

ROYAL GUNPOWDER MILLS – BOARD MEETING 21st of JANUARY 2017

Report by Cllr. Helen Kane

The Chairman, Mr John Bowles, thanked everyone present. As he had mentioned before Christmas his intention was to retire in January 2017. So, he requested that the Board should elect a new Chairman, to take over with immediate effect.

Dr. Jennifer Freeman was proposed and seconded and took the rest of the meeting. Each of the Board members gave thanks to the retired Chairman, Mr Bowles, for his dedication and long standing for the post and being such a critical friend of the Mills for a very long time.

The main topic of the agenda was the CEO's report on the site itself. Stella Morris had mentioned about the vast area of the site and how difficult it has proven to be able to keep an eye on everything, especially with so few members of staff.

De-contamination of the site and asbestos in old buildings were also two of the items the company was considering exploring with the help of external specialists.

The visitors' numbers have been very encouraging and all the events have been successful. The schools have cut down because of funding but SM will try to encourage schools to participate in lab events and educational events as children love the different experiences. She will try to achieve this by using the social media, dealing personally with a lot of enquiries and work towards walking tours.

The management company and the board are very aware about the sustainability of the site and were investigating alternative plans for the site.

PGL had lodged an appeal against the Council's decision for their planning application, the Operating company were trying very hard to come into negotiations with PGL. Further developments might be in the horizon.

The meeting went into private session.