

# ***Report to the Council***

**Date: 26 July 2016**

**Joint Arrangements and External Organisations: Royal Gunpowder Mills**

**Council Representatives: Councillor H Kane**

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## **Gunpowder Mills Meeting on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2016**

The Chairman John Bowles opened the meeting introducing a new member on the board, Terry Campbell, who is representative of Hill Construction, which is based in the RGM. His expertise in the building construction industry and his experience are valuable to the RGM.

The members present voted in favour of this new addition to the board. There seems to be some changes in the structure of both: The Foundation and the Operating Company Boards as a number of members have expressed their wish to step down. Any changes will have to be in September when the AGM will take place.

The volunteers and staff had meetings with the General manager, Stella Morris, in order to discuss the two different scenarios prior to the Special Council decision. Had the application gone through they were ready to complete a thorough inventory of all the items kept in different buildings, and should the application not have been successful, they had to think very seriously about the future. They are all fully aware that the site is not sustainable, and unfortunately they cannot keep the site open to the public every day, as there are not enough people to manage and cope with any issues of safeguarding the visitors. So they are busy concentrating on new activities and events based on history and nature. They have not been able to plan events in advance, so the season's events and activities programme has been hurriedly assembled.

From the accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2016, education income is holding up well and measures were in place to counteract impression that RGM will be shut. Unfortunately, the rumours that RGM will be shut for one reason or another have not been at all helpful.

The staff and members of the Operating Company are waiting to find out if the Foundation and PGL will appeal the Council's decision.

The Board members after that went to Private session to discuss staff issues.