

Minutes of the Renewable Heritage Trust Trustees' meeting held at Howsham Mill on 15 October 2023

1. **Present** Ali Firth (c), Martin Phillips, Paul Lister, Mel Fox, Dave Mann, Helen Spring.

2. **Apologies** Will Brown

3. **Minutes of last meeting** These were accepted.

4. Matters arising

The EV charger is waiting to be connected by the electrician. It was agreed that donations towards the cost of electricity should go to RHT via the Give as you Live link, with the option to say for electricity used. The cost will be about £3/hour at present prices.

The donation button is now on the home page of the website. Helen will put up the QR code linked to donations in the information booth and at the mill.

There is a new blackboard for the info booth and a sign for the gate saying island closed due to school children. It was agreed that the gate could be padlocked for the duration.

A wi-fi booster is now in the mill and testing of the signal outside is needed.

5. Financial report

The loan made to Dart Renewables will be repaid after the FiT payment early next year. The company successfully passed the Ofgem audit.

The accounts for Y/E 2022 were completed satisfactorily. There is a new person dealing with RHT and HPC accounts and with the new accounting package, this year they should be completed quicker.

6. Update on hydro

Two high speed bearings have been replaced in screw 2 gearbox. The excess noise has gone and generation has increased slightly.

Screw 1 control panel was improved but the whole system needs overhauling with new software.

The wheel generator has been repaired. The bearing failures have been due to a missing collar, not fitted when repaired by Eclipse. The gearbox has been overhauled and the shaft is being built up and then machined flush where the seal has worn a slight groove. This will make the seal more effective and should prevent water ingress. The repair of the generator is being done under warranty by TLS. Both should be back in a couple of weeks.

At the request of GE, it was agreed that our export data could be shared anonymously with GE business customers to highlight where the renewable electricity is coming from.

The red export line on the Logic output screen is not showing. This could be due to the sensor not working on the export meter. The meter itself is working.

Action: Martin to check fitting.

7. Education update

Available dates for this academic year are almost full. Mel gives each Thursday for school visits, and this allows both her and Helen to deal with large groups. More schools from further away are bringing large groups. The transport subsidy has attracted schools from deprived areas, thus achieving one of its objectives. This has meant that Scarborough College can have less of Helen's time but have accepted this.

Mel and Helen have updated workshops offered based on feedback. Rivers is a new and highly relevant topic for the mill. Bread-making is another topic. Helen prepares dough at home so that leavened bread can be made by pupils during their visit. There is an issue regarding children's allergies to gluten and nuts. The latter as Helen cannot guarantee there has been no contact with nuts. The decision on choosing this course must be made by the school. Helen has a useful contact in CLEAPSS, an organisation that promotes practical work and to which schools can devolve their H&S assessments.

Helen and Martin met with Chess and Fran from the Howardian Hills AONB, soon to become the Howardian Hills Natural Landscape. They are interested in education and volunteering respectively and are relatively new to the staff, replacing two who previously had contact with us. They would like all visiting groups and schools to know that they are in the designated area. There is potential for collaboration in future. The AONB working party will come and do work on 21 December. Martin offered the mill as a venue for appropriate events.

8. AOB

Mel will reply on FB that chicken wire has been laid on the millrace bridge so that it is no longer slippery when wet.

Paul – He would like some more branded clothing including fleeces and shirts. Ali will look into this.

He has an area identified for a 'pee station' for boys made of straw bales. Martin can get hold of small bales.

It was agreed we should install a defibrillator. If sourced from a specialist charity it will cost about £2500, if we organise it £1200. It will go in a locked box on the wall, openable when in touch with emergency services. It will require an electric light connection. Helen will check if grant aided by AONB.

It was agreed to produce a Newsletter with items on Val's death, the hydro, HOD and education.

Date of next meeting tbc.

Action	Who	Progress
Proceed with EV charging points	Dave	Connections to be made.
Wheel gearbox and generator	Dave	To refit when returned.
Complete mesh and gate on railings around screws	Will/Paul	
Output sensor	Martin	Check if working
Loan to Dart Renewables	Martin/Dave	Will be repaid early next year.
Defib	Paul/Helen	Source and install. Check possible grant.
Newsletter	Martin/Helen	To prepare.
Donations for use of EV charger	Helen	Helen to arrange
Branded clothing	Ali	To source