

# THE GREEN CHARITY BARRINGTON

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held in the Village Hall on April 20 2004

**Present:** Councillors Day, Cook, Fletcher, Hardman, Priddle, Reeder and Tookey (Chairman)  
Curator of the Green: Brian Northrop  
11 Members of the public

The Meeting opened at 9.05 pm.

1 **Apologies for absence** : None received.

2 **Annual Report and Draft Accounts 01.04.03-31.03.04**

Copies of the Annual Report and draft Accounts were available at the Meeting. On the proposal of Cllr Fletcher, seconded Brian Northrop, it was agreed to adopt the Annual Accounts as presented.

3 **Chairman of the Trustee: Review of the year**

The Chairman of the Trustee, Mrs Valerie Tookey, began her report by recalling that during the year the village had lost its passionate protector of the Green. Harry Davies had been associated with Barrington Green since the late 1940s and had left us a Green of which we could be proud. In addition, the village had lost Geoffrey Brunning, whose support for the village had endured many years, especially for sports.

Anne Day had resigned as Clerk in July 2003 and was subsequently co-opted as a Trustee. Diane Leech had given up her role as Assistant Clerk at that time. Margaret Goding was then appointed as Clerk in July. The Chairman thanked Anne and Diane for their careful work on behalf of the Trustee and welcomed Margaret Goding in her return as Clerk to the Trustee.

The Trustee continues to publish a synopsis of meetings quarterly in the Village Newsletter.

The Trustee continues to be watchful over the boundaries of the Green and the width and corners of the Permitted Ways. During the year the Green had been damaged by a recycling collection vehicle and an appropriate claim for the cost of the repair had been successfully made to the District Council.

Tree husbandry continues to allow better growth and access for grass cutting. Three manhole covers were replaced and the open ditch near the Pavilion had been reinstated to aid drainage. The Parish Council can maintain the ditches. A major drains collapse near Slid Lane was monitored and repaired. This resulted in Slid Lane being resurfaced by the Water authority.

Following the long dry season in the summer of 2003, repairs to cracks were required to Permitted Way roadways and were carried out as soon as possible. In compliance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, a small parking area for disabled users was constructed adjacent to the Church gateway. Keyblocks were used in the construction to minimise the impact of the surface area.

In the interests of efficiency, the Trustee had taken steps to change from using the Royal Bank of Scotland. The new banking arrangements with HSBC Bank plc were in hand for the beginning of the new financial year.

In November 2003, tenders were sought for the 2004 grass cutting work. The tender from JW Maintenance had been accepted by the Trustee.

The Green was again used for recreational purposes, for football, cricket and play, as well as for the Vintage Tractor Run in June 2003, the Open Gardens weekend and for a charity Cake Stall in July.

The Trustee have continued their work to develop a Management Plan, which is now in its final draft.

The Chairman thanked her fellow Trustees for their continued support, Brian Northrop for giving freely of his time and expertise with regard to many of the aspects of the management of the Green, and to Anne Day, Diana Leech and Margaret Goding for their sage administration of the Charity.

Questions were invited from the floor:

Monty Goding commented that the flooding at the Foxton Sewage Treatment Works had coincided with the appearance of several areas of flooding on the Green. Since the remedial work had been carried out at the Sewage Treatment Works, it had been apparent that flooding on the Green had diminished and yet the ditches were not that good. He wondered if there was a link between the Sewage Treatment Works repairs, the repairs in Slid Lane, and the dryer aspect of the Green, and if this was so, could the Trustee revisit the possible repairs to the Green sports area surface.

In response, it was pointed out that the Trustee would require greater support from the sports clubs to carry out this work, although it was acknowledged that they were unable to obtain financial support from the District Council to repair their pitches as they did not own them. The lack of flooding on the Green may be due to the 2003 long dry season.

Comments were made about the damage to the Green by vehicles being driven across the grass from one roadway to another. The Trustee does take appropriate action to prevent this, and relies on information from residents about the ownership of the vehicles concerned.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.23 pm.

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A Forum for general discussion was opened.

The possibility of inserting kerbs and widening the Permitted Way roadways at corners was raised by Mike Day. The Chairman agreed that these two matters were being considered by the Trustee.

Phyllis Ferguson asked for consideration to be given to marking the entrances to the Permitted Way roadways from the highway, on safety grounds during the hours of darkness. There was much support for this suggestion, which the Chairman agreed to take forward.

It was agreed to request removal of advertising signs from the Green near the Village Shop.

The Clerk confirmed that the Spring Fair would be coming to the village on Sunday May 9th and leaving on Sunday May 16th 2004.

Mike Scott raised the matter of the West Green pond. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had been awaiting an advisory report from the County Council officer, Rob Mungovan, which had recently arrived. This report needed to be considered by the Parish Council. Deep excavation would be required to remove the 'bullrushes', as previous attempts had failed despite a great deal of hard work by volunteers. Nothing can be done until the Autumn, and until funding can be found. Comment was made that this seemed an ideal project for the Barrington Conservation Trust.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Meeting.

Signed .....

Date **April 27 2004**