

**THE GREEN CHARITY
BARRINGTON
REGN NO:205227**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Green Charity Trustee
held on Tuesday, 6th May 2003 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Councillors Cook, Hardman, Priddle, Reeder and Tookey
Cllr Tookey was in the Chair
Curator of the Green - Brian Northrop
7 residents were present

1. Apologies: Cllr Fletcher was away due to a work commitment.

Cllr Tookey explained that Mrs Rose Bridges, who had been a co-opted Councillor, had found it necessary to resign from the Parish Council and hence from the Trustee of The Green Charity.

2. Annual Report and Draft Accounts - to 31st March 2003

It was proposed Brian Northrop, seconded Cllr Priddle, that the Annual Accounts be adopted as presented. This was carried.

Thanks were extended to Mr Oakley for inspecting the Accounts 2001/02 and it was hoped he would be willing to inspect the Annual Report and draft Accounts 2002/03.

Mr Grant asked about the District Valuer's advice. It was explained that he had visited and walked the Green with some Cllrs; that he had provided 3 detailed reports containing his advice for the next 4 years re Permitted Way Annual Licence Fees for domestic and various non domestic properties; for the Annual Lease of recreation land to the PC and for the Royal Oak Table Licence. Cllrs had then agreed to accept the advice given. Clarification was sought re a receipt of £1,000 under Insurance and it was explained that this was the sum accepted in full and final settlement of claims against SCDC re damage to the Green and its "roadways".

Cllr Cook answered a further question from Mr Grant about the project to and around Challis Green Pond, explaining the intended de-silting and enhancement to be undertaken by the PC and the reinstatement of the Green. Grant aid was being sought from CCC S Highways, who had already pledged £500 as a result of their works to the culvert under the highway; SCDC; Awards for All and CCC Countryside Services and Conservation.

Brian Northrop was reassured that the Trustee were aware of containers placed near the Pond, which were temporary. Mr Burton mentioned a private seat, pots and planting and builder's rubble in other areas on the Green and was informed that these were being monitored.

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3. Chairman: Review of the year

The Chairman drew attention to the Annual Report, which those attending the meeting had before them. A quarterly synopsis of the meetings of the Trustee had been published in the Village Newsletter.

The Trustee held a Beating of the Bounds (of the Green) on 28th April which involved adults and children, who enjoyed beating the boundary markers with their willow wands. The Trustee had continued to be watchful over boundaries, width of Permitted Ways, etc.. As already explained, the Trustee had made claims against SCDC for damage caused to Permitted "roadways" and the Green by their refuse collection vehicle and a payment of £1,000 was received from their insurers. A smaller collection vehicle was also re-introduced and the driving had been more careful since then.

Certain trees were cut down to allow others to grow well, following advice and the seeking of permission from SCDC Tree Officer. At the moment other husbandry works were in hand - mainly trimming, crown lifting, etc..

Management of the Green Guidelines were currently being developed. As from the time when The Green Charity was separated from the PC, guidelines were established for the administration of the property of The Charity and for the Permitted Way Scheme. The routine

management of the Green was under review and opening up for consultation with other groups

in the Village e.g. Conservation Trust.

Cllr Tookey, on behalf of the Trustee, thanked Brian Northrop for his work as Curator of the Green - a role formerly held by Harry Davies, following his retirement as Parish Councillor.

Questions were invited and Mr Grant asked if any repairs to the Green "roadways" were planned. Cllr Tookey replied that The Trustee were building up funds again but that she was aware that a survey of potholes was needed, with a view to having some remedial work next year.

Mr Burton asked why there were plans to tarmac the footpath to the rear of the School across Challis Green. Cllr Tookey replied that the path had been damaged because it was used while the path surface had thawed but the drainage layer/base was still frozen. This had made the surface very rutted. It did have heavy use, which was good, but investigation had revealed that SRTS could not pay for any maintenance and that no other body had responsibility for this.

Cllr Priddle had pursued this and eventually SRTS offered a one off resurfacing with a more durable material. After general discussion, it was agreed to ask if the tarmac surface could have gravel rolled on top to help it to match the other "roadways" over the Green. It was confirmed that this would still be seen as a temporary footpath. Mrs Scott asked if children had experienced difficulty in the winter without lights on the footpath to the rear of the School.

Cllr Priddle said that it did not seem to have been a problem and explained that a lot of time and effort had gone into trying to get lighting, which it was understood had been part of the original plan.

4. Barrington Conservation Trust Report

The Secretary, Mr P Hammond, reported that the Trust had taken over responsibility for maintaining the Nature Reserve at Little Rivers. previously in the care of the Wildlife Trust. They had been supported by the active co-operation of Rob Mungovan, SCDC Ecology Officer, who had given a detailed plan of desirable changes and had worked on site with the Trust in his spare time. Following preliminary surveys, work had begun. The overall objective was to make the Reserve more attractive to visitors whilst protecting the wildlife. They had begun by removing some fencing to make the banks of the Shep more accessible, whilst retaining lengths of protected bank, particularly to encourage otters. The Trust planned to improve the flow pattern of the Shep at the Reserve to bring it up to standards achieved further up the River by the Friends of the River Shep, with whom they were collaborating. It was also intended to install two owl boxes at selected points on the Reserve. Mr Hammond requested that people wishing to visit the Reserve should note that dogs are not allowed. This was regrettable but very necessary to ensure that otters, in particular, were not scared away by dog scent. The Trust had also co-operated with The Green Charity in relation to grass cutting on the Green and the possibility of selected areas being left uncut to encourage wildlife.

Questions were asked about the grass cutting and some concerns expressed about areas left, particularly around West Green Pond. In reply to queries raised about the wildflowers alongside the footpath to Little Rivers, Mr Hammond said that cowslips and some flowers were evident but that others had not flourished. Peter Allen had helped enormously by cutting the grass at just the right time.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.35pm

Since questions had been raised during the meeting and there were no further, the question and answer Forum was deemed unnecessary.