



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Traditional Cornmillers Guild
held via Zoom on Saturday 30th October 2021.**

	<i>Action by</i>
<p>Welcome</p> <p>Jenny Hartland, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Present:</p> <p>Jenny Hartland (JH) – Holgate Windmill – Chair Dave Harris-Jones (DHJ)– Vice-Chair Lesley Jones (LJ) – Holgate Windmill- Secretary</p> <p>Alex Popovic (AP) – Mill Green Museum and Mill Debra Riddell (DR) – Warwick Bridge Corn Mill Fari and Paul Wyman (FW and PW) – Tuxford Windmill John Ward (AG) – Heage Windmill John Bedington (JC) Jonathan Cook (JC) – Fosters Mill Lionel Green (LG) – Crakehall Watermill Nick Jones (NJ) Mildred Cookson (MC) Robert Price RB) Acorn Bank Watermill Roger Hatcher (RH) – Heage Windmill</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Anne Parry - Felin Ganol Watermill Emma Williams – Y Felin Watermill Karl Grevatt – Charlecote Watermill Mandy James – Redbournbury Watermill Mike Lovatt – Stanway Watermill Peter Stobbart - Pakenham Watermill Simon Dodd – Worsbrough Mill – Hon Treasurer</p>	
<p>Chair's report</p> <p>It's been another strange year for us all and here we are again on Zoom, hopefully with more mills represented than when we have to do all that travelling. It makes me wonder if we should consider doing one meeting a year on Zoom and perhaps try to meet up annually, in the spring.</p> <p>I'm very aware that people other than me have been doing most of the work. Our secretary, Lesley, has been wonderfully efficient at keeping the information network alive, as well as arranging meetings and keeping minutes. Simon and Dave Pearce have worked a banking miracle and have finally been able to</p>	

<p>transfer the work across to Simon. Possibly the busiest of all has been Jonathan Cook, who has kept up so many of our national and international links. I won't steal his thunder, as he'll be telling us about all the pies, he has fingers in on our behalf</p> <p>Apart from chairing meetings – not desperately difficult since you are all so well-behaved – I've had more to do with trying to make sense of our constitution. We are bringing you yet another version and hoping that this might be the final one. At our spring meeting we agreed the membership section, so we now have Full Members, Associate Members and Honorary Life Members. We hope you approve of the rest, and that we can get on with working to it, not on it.</p> <p>Presented by Jenny Hartland</p>	
<p>Treasurer's report to include setting of annual fees</p> <p>Firstly, can I express my gratitude to Dave Pearce for continuing to carry out banking from our last meeting until August of this year. Also, my thanks go to members of the Guild for their patience whilst eagerly awaiting their invoice for this year's membership, complete with new bank details!</p> <p>We opened a new business bank account with NatWest in August 2021 and now have closed the Nationwide account and transferred the closing balance to the new account. We are now able to carry out banking online, including receiving monies and making payments by BACS, and easily identifying each transaction. The interim statement shows that our account has a balance of £9076.89. Since that statement was prepared that balance has increased to £9513.09.</p> <p>The majority of members are up to date with their annual subscriptions but there are still a few that I will be chasing in the coming weeks. So, if you are in that select group, please check your email for the invoice I sent in August or wait for a second email to appear in your Inbox – it might also be worth checking your Junk Mail folder.</p> <p>Just a reminder that TCMG hessian bags and recipe books are still available. I will soon be bringing these to Worsbrough to be stored.</p> <p>I think that's everything but please feel free to contact me at tcmgtreasurer@gmail.com if you have any questions.</p> <p>Presented by Dave Harris-Jones on behalf of Simon Dodd</p> <p>JC The Committee discussed the setting of annual fees and recommend that the fees stay as they are for the time being. No objections.</p>	
<p>Secretary's report</p> <p>The Secretary reported that she was pleased that the Guild had two new members. We did have an enquiry from Woodbridge Tide Mill asking to join the guild but despite sending several follow up emails there are been no further response from them. There was an enquiry from Layham Watermill in Suffolk who were interested in becoming an associate member.</p> <p>There have been two changes of contacts at mills Emma Harper, The Museum Curator at Mill Green has taken over from Linda Dobbs who has retired, and Caron Crisp has become the main contact at Barony Mills and taken over from Issy Grieve</p> <p>A number of email enquiries are received every month both from members and others seeking advice and information of a wide range of topics. It has been really good to see how a member can have a query or want advice and when a plea for help mills are only too willing to respond.</p>	

