

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Renewable Heritage Trust held on 3 October 2021 at Howsham Mill

Present: Trustees Mel Fox (c), Martin Phillips, Will Brown, Paul Lister, Val Hood and two friends.

1. Apologies Dave Mann, Helen Spring.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last AGM held on 10 October 2020 were accepted.

3. Matters arising not covered in the agenda

The AGM for 2020 was postponed from April 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. There were no other matters arising.

4. Trustees' annual report

Mel Fox welcomed everyone to the AGM. The year being reported runs from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020 and the AGM has been delayed from April due to Covid. The period included the first lockdown when there were no school visits or events during the spring and summer of 2020, including the slalom. The Heritage Open Day in September 2019 did take place as normal. With the easing of the lockdown from May and good weather, there were many casual visitors to the island with associated littering and minor vandalism.

During the first part of the year there were good numbers of school visits, including regular home educated children, some student groups and other visitors. Since restrictions have been lifted the site has proved popular with schools, in part due the outdoor nature of many of the activities.

During the period electricity generation was nearly 20% less than the previous year at 249,700 kWh, mainly due to the wheel not working for two months. The failure of Solarplicity in August 2019, the company to whom the electricity was sold, had a significant effect on the income for the year. This was due to the non-payment of export payments and feed-in tariff. The latter was received in full in October 2020, but will appear in the 2020/21 financial year, the former have been written off. This allowed the outstanding loans and interest for the installation of the second screw to be paid. A new contract has been signed with Good Energy.

There was additional income from the sale of the pontoon and the small business Covid grant. Expenditure was lower as Helen did less work during lockdown.

The angle of screw 2 and associated work has still not been completed. The EA has not proceeded with the construction of a fish pass in the weir.

5. Election of trustees

Three trustees, Martin Paul and Mel, have completed their three-year terms. Mel is standing down as chair as she is moving to Scotland, but she would like to remain as a trustee. All three were re-elected. Martin will remain as secretary. Will offered to take

over the role of chair and was approved by the meeting. No other nomination was received, though there were two expressions of interest from people not at the meeting who could be co-opted.

Mel thanked volunteers Bruce, Elaine and Dave.

6. Any other business

There was none.

7. Date of next meeting

The next AGM will be held on at a date to be confirmed in April 2022 to get back to the usual cycle.