

Preston & District Model Railway Society

Committee Meeting Monday, 18th Mar at 8:00pm

Present:

John Wilson	<i>Chairman</i>
Andy Joel	<i>Secretary</i>
John Farnden	<i>Treasurer</i>
Carl Bowden	Tom Springett
Andy Postlethwaite	Dave Pallant

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Read and adopted.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- The chairman is still awaiting official confirmation from the bank that he can sign checks. On-going. **Action:** JF.
- Updating the notice board was further discussed. Minutes from the last committee meeting are now appearing on the board, and much of the old notices have been removed. Daryl has agreed to put up headings. We could consider moving to the other side of the wall, swapping over with the coat hooks.
- JF has notified the landlord about the potholes at the entrance to the car park, and was informed they "might be doing it over Easter". This was not considered acceptable, as one member has already tripped over a pothole (see later). **Action:** AKJ to submit a formal letter objecting to the situation. *Secretary's note: The potholes were filled in two days after the meeting, so this action is no longer required.*

4. Accidents recorded since the last meeting

- None on the premises, though a member, TS, did trip up in the car park, with minor injuries and damage to property. This was partly because he could not get his car into the car park because a lorry was blocking the entrance.

5. Finance

- The six-month accounts were looked at. It was noted that two annual subs had now paid, but three have still to do so. There were some unexpected payments, but electricity was less than expected, and water is decreasing too.
- We have 43 paid members, plus 3 unpaid. **Action:** JF to chase the late payers.

6. Correspondence

- None.

7. Membership

- One new member application was accepted.

8. Future programme

- None

9. Layouts

- Restoration of Chelthwaite Mills is progressing nicely.
- The new N gauge layout is progressing in the work room; currently sorting points.
- JW said Euxton Junction should be semi-retired in about three years, as wear and tear were having an effect, and its replacement should be ready in 5 to 6 years, and we should start to think about that.
- Coniston (new OO gauge layout by Wednesday afternoon crew) – awaiting space in the backroom.

10. Exhibition

- The exhibition was a great success.
- There was a comment from the public that there should be better signage for the squash court, though it is in the program.

11. Any other business

- JW noted the state of the rooms, especially with regards to the impression new members get. A lot of stuff is dumped under layouts, etc. and in the future there should be a requirement that committee approval is required before anything is stored at the club. It was noted there was some mess created by committee members – they should be setting the example! **Action:** AKJ to send an email to be set to members asking for items to be removed, prior to clean up.
- It was noted that we have four vacuum cleaners, but none work well. **Action:** TS to resolve.
- Renaming “Old Farts Siding” was suggested, to something more family-friendly, though it was noted it is based on the name of an actual brewery. DP noted he had “photoshopped” an image on the club flier as a temporary fix.
- A man in Fulwood wants to dispose of his OO layout, which is in the attic and he is struggling to access. JW and AKJ visited to assess. A very nice layout; exhibition standard, but not portable in any way. The only way to dispose will be to break it up to get it through the 2’ square hole. We would get all the stock, of which there is a lot, and JW offered to give a donation to their preferred charity (Alzheimers).
- The state of the carpets was discussed. It does not look good with gaps in! To have it done professionally would cost over £1000, beyond our price range, but using tiles from old buildings or exhibitions may be an option. A company in another unit at the mill might be helpful?
- The web site should be reviewed. **Action:** AKJ.
- It was noted that water had come into the back room the previous Wednesday, presumably due to a blocked gutter or downpipe. It happened during heavy rain, and fortunately while people were on site and able to take action. The landlord has been told.
- Jeremy has asked permission to store Great Endon downstairs for a couple of months; permission was granted.

12. Date of the next meeting

13/May/24 at 8 pm

Meeting finished at 9:05 pm