<p>An email has recently been received from SPAB Scotland, who are in the early stages of arranging a conference on Scotland's mills (working or historic), to be held in Perthshire in May 2022. They hope to gather a number of interested parties together to celebration of Scotland's mills heritage and to exchange knowledge and expertise I will pass on any further information when I receive it.</p> <p>Presented by Lesley Jones</p> <p>MC requested that contacts changes are included in the minutes. MC Also working with SPAB Scotland on the conference and will also notify of developments</p>	
<p>Appointment of Officers</p> <p>MC Asked the length of time someone can stand as Chair and LJ said in the constitution it says that officers are elected annually at the AGM and may serve for a maximum of 6 consecutive years. They are then not eligible for election for a year.</p> <p>JC Asked about DHJ's position who confirmed he was no longer associated with Heatherslaw Mill. There was some discussion about if DHJ could stand as Vice Chair. It was explained that he was going to be proposed as an Honorary Life Member later in the meeting and therefore could only be elected as Vice Chair at the at this point.</p> <p>JB asked about retired millers what type of member would they become. JH said this would be covered under the Honorary Life Membership category and that the definition of an associate member has changed as agreed at the last meeting.</p> <p>JC pointed out that under the new categories of membership there may be members who have retired who may not meet the Honorary Life Member criteria. JH said everyone who is likely to retire in the near future will be asked to become an Honorary Life Member.</p> <p>PW asked to confirm that we had a quorum (one fifth of the voting members). LJ confirmed there were 32 full members. JH -8 were presented at the meeting so over 20%.</p> <p>Appointment of Officers for the next year</p> <p>Chair Jenny Harland Proposed by JB Seconded by FW</p> <p>Treasurer Simon Dodd Proposed by JC Seconded by MC</p> <p>Secretary Lesley Jones Proposed by MC Seconded by LG</p>	
<p>Constitution</p> <p>JH The membership categories were agreed at the last meeting and the main difference on the constitution sent out was the section on inspections. The original draft section was unrealistic with inspections every 3 years.</p> <p>JC Suggested that under the section to become a mill member there were 2 things missing.</p> <p>To be able to demonstrate through Inspection that the milling enterprise meets the Guild's agreed standards for membership</p> <p>Suggested that we need a defined set of basic standards this makes it easier for those doing the inspection and those being inspected.</p> <p>HACCP plan should be amended to " Have policies and procedures in place to ensure the safe operation of the mill and demonstrate the mill meets all relevant</p>	<p><i>LJ To send out Constitution with suggestions by JC</i></p>

food safety regulations; such policies to include a current HACCP plan and a comprehensive Health and Safety Policy.”

The inspection criteria will not part of the construction but can be amended from time to time as and when needed.

DR Asked if an inspection by the Environmental Health Officer was sufficient as it is very thorough and also includes risk assessment and pest control.

RP Agreed they had also been inspected by various bodies.

JC An inspection by millers of mills was still important.

NJ The Guild have not had clear inspection criteria in the past and the constitution must be fit for purpose and should be looked at regularly.

The Bread and Flour working group have recently been set up and the Guild are represented on this group. It is important that our assessment criteria are of a high standard and transparent.

Suggested in objectives improve awareness of and promote high quality traditionally milled products

Under section 4 should say Comply with Guild Assessment and inspection criteria and meets all relevant food safety regulations and a comprehensive Health and Safety Policy.

PW Needs to be clear that professional millers carry out inspections

DR Asked about what a professional miller means. JC This covered later in the meeting.

JH Constitution should reflect what is going on and represents the actual situation and can be adapted. Are we setting ourselves up as a standards association and is that realistic?

JC Setting up a set of assessment criteria is important and there are about 8 to 10 professional millers across the country who could carry out inspections. Each mill should have its own set of procedures which will be inspected. They do not need to be produced by the Guild.

JH Asked if mills already members should be reinspected to meet new criteria. JC said as we admit new members, they should show they are competent members.

JW Objectives say we are a lobbying group so important we have standards.

JC It was important that we help associate members gain the necessary expertise to become full members.

JC Who decides a schedule of inspections and by whom?

NJ It is important the Guild can offer advice and the Guild should be the first-place mills turn to if they need help.

LJ To send out Constitution with suggestions by JC for discussion at the next meeting.

LG asked about the type of training we should be offering. Would like courses to be available.

