

# **Preston & District Model Railway Society**

Committee Meeting Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 8:00pm

## **Present:**

John Wilson	Chairman
Andy Joel	Secretary
John Farnden	Treasurer
Carl Bowden	Bill Taylor
Roger Hardacre	Tom Springett

## **Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting:**

- It was again noted that several members were not paying, though they were still attending the club! It was noted that members who are not paid up lose the right to vote at the AGM **Action:** JF to talk to members individually to resolve.
- New lighting was further discussed. **Action:** JF to talk to the landlord
- A key audit was further discussed. It was noted that all committee members except Roger have keys, though Bill's are on loan to Karl. Les and Michael D-P also have sets, possibly Mike Pye.
- The price of a carpet under the N gauge layout was re-estimated at nearer to £1000 than £200. **Action:** TS to get a proper estimate for the AGM.
- It was noted that JW still cannot sign cheques. **Action:** JF to add JW as a signatory, once the new rules are resolved, as these need to be deposited at the bank.

## **General**

- One new member was voted in.
- Bill announced he was withdrawing from the committee. The committee thanked him for his long service to the club.
- JF noted that as we had paid over-estimated bills for water and electricity, we are paying nothing for the next quarter.

## **Proposed New Rules**

- The new rules proposed by club members outside the committee was discussed, and various issues raised. The points below are where the committee has concerns about the new rules:
  - The new rules say senior membership starts from 66. The age for a senior member should be "65 and over" to make clear it starts from a member's sixty-fifth birthday.
  - The new rules would reduce the distance for "country" membership from 30 miles to 20 miles. The pros and cons of this would have to be discussed at the AGM. If the hope is to attract new members, it would need to be advertised. There was some concern that this might alienate other clubs. There was also a view that country members should be limited to one or perhaps two visits a month.
  - The new rules say annually paid subscription must be paid in advanced; this may be problematic if a member is currently paying in arrears, and has to pay around £400 in one go.

- The new rules propose a vice-chairman as an elected post; the committee preferred a member of the committee, nominated by the committee. **Action** JF to find if four signatories are allowed.
- The new rules propose a social media manager as an elected post. It was not clear what this would involve, and how far it would overlap with the exhibition function. An alternative would be a person nominated by the exhibition manager.
- The new rules propose two additional members in the committee, to a total of nine, with six to be quorum rather than five. It was noted that there is not much room in the committee room, and there may be issues with finding enough members to fill the places.
- The new rules require committee meeting every month, rather than every two. Experience has shown the latter is sufficient.
- New rules say minutes of committee meetings to be published within a week of the meeting; that should be within a week of the following meeting so they can be agreed.
- It was felt the new rules should say 'paid-up members' rather than ' "full" membership'. This was likely due to ambiguity in the old rules.
- The new rules say small items up to £50 can be purchased in advance, rather than £20. The committee acknowledge the sense in doing so.
- There was concern about liability in the event the club is dissolved (this is unchanged in the new rules). Currently the rules make everyone liable; without that clause the committee is liable. The solution may be insurance, and it is possible we already have that through Chiltern **Action** JF to determine insurance situation

## **AGM**

- Besides the above, other issues to be discussed at the AGM:
  - Key audit
  - Raising subs by £1, rather than taking donations at the door
  - Standing orders should be a rolling payment, rather than terminating after twelve months
  - Temporary membership for anyone helping at the exhibition – this is to ensure they are covered by the insurance

Meeting finished at 9:40 pm.

**Next committee meeting date:** Not set, the next meeting is the AGM