

Minutes of Meeting of Heritage Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting: Wed 22 May 2019
 Time of Meeting: 10.30am
 Place of Meeting: Foreman's Office Combe Mill
 Purpose of Meeting: Conduct of meetings + four concerns as minuted below

Distribution:
 Those present

 Noticeboard, Website Members' page

Present :

Terry Bailey, Derek Goddard, Tony Simmons, Peter Trowles

1 Apologies

Ref	Comment	Action
1	None	

2 Minutes of previous meetings

Ref	Comment	Action
1	None	

3 Conduct of meetings

Ref	Comment	Action
1	Resolved that the committee members would take turns to chair and record meetings.	
2	Heritage Advisory Committee = HAC	
3	Resolved that membership will be invited to raise their concerns with the HAC before any work is carried out. An article for the newsletter will be written.	TS

4 Proposed fitting of remote oiling pipes to line shaft bearings

Ref	Comment	Action
1	Member John Ross has proposed to fit to each line shaft bearing hanger, a copper tube with an oil gun nipple at a convenient level so that ladders are no longer needed to lubricate the bearings – a task performed before each steaming.	
	No detailed design has yet been seen.	
	This proposal has arisen because John Ross has been challenged over the unsafe use of a ladder to gain access to the bearing above the belt-driven band saw. It is also considered to provide a more convenient method of oiling.	
	The HAC observed that no-one in the Mill has real knowledge of how the bearings were intended to be lubricated when first designed. The current routine of oiling before each steaming is a tradition carried forward by generations of mill volunteers.	
	The HAC concluded that the first task is to research how the oilers were	

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Ref	Comment	Action
	intended to be used.	DG/TS
	Any change is considered undesirable. Members to be reminded of safe use of ladders.	

5 Modification for forge air blower

Ref	Comment	Action
1	The blacksmiths have long complained about and tolerated the excessive noise from the present electric belt-driven blower.	
	A design proposal has been produced and a grant of £500 is being sought from WODC to fund the purchase of a quieter, direct driven modern blower. This would be installed inside the gear room thereby removing the source of noise from the forge.	
	Air will be taken from the new blower through the stone dividing wall in metal ducting and will join the existing cast iron ducting to the twin hearth.	
	The heritage consideration relates to how much of the cast iron pipe will have to be modified to effect the join.	
	The addition of the new blower will allow that original blower to be altered to being belt driven from the line shaft as originally the case.	
	The HAC considers that the benefits to the blacksmiths and the re-instatement of the belt drive, outweigh any unobtrusive modifications to the old cast iron duct.	
	The HAC recommends that further investigation is needed to find the simplest way of joining the new air supply ducting to the old. Blacksmiths to investigate. The HAC does not object to the work being done.	

6 Proposed new welcome sign

Ref	Comment	Action
1	An oak welcome sign is to be made and located at the entrance to the Mill site in front of the new storage shed.	
	The HAC has no concern in principle provided that lettering font is Trebuchet MS to match our corporate style. The HAC asked for a full size mock up to view before work goes ahead.	

7 Fitting of deflector plate to waterwheel inlet sluice

Ref	Comment	Action
1	A flat deflector plate was recently added to the top of the waterwheel sluice to replace an earlier plywood plate that had been removed during repairs and was no longer in sound condition.	

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Ref	Comment	Action
	A donated length of brown 'plastic' barge boarding was used but no consideration was given at the time to the visual impact on the water wheel 'heritage'. The HAC are very concerned over this lapse in member awareness.	
	The HAC resolved not to express any concern for the present and to see if the plate performs as intended. If the use of the plastic material is still thought to be obtrusive, the HAC will review again and perhaps ask for a change of material.	

8 Any other Business

Ref	Comment	Action
1	When the work to change the forge blower ducting begins, the round hand bellows will be relocated for restoration.	

9 Next Meeting

Ref	Comment	Action
1	As required	

Approval

These minutes were certified by the HAC members as a correct record of the meeting held on the 22 May 2019 and approved them for display on the website.

Meeting Chairman