Remainder of Meeting	
<p>1. Welcome new Mill Members</p> <p>Full Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acorn Bank represented by Richard Price • Warwick Bridge Corn Mill represented by Debra Riddell <p>Associate Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windmill Hill Windmill • Alton Watermill 	
<p>2. Honorary Life Members</p> <p>JC asked about Desna Greenhow and Derek Hoskin LJ not been able to contact DHJ Proposed by NJ Seconded by JH DHJ Proposed to be Vice Chair by FW and Seconded by NJ</p> <p>MC Proposed by PW and Seconded by JC NJ Proposed by LG and Seconded by RP JB Proposed by JC and Seconded by PW Charles Howell Proposed by JH and Seconded by JB</p>	
<p>3. Folic Acid</p> <p>JC Government intends to mandiatially add folic acid to add to white flour. Likely another 2 years of consultation before implementation and will consider exemptions. JC asking for a meeting to ask for an exemption for mills producing less than 1000 tons. Been told it is hard to give exemptions and so we need to continue to lobby. It is also being bought up at the Bread and Flour Technical Group at the next meeting on 02/11/21.</p> <p>NJ attended last meeting and had pointed out that we have duty of care we need to show our customers. Millers can't guarantee a precise medical dose and we can't over or under dose. NJ feels the case for exemption is very strong.</p> <p>NJ The production of speciality flours by some mills and mentioned Barony Mill and their production of beremeal and the Hutton Institute who are looking at new types of grain (heritage grains) that are resistant to climate change and the TCMG pay an important part in this research</p> <p>FW What is the Bread and Flour Technical Group. JC Set up by Defra. Been putting pressure on the revaluation of Bread and Flour regulation in relation to how effective fortification is. Main focus is on implementation. There is documentation but it is not allowed to be shared at the moment but will be as soon as allowed.</p>	
<p>4. Craft of the Miller Conference</p> <p>JC Thanked all participants. Positive feedback and good to have a conversation about milling in the UK. JC has been asked to join the steering group. JC encouraged people to register on the network, they are connected with everyone else. https://network.molens.nl/</p> <p>Next conference in February is workshop based looking at how to progress training programs. At the moment no professional qualification in the UK.</p> <p>Guild agreed to make a contribution of £70 towards JC costs.</p>	<i>LJ to notify SD</i>
<p>5. Miller Training Scheme</p> <p>JC See slides attached. 2 qualifications suggested Advanced Programme – Miller Qualification Basic Programme – Volunteer Qualification Health and Safety will need to help and advice from outside agencies and a</p>	<i>LJ to send out slides with minutes</i>

<p>relationship with external provider. Proposed scheme complements and supporting existing work which is already done by a number of mills on training.</p> <p>DR asked what is value of the training. JC replied No expectation that people have to do training to be a member. The incentive is that we want to create a reality that milling is a profession. Not expecting people to be retro trained.</p>	
<p>6. Bread and Flour Technical Group Covered under 3</p>	
<p>7. Jute Bags and Recipe Books – soon to be at Worsborough Mill contact Simon Dodd if any required</p> <p>Plaques 1 spare with JC. James Waterfield has casting plaque. LJ to contact James Waterfield to ask for cost of producing more . JB said in the past charged £20 which is subsidised. RB to contact JC to get plaque.</p>	<p><i>LJ to contact James Waterfield</i></p>
<p>8. AOB</p> <p>MC Water millers need to look at Water Directive. Some local authorities authorise charge high rates for water abstraction and impound license and others don't charge at all. The Government is trying to bring all mills in line. Consultation closes on 10th November. MC to send link to LJ to circulate. MC said abstraction actually improves the quality of the water. The impound licence to store water on mill ponds. NJ said in the past if abstraction of water on your own land there was no charge. PW suggested committee looks at proposals. LG Paid fee to abstract for 10 years. Climate change means dry season again so not allowed to abstract.</p> <p>Bakery at Malvern have asked to become a member. The Guild suggested they be offered a friend of the TCMG susception for £5 a year.</p> <p>JC Suggested next meeting in April 2022 to be held at Warwick Bridge Mill.</p>	<p><i>LJ to send out link</i></p>
<p>Mill reports</p> <p>ACORN BANK</p> <p>Until lockdown in 2020, Acorn Bank Watermill was restored, maintained and operated by National Trust volunteers. We milled flour as part of "bringing the mill to life", though we did still sell it.</p> <p>However, with lockdown, the National Trust decided not to reopen the mill. The volunteers therefore agreed to try to set up an independent charity to lease the mill from NT and continue to operate it.</p> <p>Much to our surprise, we were successful. Acorn Bank Watermill Trust was born, and since Easter 2021 we have milled to sell flour as our primary source of income. We were recommended for membership of TCMG earlier this month. Looking at the deterioration that had happened in the year during which we were not allowed to enter the mill, it is extremely fortunate that we were able to begin to undo the damage as soon as we did.</p> <p>HOLGATE WINDMILL</p> <p>Milling has remained steady at about a quarter higher than before the pandemic, and we have a very competent team of some 10 millers. Public Open days have just started this month, with the 5 Sunday afternoons of October as a trial run. Internal improvements to the storage fittings are taking longer than expected and are proving pretty expensive. In addition, we have had to have the tower repainted in black Keim, only a few years after the last repainting, because of frost</p>	

damage last winter.

We now have a third pair of working stones: peak stones, worked by wind. All we need is some wind.

STANWAY WATERMILL

Nothing dramatic to report from Stanway, very slow flour sales, I think the novelty of "lockdown baking" has worn off for a lot of people now.