weather. Old lift table and steaming bays being kept until a suitable ramp is constructed to deal with low vehicles and trailers accessing the new lift table. No further major work/concreting until later in the year. A decision is still to be made regarding the old traverser access to the main line.

Action: Chairman/Aubyn Mee

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

8.1 *Club Loco update*

- Scot – Almost ready for service
- Netta - Serviceable
- Dr John – Saddle tank to be fitted this weekend
- Shay – Serviceable
- Mount Kilimanjaro – Boiler test due next weekend otherwise serviceable
- Criccieth Castle – Has run successfully for a party and now ready for driver training.

An email is to be put out to 'in ticket' ground level drivers to see how many wish to be trained to drive 'Criccieth Castle'.

Action: Secretary

8.2 *Carriage maintenance & repair team*

The team are currently working on a vacuum problem on the Red carriages that occurred at the last public running. Speedos have been obtained for the 100 series carriages but these have yet to be fitted due to other work.

Action: Vice-chairman

8.3 *Wheelchair Carriage modification*

Work is in progress and jack legs have been obtained. It was pointed out at the meeting that the height gauge needs to be reinstated and some suggestions for this were made.

Action: Phil Hancock / Engineering

9.0 Events**9.1** *Std. Gauge event 8/9 August*

This is jointly organised by Martin Rose and Alan James. Due to the dry weather Fire Marshalls will be required. Also spark arresters and ash pan integrity will need to be checked.

Action: Chairman / Martin Rose

9.2 *Drive a loco day*

Several members who have not got locos have expressed a wish to learn to drive a locomotive. After discussion it was agreed that the Shay and Crick were the club locos to be used for this and perhaps some loco owners may participate. It would be best run on a Members day but first we need to find out what loco owners are willing to participate.

Action: Secretary

9.3 *SEN event - 27th September*

Gill Nelson is looking after the bookings but will need a qualified organiser to run the event. Sandra Burchell may be a possibility for this role. Gill is to be contacted to see what help will be required.

Action: Secretary

9.4 *MMEE – RMES Stand*

This is to be organised by the chairman and he is still receiving offers of exhibits for the stand.

Action: Chairman

9.5 *IMLEC 2027*

We are still awaiting a date for this from the IMLEC promoter. We will need this before we start looking at 2027 events later in the year.

10.0 Safety**10.1** *Safety concerns*

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

10.2 *Wheelchair Carriage – Operation & use / Staff training*

Whilst doing the modifications the engineering team have been thinking about an operator's manual for this. This will be needed before staff training can commence.

Action: Phil Hancock

10.3 *Safeguarding*

No update on this has been received from Martin Rose.

10.4 *Terrorism – plan progress*

Work is in progress on this which will be needed before next season.

Action: Safety Officer / Don Currie

11.0 Any Other Business**11.1** *Guarding on the RT*

It was noticed at the last public run that space was tight on the last carriage for a guard and could lead to safeguarding issues. A 'Guards Truck' should be used when possible but when not employed it was suggested the guards area is marked off with tape.

11.2 *Coal Bunker*

It was agreed to purchase another coal bunker so this can be sited at the RT Station.

Action: Mike Morgan

11.3 Gauge Glass Protectors

The Perspex ones on the shay are discolouring making it difficult to see the water level. Ideally they need replacing with glass and a possible replacement is to be costed.

Action: Phil Hancock

11.4 Fire Points

The suggestion we should have permanent fire points around the tracks was discussed. If this is done it would have to be a winter work job.

11.5 Change of Meeting Date

The chairman wished to change the meeting date for October as he will be away. The following Friday (30th October) was proposed.

Action: All (to check availability)

11.6 Date of next Meeting:

The next meeting of the RMES Committee is to be held at Rainsbrook on Friday 11th September 2026 at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at: **21.40**

12.0 Confirmation of Minutes

Approved as a true record:

Date: _____

Date: _____

R D Thomas – Chairman

H C Brewer – Secretary