

Trustees Meeting for 6/11/25**Venue: 7pm at 4, The Hawthornes, Bunbury.****1. Present:** Grahame Shallcross - Chair

Neil Fowkes - Treasurer
Clare Groves - Secretary
Ann Wall
Michael Thomas
Polly Booker
Julie Fowkes
Ken Broster

2. Apologies

None

3. Minutes of last meeting

Accepted and Action Log updated.

GS Thanked AW for hosting this evening's meeting

4. Matters Arising.

- PAT testing continues to be a problem, Polly can't find an electrician willing to take it on
- Leak under the road has been fixed for a second time by United Utilities and seems to be holding
- Depth Gauge was installed by the Bookers, has been calibrated and is awaiting sign off from the Environmental Agency.
- GS to speak to Mike Watson about the leak in the mill roof, not sure if this has been fixed yet.
- PB reported that the filming of the TV show 'Four In A Bed' went very well. KB thought they should have been charged more than the admission fee which might have gone towards the cost of replacing the pentrough. The 'Family Farm' filming has gone quiet. KB will investigate whether the mill still has a relationship with Mornflake.

5. Updates.**a. Visitor Centre - JF**

- Decorating the visitors centre will be carried out over the winter period. She is putting a team together
- Decorating will have to be timed carefully around booked events in the centre.
- Sink leakage reported earlier this week has dried out but no source of leak was found.
- GS thanked JF for all her hard work with the running of the visitor centre and sourcing cakes.
- JF reported that she is investigating an alternative source for the visitors cakes for next year.

b. Education - AW

- AW reported that she plans to wind down her educational activities next year.
- She has two new volunteers who seem very keen to help out and she will supervise a gradual handover to them.
- She has a very clear list of protocols for the new ladies to follow, and will have another meeting with the education team before Christmas
- First school visit is scheduled to be Helsby Hillside School on 26th Feb 2026.
- It was hoped that the millwright's health issues would not delay the completion of works on the pentrough, and should not impact on the school visit.

c. Mill - PB

- The millwright is waiting for an appointment to determine if he will need skin grafts. This is likely to mean that he will have a supervisory role and most of the physical work for the pentrough replacement will be done by volunteers. Still don't know the dates he will be available to start.
- KB noted that there were very large holes in the pentrough and talked about fibreglass casing to make a waterproof seal. To be discussed with the millwright.
- Some discussion around the state of basement bearings. It was agreed to show these to the millwright before further action.
- Insecure rail on middle floor needs to be fixed.
- Overall things are looking brighter and cleaner with internal decorations.

d. Grounds - KB

- KB commented that United Utilities have now finished the major rebuild at the sewage plant, and that should mean an end to all the heavy lorries coming through the mill grounds.
- KB will be speaking to them about repairs to the car park and cobbled areas in front of the mill.
- KB has plans to dog proof the hedge between the mill cottage and the mill grounds.
- KB thought that Christine and Lynne had made a fabulous job of clearing the pond banks on the White garden side.
- There is a loose tile on the visitor centre - KB will fix.

e. Website/Social Media - GS

- The mill closure for the winter has been announced on the mill website and social media feeds.
- CG asked for a section to be inserted onto the website for member/volunteers. This could be accessed with a read-only password by all the volunteers and used for new members forms/information booklets and the diary and work schedules so that everyone could see what was happening. In time, we may want to post the minutes in the members space as well.

f. Fire and Pest Control - MT

- Emergency light in the mill has been replaced and there is a spare light in the tool locker.

- MT would like to run a timed 'emergency' evacuation going down from the middle floor with twelve volunteers one Wednesday.

g. **Finance** - NF

- NF noted that the regular workshops held in the visitor centre by Rachel and Sophie are providing a good source of income.
- Finances are looking very healthy after a busy visitors season this year.

h. **Projects List** - GS

- GS noted that the Projects List was about pulling all the ongoing projects into one place so that everyone could see what was happening, and had an opportunity to sign up to help with a project they were interested in.
- It would allow the trustees to set budgets, and get an idea of upcoming expenses, as well as set timelines for works to be done.
- Everyone thought it was a most excellent and worthwhile endeavour and congratulated GS.
- A discussion was held about the small millstone acquired by Barry Percival to be used as an entrance sign on the access road.

4. For Discussion

A. **The end of term party** - All

- CG reported that she had received **41** positive responses from the volunteers.
- JF and NF will source snacks from Costco, and drinks from Aldi, glasses from Corkscrew .

B. **Visitor Centre decoration** - NF - as above

C. **Path Dressing** - NF

- Carol thinks that we should use MOT crushed stone but it needs to be finer than the last batch. The cost for the MOT will be around £300. NF will sort out with Carol and Ian. A whacker plate will need to be borrowed or hired once it has been spread.

D. **White Garden** - NF

- Neil commented that the grassed area at the back of the white garden was difficult to mow and was poor quality. He suggested planting an orchard. Initially, the thought was to move the trees by the edge of the pond, but Carol thought this wouldn't be good for the established trees. He will cost up the purchase of new trees and come back with a plan.
- The seats in this region could be moved closer to the car park, and placed on new hard standing.

6. Any Other Business.

- **MT** read a small quote from an article in praise of trustees - '*Old men planting trees that they will never see*'.
- **MT** shared some pictures of an old mill, now burned down, designed by John Skelton.
- **CG** spoke about her prototype handbook for new volunteers, which seemed to go down well. She will refine it and come back with a checklist for new recruits.
- **NF** has been contacted by a police officer in charge of heritage crime who has offered to come and give us a talk. He will get back to him on the options.

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- **GS** talked about the Rain or Shine performance in the village hall 10th January. He thinks that we should man the bar and keep the takings. KB and NF have offered to help. GS thinks we should use the Christmas discounts to buy the drinks.

7. Date of next meeting. 4th December 2025 and AW's house.