

Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills Company

Report of Councillor Helen Kane

As the council's appointed representative I attended a meeting on 20 July 2013 in the Walton House meeting room, Waltham Abbey at 9.30am which commenced at 9.30am.

There was a proposal for a new Trustee:

Mr Tony Crosby - Specialist in Industrial Archaeology and Heritage.

At 10.20am, the AGM took place in order to elect a new Chairman and Vice Chairman:

Mr John Bowles was re-elected as the Chairman

Mr Richard Wallace was re-elected as the Vice Chairman.

Under the articles of the Association the following Directors due to retire, being eligible to offer themselves for re-election were re-elected:

T. Goodwin

F Maclaine

T Miles.

The Chief Executive, Mr Andrew Coates, gave a full report, referring to the educational visits, which the Company hope to increase, although because of transport costs parents do not want to meet the travel fees and children are missing out on visits.

The bad weather has affected the area, this year, and the attendance has been poor but the Company is confident that this will improve. In his financial report, he showed that income had improved considering low visitor numbers and despite poor weather.

The café in the premises is very popular with all visitors, although the retail shop with souvenirs needs either re-location or new stock to improve sales.

The Chief Executive also referred to the number and the importance of volunteers working on the site.

The deer population has caused a lot of problems to the site – so a Deer Management Plan has been put in place.

The Trustees commented that the new signage is very informative and clear especially from the exit of the M25 junction to the site itself. It was decided to use the Olympic Games legacy and utilise the banner posts left behind for further marketing.

In general, the Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills Company is a very popular and important heritage site, relying on volunteer activity and commitment, and is very well managed.

The date of the next meeting is Saturday 16 November 2013 at 11.00am in order to give plenty of travel time to people who do not live in the area and have to commute.