

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Renewable Heritage Trust held on 26 October 2011 at Barton-le-Willows village hall**

**Present: Trustees** Mo MacLeod (c), Dave Mann, Chris Fawdington, Mel Fox, Val Hood, Paul Lister, Martin Phillips. Howsham Mill friends present were Christine Keller, Sue Hogge, Simon Hogge, Graham Long, Julie Blanchard, Robin Wardell, Ted Pindar, Mike Gwillians, Jane Nicoll, Maggie Caudwell.

### **1. Apologies** None

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last AGM held on 20 October 2010 were accepted.

### **3. Matters arising not covered in the agenda** None

### **4. Trustees' report**

Overall there have been many achievements this year with the following highlights taken from our Annual Report for July 2010 to July 2011. Mo thanked Chris and Julie for putting together the financial data in the report.

- There was serious theft of the solar thermal panel from the roof in September reversing the trend of less vandalism;
- The mill will feature on the BBC programme Escape to the Country to be screened in January;
- The Screenwaves outdoor film showing in May was the first such hydro powered outdoor screening in the country and was featured on the Sky TV film programme. It was great success so a subsequent weekend of films was shown in September;
- A successful Heritage Open Day on maintenance of old buildings was held in September 2010. There was another Heritage Open Day at the mill in September 2011;
- The regional slalom event was held again at the mill in July and was again a popular weekend;
- Several groups of trainee soldiers have again provided their time and labour at the mill for which we are grateful;
- We are also very grateful to the professional assistance provided to us through the Pro-help scheme;
- Our trading company Howsham Power Company (HPC) transferred £33000 to RHT from electricity sales. However this does include some Feed-in Tariff income from the previous financial year. HPC was set-up to gift all its income to the RHT. As HPC made a small loss, no corporation tax was paid;
- Income was down due to failure of the hydraulic system linked to the waterwheel. However a new mechanical generator has been generating effectively since early July. Water levels in the river have at times been too low for the waterwheel to generate;
- Mo spoke at a Charity Bank event that was well received and has led to further engagements. The Charity bank has offered us a loan for installing a second screw;

- Cash box donations were down, possibly because supporters know that we have regular income from electricity sales. There will be fund-raising efforts for the swing bridge restoration and to put a new Diana on the top of the restored building.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Chris highlighted a few points from the annual accounts that have been approved by our accountants and will be sent to Companies House. He described the year as one of consolidation at an exiting time. The small deficit is due to bringing in our own funds of about £30000 towards the phase 2. The total cost of the development stage of phase 2, which was necessary to secure the grant, was £47700 of which RHT contributed £10700. Other funding came from the Country Houses Foundation and Architectural Heritage Fund.

Howsham Power Company (HPC) was formed in September 2009 as the trading arm of RHT. Within its memorandum of association it states that its purpose is to make over all profits to RHT so will never make a taxable profit. All maintenance and replacement costs will be met by HPC, which allows it to reclaim VAT. This year it made a small loss so that no corporation tax was paid. The HPC has done as intended, to be the trading arm of RHT and make over all its profit to RHT.

Chris thanked Julie for her invaluable help with book-keeping.

## **6. Progress reports**

Mo explained about the two stage HLF process with the development phase when all the information was drawn together and any gaps filled in. The design team chosen has put together plans, specifications, costs and a conservation plan. This covered the history of the building and its important features. One example of a change was that the proposed opening of the quatrefoils was advised against by the conservation architect as being out of keeping with the building and therefore will not be done.

The final cost is estimated at £755000, which includes a significant element for education materials, including website development and a part-time education officer for three years. Detail is being finalised and the tender documents should go out in early January for an April start and completion in six months.

Paul told the meeting about a proposed bid to the Olympic committee for the creation of a 15 gate slalom below the mill race, with lighting allowing winter use. This would be one of only three slalom courses in Yorkshire. The site is already being used by potential Olympic contestants.

## **7. Fundraising**

This was discussed earlier. The main items are the swing bridge, the replacement Diana for the roof and the second screw. The latter will require a substantial deposit and a Charity Bank loan. The first priority is the RHT's contribution to the phase 2. Hopefully cash flow will not be problem as we have been told that HLF will pay on receipt of unpaid invoices.

Dave added that planning permission and Environment Agency consent for a second screw have already been secured.

## **8. Elections**

Under the RHT constitution, trustees are elected for a three year term and then stand down or can be re-elected. Paul Lister and Mel Fox agreed to be re-elected. Paul Lister was nominated by Simon Hogge and seconded by Mo Macleod. Mel Fox was nominated by Mo Macleod and seconded by Dave Mann. Both were elected unanimously.

Dylan Hayes tendered his resignations due to family commitments. Mo thanked him for his contribution and wished him well in the future.

We currently have seven trustees and the constitution allows for 10 trustees. The trust would benefit from new ideas and input so anyone interested in becoming a trustee was encouraged to come to the mill on Sundays and/or attend trustees' meetings.

## **9. Any other business**

Chris reported that there has been no progress in obtaining an easement from the owners of the Hall. He thinks this will not be completed until the Hall is sold.

We are in discussion with the owner of the Hall for permissive access across the field during the building phase. This needs to be secured before we go to tender. There was a discussion about the need for extra security. There will be increased CCTV and an alarm system included in the phase 2. The restriction of access during hours of darkness to the island by a steel gate at the bridge over the lock has been discussed by the trustees but no consensus reached. A similar division of views was expressed by friends present; some think that a gate would deter thieves and vandals and would be accepted as a necessary evil, other that it would not provide complete security and be against the open access philosophy we all support. Increased security requirements by our insurers will also influence final security arrangements.

## **10. Dates for the diary**

Sunday 11 December - Christmas craft fair at the mill

Thursday 24 November – Mo speaking at Restoration Yorkshire meeting

Date tbc - Mo speaking at Wakefield Volunteer Forum

## **11. Date of next meeting**

**The next AGM will be held on 24 October 2012, venue to be confirmed.**