

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VISCOUNTESS BARRINGTON'S
MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION GROUND TRUST
HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ON MONDAY 7 JUNE 2010.**

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs C Dawson
Councillor Mrs S Day
Councillor C Holman
Councillor S Howell
Councillor Mrs P Mullin (Vice-Chairman) (In the Chair)
Councillor P Saunders
Councillor S Spencer
Councillor G Tidmarsh

In attendance: Mr P H Anderson, Secretary to the Trust, and one member of the public.

1168 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Bartle, Cllr K Downton and Cllr B Watson.

1169 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2010 were approved and signed as a correct record.

1170 MATTERS ARISING

1144/1149/1161 Maintenance Programme The Secretary reported that Cllr Watson was still investigating this matter, which was evolving into a 5 year plan.

1146/1149 Recreation Ground Matters It was noted that wood chippings left for the Village Handyman to use had not been touched. It was agreed that they should be left for local people to take away.

1153/1161 Wells Adjacent to the Memorial Hall The Secretary reported that British Gas had still not replied but a further reminder had been sent.

1161 Councillors / Trustees The Clerk reported that he had not investigated this matter but would report to the next meeting.

1165 Window Cleaning It was reported that Mr Soule had offered to clean the windows for £60 and this had been accepted.

1171 ACCOUNTS PAID IN APRIL AND FOR PAYMENT IN JUNE

Cheques paid in April and for payment in June were approved.

1172 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

1173 STANDING ORDERS

The Trust noted that the Parish Council had adopted new Standing Orders at its meeting earlier in the evening. The Trust considered whether it ought to adopt new Standing Orders of its own in the light of this decision and it was

RESOLVED

That the Secretary do draft new Standing Orders for the Trust, based on those adopted by the Parish Council's, and submit these to the Organisation and Finance Working Group for consideration in the first instance.

1173 HALL ROOF

Further to consideration of this matter at the last meeting of the Trust, it was reported that three firms had each provided initial reports on the condition of the roof, taking into consideration the re-roofing works carried out in 1997. They had also submitted quotes for providing an expert's opinion to progress the matter to Court, if the Trust decided to proceed. On this basis, the Trust agreed to accept the quote submitted by Mike Grosscurth in the sum of £1,800.

The Trust received and considered a report from Thring Townsend Lee & Pembertons LLP. Counsel's further advice had now been received, following the information provided by Mike Grosscurth, which confirmed that the Trust could proceed with an action in respect of the negligent design/construction of the re-roofing works. Further information was required and the Trust agreed as to how this should be progressed.

The report from Thring Townsend Lee and Pembertons LLP also covered the issues of progressing the claims under a CFA arrangement, the need to issue a letter of claim, and the preparation of Court papers. The CFA arrangements would involve the consideration of any legal expense insurance that the Trust might possess.

In the light of the foregoing advice, the Trust agreed to proceed and it was

RESOLVED

- (a) That the quotation of Mike Grosscurth in the sum of £1,800 to provide an expert opinion on the condition of the roof to progress the matter to Court be accepted;
- (b) That further information be obtained in order to answer the questions posed by Thring Townsend Lee and Pembertons LLP;
- (c) That the Trust enter into a CFA arrangement with Thring Townsend Lee and Pembertons LLP in respect of this case, and do undertake such actions as are required to conclude this;
- (d) That, subject to the conclusion of the CFA arrangement, Thring Townsend Lee and Pembertons LLP be authorised:
 - (i) to issue a letter of claim to Smiths Roofing and Eric Cole and Partners, setting out the Trust's claim and the damages now sought and seeking an urgent response; and
 - (ii) to prepare the Court papers so that the claim can be issued as soon as possible.

1174 CAR PARK

It was reported that the central area of the car park of about 50 square metres was breaking up. Frank Bunce and Richard Smith had been asked to provide quotes for doing the necessary replacement of grids and these were awaited.

In addition, some grids around the edge of the car park had expanded during the recent hot weather and, where there was no room for expansion, had lifted. Martin Twitchen had been asked to re-position these grids.

These matters were being dealt with as ongoing annual maintenance issues. If this proved to be ineffective then consideration would have to be given to replacing the whole car park surface.

1175 CRICKET OUTFIELD

Cllr S Howell declared a Personal interest in this matter.

The Trust considered a letter from the Cricket Club requesting that the Junior Football Club's use of the outfield of the cricket pitch should be stopped, due to the damage caused to the surface of this area and the failure of the Club to repair it. This request extended to Friday evening practice sessions.

In discussion of this matter, reference was made to recent publicity in The News regarding the banning of golf practice on the Recreation Ground, due to the possible dangers to other users of the Recreation Ground. This was compared to the recent introduction of a bowling machine in the nets by the Cricket Club and similar dangers that resulted from this.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Football Club be asked for their comments on the letter and that a meeting then be arranged between representatives of the two clubs and the Trust;
- (b) That the use of the bowling machine be taken up with the Cricket Club.

1176 PAINTING OF RUNNING TRACK LINES FOR JUNIOR SCHOOL

The matter was withdrawn as the Junior Football Club had offered to paint the running track lines for the Junior School.

1177 SEATS FACING FENCE OF FOOTBALL PITCH

The Trust considered the situation of park benches that had been installed some years previously and now faced the recently erected fence of the football ground. It was suggested that these might be turned around or re-located but the Trust agreed to take no action.

1178 NEW MOUND OF EARTH ADJACENT TO MANOR CLOSE ENTRANCE TO RECREATION GROUND

Cllr S Howell declared a Personal Interest in this matter.

It was reported that a new mound of earth had been erected by persons unknown adjacent to the Manor Close entrance to the Recreation Ground, presumably for the use of BMX bike riders. No complaints had been received from neighbouring property owners and there were no suggestions that it was not safe.

RESOLVED

That no action be taken.

1179 TREE WORKS

The Trust concurred with the decision of the Parish Council to ask for a quote from the District Council for a full survey and report on trees on Parish Council and Trust land, in addition to that already received from Swindon Commercial Services.

1180 AOB

None.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm