

INFORMAL MEETING OF BURSLEDON WINDMILL
JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 7 April 2010 (10:11 am – 10:59 am)

The meeting was held at Bursledon Windmill.

PRESENT:

Representing Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) - Councillor Airey
Representing Hampshire County Council (HCC) – Councillor Broadhurst

Jo Lawler - County Museums and Archives Service
Diccon Bright - Local Area Co-ordinator

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cross and Millar (EBC), Councillors Davidovitz and Kyrle (HCC), Councillor Misselbrook (Bursledon Parish Council), Mr Jackson and Mrs Sutton (Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust) and Ian Douch (County Museums and Archives Service)

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

On Minute 6 (Public Access to the Woods) the Area Co-ordinator advised that the Borough Council was not intending to purchase the woodland to the east of the site. Details of the new owner of the woodland had been passed to Bursledon Parish Council for information. The new owner had not yet released the Council from the lease, but the Area Co-ordinator would work to further the renewal of the lease and organise the future maintenance of the woodland. A number of options were being considered regarding the maintenance, but the Committee expressed the view that severe coppicing of the trees was required to open up the site and enable the mill to make maximum use of the wind.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RECOMMENDED –

That Councillor Airey be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the year 2009-10.

3. ACTING SITE MANAGER'S REPORT

The Acting Site Manager introduced a report providing an update on the activities and events at the Windmill during the period April 2009 to March 2010.

A different activity had taken place throughout the year, during each week of the school holidays. Added value days had also taken place, usually on a Sunday, when an added attraction had been included in the normal visit to the Windmill. The French petrol driven milling machine had been demonstrated on three Sundays in March for National Science and Engineering Week and had attracted attendances in the 80s.

A number of booked visits by various groups had also taken place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and occasionally on a Sunday.

The Windmill was to take part in a joint event with Eling and Winchester City Mills for National Mills Weekend on 8 and 9 May.

Two sessions had been trialled as family activities during the summer, with a view to incorporating them into the educational offer for Reception and Year1 children. This had been trialled with a small group of schoolchildren and would be marketed before the start of term in September. It was suggested that the Windmill be marketed more to pre-schools, nurseries and playgroups as they may have more timetable flexibility to arrange group visits, and there may be cross-over appeal to other family members.

Visitor figures overall showed an increase on the same period last year. This was in part due to the Culture-All Passport offer which, at a cost of £69, offered free unlimited access for 12 months for up to 2 adults and children to 10 sites in Hampshire. Due to the lack of credit card facilities on the site, the Windmill had lost out on sales of the Passport, but it was hoped that, with improved marketing, figures for secondary sales of refreshments and shop items could be increased. It was suggested that staff at the Windmill, Brickworks and Manor Farm have a joint discussion relating to the interaction of these sites and the (potential) movement of visitors between them.

Sales of the blended flour had stopped in June 2009, and since then only wholemeal flour had been sold, in fine medium and coarse qualities. Thirteen branches of the Southern Co-op were now being supplied with 500g bags of flour, bar coded labels for which were ready for the new financial year. A new supply of Hereward wheat had been received on 24 November, with a second delivery on 9 March 2010. It was requested that flour and shop sales be shown separately in future reports in order to clarify the figures. Devolved marketing funds would be used to arrange for labels on shop-sold flour to carry vouchers for discounted entry to the Windmill.

The first maintenance check of the pole end of the windshaft and sails had been carried out during the year. This would be an annual activity from the current year. All was satisfactory, although a closer look at the pole end would be taken in the next maintenance check in April/May 2010.

Staffing currently comprised 3 paid and 3 casual staff, with 2 more casual posts soon to be appointed. A 25 hour per week training post was also to

be provided through the Future Jobs Fund for 6 months. A discussion took place concerning the possible future use of volunteers. The above suggestion of working with the Brickworks and Manor Farm could help with the recruitment, retention and deployment of volunteers.

RECOMMENDED

That the report be noted.

4. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 13 October, at 2pm, at the Civic Offices, Eastleigh Borough Council.

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