

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VISCOUNTESS BARRINGTON'S MEMORIAL
HALL AND RECREATION GROUND TRUST
HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM ON MONDAY 3rd MARCH 2008**

PRESENT: Councillor R Bartle
Councillor Mrs C Dawson
Councillor Mrs S Day (Chairman)
Councillor K Downton
Councillor C Holman
Councillor S Howell
Councillor P Saunders
Councillor G Tidmarsh
Councillor B Watson

In attendance Mr D Pratt

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mrs P Mullin, S Spencer

883 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Meeting of 4th February were approved and signed. *Numbering was corrected.*

884 MATTERS ARISING

879 Dog Policy The Secretary asked for clarification on the policy for dogs in the Recreation Ground. The Trustees were concerned on two fronts, the danger to children playing on the Recreation Ground and the deposited mess left by irresponsible owners. Cllr Saunders suggested that having a Dogs on Leads policy might encourage owners to walk their dogs on adjacent farmland. Cllr Dawson did not like to see dogs off leads near children but added that the recent ploughing of land to the north of the ground had encouraged owners to walk their animals in the Recreation Ground. Cllr Saunders proposed, seconded by Cllr Downton, that notices be displayed to keep dogs on leads. A vote was taken with five for the motion and Cllr Holman voted against the proposition.

880 Bicycle Racks The Secretary had had insufficient time to research this item and asked for it to be held over to the next meeting.

881 Office Opening Notice The Trustees had been unable to find further information and it was agreed to leave this item for the next meeting.

885 ACCOUNTS

The accounts paid in January and for payment were approved. Cllr Tidmarsh enquired why a refund was being made to Mrs Gilbert as he understood there was a non returnable deposit. The Secretary replied that there had been sufficient notice given for the hall to be rebooked for this particular date. *Subsequently it was established that the booking form states 10% non-refundable deposit and in this case 10% had been retained.*

Cllr Howell informed Trustees that he would be discussing the new accounts system with the staff on Thursday 6th March.

886 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The school is taking part in a Better Ways to School project that provides funds for improvements to school routes. It is conceivable that a permanent pedestrian crossing could be made on the Highworth Road allowing children to cross the Recreation Ground on their way to school. As an experiment, two parents will park in the Memorial Hall car park and

supervise the route across the Recreation Ground. The security light on the main entrance is being set off at night by steam from the boiler. Complaints have been received from residents on Highworth Road . *Subsequent to the meeting, Mr Jones informed the Secretary that he had adjusted the angle of the beam so as not to shine across the road.*

887 HIGHWORTH ROAD RECREATION GROUND ENTRANCE

The Trustees had previously been circulated with a letter from the VB Homes Trust. The Trustees were disappointed that no figures had been given in the letter. The Chairman confirmed that our last letter had stated a figure and that there was no negotiation as the Trust was required to do the best for the charity. Cllr Tidmarsh agreed stating that this Trust had agreed to compromise on a lesser figure than originally asked. The Secretary was instructed to reply to the letter stating that the Trust was willing to settle but for the agreed figure arrived at by the two professional advisors.

MEMORIAL HALL MATTERS

888 FLAT RENTAL

Two agents had valued the flat rental at £650 per month. Bearing in mind the possible late night disturbance from the various events, the Chairman had agreed to a rental of £600 per month. Cllr Tidmarsh enquired whether pets were allowed and the Chairman replied that the Tenant had one small dog which in her opinion did not cause a problem. The Trustees endorsed the decision.

889 TABLECLOTHS

The Chairman reported that it was becoming more difficult to launder tablecloths, particularly to rid them of blue candle wax. She proposed that the Trust run down the stock as and when they reached the stage where they could no longer presentable. Cllr Saunders asked whether there was a deposit for the tablecloths but was informed that a charge was made purely for the laundering. The Trustees agreed to run down the stock of tablecloths as from September and to inform hirers for subsequent dates that cloths were not available. Cllr Tidmarsh requested that the Trust provide information regarding providers of alternative services to potential hirers of the venue. Cllr Mrs Dawson suggested that the current cloths be dyed and that a small stock be kept for in-house events such as the village dinner.

890 BROKEN WINDOWS

A panel in the centre doors of the hall had been broken immediately after the Scouts Jumble Sale. A letter had been sent to Mrs McGuigan who had hired the hall for the Scouts, stating that a replacement panel would cost £165 and asking the Scouts for reimbursement. Mrs McGuigan had replied that as the event had finished she did not think the Scouts were liable and that the Hall would surely be covered by insurance. The Hall insurance states that the Trust is liable for the first £100. The Chairman stated that the broken window must be paid for and that the Trust could not claim every time minor damage was suffered. Cllr Howell suggested that the Trust reply seeking for a contribution from the Scouts towards this additional expense for the Trust.

RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

891 FLOODLIGHTING MUGA

A letter had been received from a resident of Manor Close who was concerned that additional lighting was to be installed on the Recreation Ground . He suggested that floodlighting would attract unsocial elements and that the light should be turned off an hour after sunset or 10 pm, whichever is the earlier. The Trustees were sympathetic to this point of view but would reply to the following effect that no decision had been taken and that they were currently seeking further information from similar facilities.

AOB

892 Cllr Mrs Dawson reported that there was an unsightly mess in and around the Football pitch. The Chairman and Secretary are to visit that area in the very near future.

The meeting closed at 9.22 pm.