

**FOXTON INCLINED PLANE TRUST**

MINUTES of 38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26th AUGUST 2021

**Present:** Sean Park (Chairman), Steve Bowyer (President), Chris Parker, Mary Matts, Giles Parsons, Derek Harris, Ann Hoxley, Peter Coles (Independent Examiner). Mike Beech, Penny Arscott, Stuart Billington, Lawrence Harrison

1. **Welcome and opening comment from Chairperson –Sean Park**

* Last year, the Trustees made the decision NOT to hold an AGM. This followed discussion with the Charity Commission. Our ability to use on-line platforms was limited so in the best interest of the Trust & its members we made this decision.
* This year, whilst still inappropriate to hold physical meetings we have now “The Technology” to proceed. We hope the 2022 AGM will revert to the traditional meeting – hope.
* At the end of 2019/start of 2020 we also saw – firstly due to career opportunity and secondly for health reasons the loss of both Penny as museum manager and then Elaine.
* A new Manager for the museum has been recruited and starts next week. David brings a wealth of knowledge, understanding of small and large organisations and a passion for heritage. We are delighted with this appointment.

1. **Apologies for absence**

* No formal apologies

1. **Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting held 27th June 2019.**

* Acceptance proposal – Peter Coles proposed, Steve Bowyer second.

1. **Trustees report**

SP commented that the report can be split into 3 parts.

**Jan – March**

* Museum was opening weekends only
* One major site event, the replacement of the lock gates. There were planned events around the site but most of it was cancelled due to the weather

**March – July**

* Lockdown – The museum was closed from the end of March
* Ongoing general maintenance continued – building checks, environmental checks.

**July – December**

* Museum continued to be closed till the end of December.
* There had intent to make major changes to the museum to reflect the Trust purpose
* Over this period MB made changes to the museum.

**Finance Update**

* The 2020 accounts have been issued. They are available online paper copies are available on request

1. **Independent Examiner`s report and adoption of Accounts.**

(Information available from the Website or by request- please contact the Museum)

* Accounts straight forward due to museum being closed and no festival income/expenditure
* Grant from Harborough District Council and the Job Retention Scheme has helped cover the museum’s overheads
* Overall loss £7,700 – lack of admissions / visitors because of Lockdown.
* LH asked why there was a negative figure on page 15 under museum entry including Gift Aid PC explained back 2018/19 there was an application for Gift Aid that shouldn’t have been made PC carried it forward to 2019 and established 2021 that the claim was not valid. This was written off against admissions.
* LH asked if there was no rent or telephone cost showing. PC explained the rent figure of £697 has been put into subscription. This will be shown in the final accounts in rent not subscriptions. The telephone costs come under Computer Costs.

1. **Appointment of Independent Examiner.**

* Peter Coles unanimous appointed
* PC commented that he has reduced his fee to reflect the reduce on work he’s had to carry out this year.

1. **Election/ re-election of Trustees**

* **Retirement by rotation as per the Constitution of the Trust**

**Giles Parsons** and **Sean Park**. (Both are seeking to be re-elected by the membership)

Re-election of GP - unanimous

Re-election of SP - unanimous

* **Trustees elected by the Council of Management.**

The following have expressed their wish to be elected as Trustees by the membership:

Election of Penny Arscott - unanimous

Election of Mike Beech - unanimous

1. **Any other business. Please notify the membership in advance of the meeting.**

**(membership @fipt.org.uk)**

* None has been received. SP opened the floor to online members any questions or comments’
* SB commented that the Trust has had a difficult year and should take pride that it’s still here and is having an AGM. Well done.

1. **Date and time of next AGM (provisional) ~ 27th May 2022**
2. **Chairperson Summary.**

* 2022 will be an important year for the Trust & the Museum, and some things will no doubt (as in 2020 & 2021) be out of our control.
* What we do for the rest of this year with opening, staff & volunteer development, improving the on-going partnerships with key partners e.g.CRT, Leics County council, Harborough District council, MDEM to name a few will put us in a much stronger position to go forward.
* Over the last couple of years, much of my Informer messages as Chairperson have been about re-setting back to purpose what the Trust is doing. We are much closer to this goal.