

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VISCOUNTESS BARRINGTON'S MEMORIAL HALL AND  
RECREATION GROUND TRUST  
HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM ON MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2008**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Mrs C Dawson  
Councillor Mrs S Day  
Councillor C Holman  
Councillor Mrs P Mullin  
Councillor S Howell  
Councillor P Saunders  
Councillor S Spencer (Chairman)  
Councillor G Tidmarsh  
Councillor B Watson

In attendance Mr D Pratt

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors R Bartle, K Downton

**893 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> March were approved and signed.

**894 DEED OF EASEMENT**

Prior to the meeting, the Chairman of the Parish Council, witnessed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Trust, signed a Deed of Easement for A & N Sampson Ltd to allow a drainage easement onto Trust property.

**895 WEBSITE**

Cllr Howell, together with Me and My Mac personnel gave a demonstration of the new Shrevenham Website. The site went live at 10am that day and members were impressed with the varied information and quality of this new site. All information for inclusion on the site should be forwarded to Cllr Howell. It is hoped that the new booking system will be finalised in the very near future. In reply to a question regarding payment of hall hiring charges, Cllr Howell explained that the PayPal system was preferable but it would be possible to pay invoices by more traditional means.

**896 MATTERS ARISING**

**884/880 Bicycle Racks** the Trustees were shown a specification for hooped cycle racks which the majority found large and intrusive. The Secretary was requested to find alternative suppliers.

**884/881 Office Opening Notice** The Trustees agreed to have a suitably mounted notice close to the entrance advertising the opening hours for the office.

**887 Highworth Road Entrance** A letter had been sent to the Homes Trust confirming the payment required to block the access. This was now in the solicitor's hands and should be concluded shortly. The Chairman had spoken with the solicitors and it was agreed that the Homes Trust would retain a right of way across the new development, together with the existing track and would grant a right of way to this Trust. He envisaged that there would be a simultaneous change of rights of way once the legal documents had been signed.

**890 Broken Windows** The Scouts had offered £100 towards the repair for the windows, which the Trustees gratefully accepted.

**891 Floodlighting MUGA** Trustees had been unable to visit the Stanford MUGA but questioned whether it was necessary to visit the site prior to obtaining further details regarding lighting systems.

**892 Football Club** Following visits by several Trustees to inspect the litter around the Football pitch, a letter will be written to the Club requesting them to ensure that the litter is cleared at least once a week. A number of Trustees will carry out a Spring Clean litter collection on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 9.00 am.

**897 DOG POLICY**

Following the representations made at the Council meeting, members revisited their previous decision to erect notices stating 'Dogs on Leads'. The Chairman believed that prominent signs should be erected at every entrance to the recreation ground. Cllr Tidmarsh was concerned that it would be impossible to apprehend irresponsible dog owners and that with the advent of sheep into fields to the south of the village, more dog owners would be forced to use the Recreation Ground. The Trustees requested an investigation into the powers that were available to the Trust and whether a bye-law would need to be enacted. Cllr Day had been informed that there had been similar notices on the Recreation Ground in the not too distant past and she strongly recommended that the Trust continue with their previous decision. Cllr Spencer suggested that a compromise situation could be reached as and when the proposed extension was in operation. Several Trustees pointed out that there would be junior football and possible skateboarding in this area which would not allow a compromise. Cllr Watson was not clear as to who would police this measure and thought that the number of owners who let their dogs off the lead was fairly small. The District Council are able to take measures and several Trustees enquired whether these applied to the Parish Council. Cllr Holman believed that it would be difficult to quantify the situation unless there was a proper policing of the policy and a prosecution made as an example. Cllr Tidmarsh agreed that children could be upset by over-boisterous dogs. Cllr Howell asked if the local PCSOs were able to enforce the ban.

**898 INTERNAL AUDIT**

Trustees had been circulated with the interim audit report and on the proposition of Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Tidmarsh, it was resolved to adopt recommendations R1 and R2. With regard to R3, R4 and R5, Trustees discussed the matter and resolved that the measures they had in place were sufficient.

**MEMORIAL HALL MATTERS****899 GUIDE DOG TRAINING**

The Trust had been requested to allow the Hall to be used as a Guide Dogs for the Blind Training Centre. On the assurance that the hygiene situation was addressed, and Chestnut Trees informed of the times for the training, the Trustees agreed to this request.

**900 KEYHOLDER**

The Chairman informed Trustees that Mrs Twitchen was nearing the end of her three months' probation and that he had found her work to be first class. The Trustees agreed but queried whether 18 hours was sufficient to carry out the work. The Chairman replied that it was entirely the Keyholder's decision as to how the workload should be carried out. However, he would be meeting with the keyholder this month to discuss the matter.

**901 SAFETY INSPECTION**

The Chairman informed Trustees that a PAT had been carried out on the Hall electrical equipment as a result of which two extension cables had been replaced. Gas and PAT inspections were carried out annually and he proposed that an electrical test be carried out on the Hall flat.

The Meeting finished at 9.50 pm