

THE GREEN CHARITY BARRINGTON

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held in the Village Hall on April 26 2011

Present: Councillors Fletcher (Chairman), Cooper, Day, Hardman, Whybrow
Curator of the Green Brian Northrop
20 Members of the public

The Meeting opened at 8.20 pm.

1 Apologies for absence : Cllr Van de Weyer and 9 residents.

2 Chairman of the Trustee: Review of the year

The Trustee had held 12 formal meetings during the year, taking place after Parish Council Meetings. Most of its activities were related to the maintenance, appearance and preservation of the Green. The Green had been used for a fair, vintage car displays and football and cricket.

Parking of vehicles on the Village Green remained a continuing problem and the Trustee had investigated reinforcing media to prevent damage where parking is essential. Installation costs appeared to be quite high. It was only by written concession from the Charity that parking could be permitted on the Village Green.

Building work to houses around the Green often required storage for contractors' vehicles, skips and materials. In cases of small works, the Trustee gave permission for these to be placed on the Village Green and a charge per day would continue to be made with damage repair at the cost of the user.

Major repair works on many of the Permitted Way roadways had been carried out as part of a rolling schedule and will continue as required. The repair work in the year under review amounted to £21,855.88. This work was funded by the Permitted Way Licence scheme, together with donations for the use of the Green. The Green Charity thanked John Cobb & Sons Ltd for the high standard of their work for us.

Maintenance of the trees planted on the Green had become costly, and was of great concern to the Trustee. Tree maintenance was very expensive. In addition several chestnut and oak trees were being carefully monitored for disease.

As from 1st September 2007, the newly-elected Trustee issued Permitted Way Licences for either one year 2007 - 2008, renewable annually, or for four years 2007 - 2010, with payment by Standing Order or by cheque. Following the Parish Council elections due in May 2011, the new Trustee will offer similar Licences for the period 2011 – 2015.

The Trustee sold the deregistered land to CEMEX in March 2011 and had received substantial adjacent land in exchange, with more to come on completion of the development. Following the valuation of the District Auditor, the sum of £128,500 was paid by CEMEX to the Green Charity for the land required to build the access road to their site.

Attached to this report is a copy of the Audited Accounts for the year 2009-2010 and of the draft accounts for the year 2010-2011.

The Chairman thanked Margaret Goding for her administration of the Charity and Brian Northrop for his support and advice in his role as Curator of the Green.

3 Financial Report

The Annual Accounts 01.04.09 - 31.03.10 as accepted by the Charity Commission and the Draft Accounts 01.04.10 – 31.03.11 had been circulated to all residents in advance of the Meeting. The Trustee was grateful to Simon Lake for auditing the Accounts.

4 Attendance record for 2010-2011 Trustee Meetings (12)

Laura Cooper (9), Anne Day (12), Tony Fletcher (12), Judy Hardman (10), Malcolm Reeder (6), Aidan Van de Weyer (12), David Whybrow (10)

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Informal open forum for discussion

The following matters had been raised during the discussions following the Parish Council Meeting:

Mrs Kathryn Grant (14 Challis Green) raised the matter of car parking spaces being required for people bringing children to the Challis Green Play Area. At present vehicles were left in potentially dangerous and difficult places. The Chairman said that parking spaces were included in the new development. The matter needed to be considered by the Parish Council.

Alan Horne (17 Bendyshe Way) was concerned that the Parish Council had so little funds whereas the Green Charity had a large bank balance, and wanted to know why the Parish Council could not have these funds and take care of all the Green Charity work. The Chairman explained that the two organisations had to be separate, one was a Parish Council and the other a registered Charity. The money from the sale of the land had only been received at the end of March 2011. Plans for its future use were to be considered in the near future.

Mrs Rosemary Anderson (69 High Street) asked the Green Charity to try to control parking of vehicles on the Green. The Chairman explained that it was possible for the Green Charity to prosecute those who parked regularly and for long periods of time on the Green. It was a question of balance of time and effort required, together with the maintenance of good neighbourliness. The Green Charity would consider the points made by Mrs Anderson.

Richard Kennedy (4 Haslingfield Road) expressed his displeasure with the metal railings which had been built on part of the Barrington Hall boundary opposite his property. The Chairman said that a retrospective Planning Application had been submitted by Mr Sutcliffe in respect of the proposed boundary work to the District Council, and their response was awaited. Mr Sutcliffe explained that he had been informed by SCDC Officers that no planning permission was required for the boundary work, but that this view had now been changed, and an Application put forward. The Chairman suggested that painting the fence a dark colour would enable it to merge into the background.

Alan Horne (17 Bendyshe Way) raised his concerns about the ditch on Challis Green and its lack of maintenance. The Chairman explained that the ditches which required maintenance were all cleared as often as necessary to keep them free flowing. The ditch in front of the new development was the subject of discussion between the Environmental Agency which wanted open ditches and the Parish Council, which wanted the ditch piped and filled in to provide an extension of the Green into the new development as originally envisaged by the SCDC Conservation Officers.

Signed

Date **May 10 2011**