

# THE GREEN CHARITY BARRINGTON

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting held in the Village Hall on May 5 2015

**Present:** Cllrs Van de Weyer (Chairman), Cooper, Day, Potter, Rhodes-Kemp, together with 14 members of the public

The Meeting opened at 8.25 p.m.

1 **Apologies for absence** had been received from Cllrs Hardman and Whybrow.

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

The Chairman explained that he had not stood again for the Parish Council this year. As the Parish Council is the Trustee of the Green Charity, this means that he would also stop being Chairman of the Green Charity, a job which he had now done for nearly three years.

In many ways, what the Trustee had been doing over this last year had been the conclusion of the process of challenge to the Green Charity that began three years ago. And this conclusion he considered to be broadly positive for the future sustainability of the Green.

The main event of the last year was the Open Meeting that the Trustee held here in the Village Hall, which covered a large amount of ground and was done in a way that we hoped would engage interested residents throughout the whole village.

Relations with users of the Green had been improved with Councillors meeting directly with individual residents to discuss matters of interest. Workshops for individual residents to meet Councillors were offered in July, August and September, but no-one had requested a personal meeting.

The Trustee has Introduced Garden Licences for over 26 gardens, irrespective of size, on the Green. The Trustee welcomed gardens, which enhanced both the Green aspect and the property, but they had to be formally recognized and acknowledged, to protect the Trustee and also the Green resident from a possible breach of their Permitted Way Licence.

Following on from the discussion at the Open Meeting, the Trustee had provided direction signage for houses on the Green 1 - 25 High Street at request of residents. The Trustee hoped this would be of benefit to residents and visitors alike.

As part of the process of introducing clarity and open management, the Trustee had clarified the position of the Green Charity with regard to events taking place on the Green involving vehicle parking for example and the possible need for Public Liability insurance. This work had joined that of setting up the Guidelines for Use of Green, where the Trustee had set out for everyone what was involved in using the Green for an event, whether public or private, and the financial benefit which the Green Charity should obtain, on behalf of maintaining the Green.

## **2 Chairman of the Trustee: Review of the year continued**

Continuing the policy of clarity and active management of the Green, following a proliferation of signage put out on the Green, the Trustee had drawn up Guidelines for placing Advertising Signs on the Green and was in the process of implementing them. The underlying themes were income for the Green Charity where this is considered necessary for long-term display or a commercial profit-making use.

Turning to the finances of the Green Charity, the Chairman said that the Trustee had attempted to make a clear differentiation between the money needed to maintain the roadways, which only benefited the residents who use them for access, and the general finances of the Charity for management of the Green. This was particularly based upon the recommendation from Counsel to be self-sufficient. The Trustee had explored the problem of the roadway costs in some depth last year and discussed it at the Open Meeting. But the final decision on fee levels would be for the new Green Charity Trustee. The Trustee had asked the District Valuers Service for their advice on the level of fees and costs for the period 2015-2019, in the usual way. This advice would be for guidance, and might not necessarily be accepted in its totality, as in the past.

Regarding the general funding of the Charity, the Trustee had clarified how the Parish Council can contribute to the general maintenance of the Green from Precept. The Lease between the PC and the Green Charity of the Sports and Play Areas, which had lapsed in 2008, had been reinstated. This Lease could be used in the future to vary the funding.

There were several other items which the Chairman wanted to highlight, though not in any order: Following completion of grounds maintenance by Hundred Houses, the Trustee had finally taken over the area of Green at Heselton Way, grass area now called Heselton Green.

With financial assistance from Cemex, the Trustee had undertaken reinstatement of the verge at Back Lane adjacent the Cemex field: the gain in width was quite large.

Grounds maintenance was due to begin on Challis Green from Number 14 across to the Foxton Road, to bring the area up to a standard which will allow it to be mown appropriately and for safer pedestrian access.

Cemex had removed the overgrowth from the Bowls Club and their field boundary with the ditch and installed a new fence. However the ditch bank required further grounds maintenance. The Green Charity is considering the planting of some trees on the Green in this area.

The Trustee had monitored and continued to do so, all the repair work to water mains, telephone cables etc on the Green during the year, to ensure that reinstatement work was to a sufficient standard for the safety of the public.

The Trustee had attempted to reach a working arrangement with The Royal Oak for the use of the Green for their events, to bring some financial benefit to the Green Charity, and this was ongoing. There was full support for the Royal Oak.

**2 Chairman of the Trustee: Review of the year** continued

The Trustee had considered a request for a further 2 memorial seats on the Green, and agreed that these would be adjacent the main sports pitch.

In closing his report, the Chairman thanked those who had helped him and the Green Charity, both residents and the Councillors and the Clerk , over the past three years.

**3 Financial Report**

The Annual Accounts 01.04.13 - 31.03.14 as accepted by the Charity Commission had been circulated to all households in advance of the Meeting, together with the Draft Accounts 01.04.14 – 31.03.15.

The Clerk explained that the draft Accounts indicated that the roadways had not required any substantial repairs, despite increased commercial parcel delivery traffic. These Accounts also indicated that the income was low because it was the final year of the Permitted Way Licence term.

**4 Attendance record for 2014-2015 Trustee Meetings (12)**

Laura Cooper (11), Anne Day (11), Judy Hardman (11), Sheila Potter (10), Rosamund Rhodes-Kemp (9), Aidan Van de Weyer (11), David Whybrow (7).

**5 Open discussion for residents**

Diana Leech (11 West Green) asked about the weed-killer which had been applied around the Green, killing off the grass. The Clerk explained that the contractor claimed that the correct weedkiller had been used, as so many times in the past, but it was obvious that this was not so. The Trustee regretted that this had happened. Although regrowth would occur, it would take time.

Mike Day (2 High Street) commented on the steep rise in the number of deer in the village, causing so much damage to gardens and asked what could be done. This was a difficult issue to resolve.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

**Signed**

Date **May 12 2015**