

The Green Charity, Barrington

Registered Charity N° 205227

Report to Barrington Parish Council on the Open Meeting held on May 15 2014

The Meeting had been called to discuss maintaining and preserving the Green in the future, including the income shortfall. A leaflet had been distributed to all households which gave detailed information from the Chairman on financial matters, a map which clearly showed the Green, its boundaries and the permitted way roadway and spur system together with the Guidelines for Barrington residents developed by the Barrister, Philip Petchey.

The Meeting was attended by over 118 people. Of those who gave the information, 54 were Green residents, 37 Barrington residents and 5 from outside the village.

The Chairman gave an overview of the history, development and current situation facing the Trustee and of the presentations to follow.

Cllr Rhodes-Kemp went through the Guidelines, highlighting the major points:

- a) Full approval of the current Permitted Way process, following most comprehensive examination of the current Permitted Way process, its history and development, from the 1970s onwards
- b) The reasons why permanent vehicular rights of way cannot be granted over the Green
 - a. impossible in the future ever to modify the existing access arrangements
 - b. difficult to put in place effective legal arrangements to ensure payment of maintenance fees
- c) Regarding the sale of properties: the charitable status of the Green, long existence of the bye-laws together with the Trustee based upon an elected Parish Council
- d) The Permitted way Fee being the same fee irrespective of length of roadway
- e) Spurs to be maintained by the relevant householder, allowing the choice of standard of maintenance
- f) New permitted roadways to be considered on their merits
- g) New roadway for development should receive one half of the increase in value of the site
- h) New access should be based upon a capital payment reflecting the increase of the existing roadway in the light of the advice of the District Valuer
- i) The Garden Licence scheme proposed by the Trustee fully endorsed
- j) Parking problems on the Green should be met by increasing the care and respect of Green residents

Cllr Van de Weyer put forward the possibility of using some form of reinforcement to grass surfaces damaged by private car parking: this was not supported by a large majority of those present.

Cllr Day gave details of the New Garden Licence Scheme which was supported by the Meeting

Cllr Potter put forward a proposal to put additional house number signage on the Green, which did not receive the support of the Meeting.

Cllr Whybrow asked if the grass cutting programme was satisfactory; the decision was that the Trustee have got this 'about right'. Wildflower areas could come forward but would need Green residents' support.

Cllr Cooper gave details of current income sources and asked for suggestions to raise funds.

It was the view of the Meeting that the village as a whole, through the Parish Council, should support the Green Charity, leaving roadway maintenance to be covered by the Permitted Way Fees, which might have to be increased in 2015 by over 100%. Such funding would allow the Green to undertake appropriate grounds maintenance. This matter was raised on several occasions during the meeting by different people.

Overall, the Meeting was supportive of the Trustee and for the most part positive.

Points for action and consideration by the Trustee:

Review the roadway specification

Obtain several quotations for roadway work

Control car parking on the Green during matches

Use of roadway opposite Village Stores to avoid turning car round outside

Meet with SCDC re refuse collection process

Encourage Green residents to group refuse bins in agreed spot

Charge for car parking for weddings/christenings

Margaret Goding, 19.05.14