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**MEDIA RELEASE
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**BABERGH VINDICATED BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OVER WORK
TO PROTECT SPROUGHTON MILL**

Babergh District Council has today received the determination of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) who has found that the Council was justified in carrying out essential repair works to the Grade II listed mill at Sproughton.

The DCMS had been requested to conduct an investigation into the rationale for as well the quality of, the repair work by Mr. Stephen Robert Jones. The Secretary of State was satisfied that the work to prevent the collapse of the building in 1996 was necessary and that the work carried out by the Council was reasonable and did not involve unnecessary costs.

In its dealings with the owner(s) of Sproughton Mill, Babergh District Council has been motivated by two key objectives:

- a. to protect a listed building (already on the Suffolk Listed Buildings at Risk Register as of 1992) that was in danger of collapse
and
- b. to recover Council Taxpayers money used to finance the essential repair works when the owner(s) of Sproughton Mill failed to comply with the full requirements of a number of Urgent Repairs Notices.

Babergh understands that Mr Stephen Robert Jones has been declared bankrupt and that the Official Receiver is currently undertaking investigations into his estate.

A Babergh spokesperson said "We are pleased that the DCMS recognised the correctness of Babergh's actions in trying to preserve Sproughton Mill". ENDS

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