

## **MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR THE ELING EXPERIENCE CENTRE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
10th June 2025 @ 2.30 p.m.**

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### **PRESENT**

Councillor J. Heron (New Forest District Council)  
Councillor J. Sleep (New Forest District Council)  
S. Wills (New Forest District Council, deputising for Steve Cook)  
D. Dawon (New Forest District Council, deputising for Alan Bethune)  
Councillor L. Harris (Totton & Eling Town Council)  
Councillor C. Rackham (Totton & Eling Town Council)  
Councillor L. Shelley (Totton & Eling Town Council)  
Councillor S. Shepherd (Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee Totton & Eling Town Council)  
Susan Cutler, Town Clerk, Totton & Eling Town Council  
Alison Foster, Eling Tide Mill Experience Manager  
Personal Assistant to Senior Leadership team

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from A. Bethune (New Forest District Council)  
S. Cook (New Forest District Council)

### **2. REVIEW OF ACTIONS AND AGREE MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD 10.04.25**

Actions from previous meetings were discussed under individual agenda items below. The minutes were agreed as a true record.

### **3. REVIEW OF ELING EXPERIENCE BUDGETS/FUNDING AND PROVISION**

Budget information circulated prior to the meeting was referred to. It was stated that the income from the café and from sales in the gift shop were considerably more than the same period the previous year; 50% and 47% respectively. However, it was noted that the number of visitors was 17% down on the same period for last year and concern was raised that there was no opportunity to increase income from visitors while the mill was out of operation. In addition, there was no opportunity for any income from flour sales.

### **4. UPDATE ON MACHINERY REPAIRS AND SCHEDULE OF WORKS**

Representatives from the New Forest District Council stated that a written report scheduled to be available by 23<sup>rd</sup> June would state exactly what the priority works

would include and what the timescales would be. It was stated that the works would start 6-8 weeks after the report, and timescales were likely to be around 4-5 weeks to complete. Concerns were raised regarding the need to get the work completed before the cold weather, and assurance was given that this was the intention. However, it was stressed that until the works were well under way, there could be unforeseen additional essential work. It was reconfirmed that the initial budget sum of money in the region of £230k from NFDC was for interim work to repair the wall, the sluice gates and the wooden beam, to get the mill working for demonstration purposes.

It was stated that further funding was still to be sourced, as it was clear that the future of the ETME relied on attracting visitors to the Mill, which relied on the Mill working.

Representatives from the New Forest District Council expressed concern regarding the need for the contractor to implement CRM responsibility. An alternative option would be to engage an architect as principal designer, but this would increase costs.

It was agreed that a plan would need to be in place for post devolution in regards to the bid cycle for further funding. It was stated that this would follow once the priority work had been commenced. In the meantime it was stated that the communication between New Forest District Council and Totton and Eling Town Council was crucial in order to ensure both parties were in agreement regarding planning and progress of the works required.

#### 5. TOLL BRIDGE REPAIRS AND WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS ASSISTANCE

It was reported that the repair work to the bridge had been completed.

It was requested that New Forest District Council should continue to put pressure on HCC to get their help to enforce weight restriction, eg stop signs and electronic traffic calming. It was reported that Google Maps had been updated to show the route across the bridge as a toll road, but it was not known whether all Sat Nav systems were up to date in this respect.

#### 6. LEASE AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

There was no update on Maintenance Plan.

#### 7. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

The meeting closed at 3.25pm.