

D R A F T
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VISCOUNTESS BARRINGTON'S MEMORIAL
HALL AND RECREATION GROUND TRUST
HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SHRIVENHAM ON MONDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2008

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

In attendance Mr D Pratt

APOLOGIES: There were none.

870 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Meeting of 7th January were approved and signed

871 MATTERS ARISING

862 Web Page: Cllr Howell distributed mock-ups of the possible website. Provided approval was given, the website would “go live” in eight weeks time. The Trustees needed to take two decisions on possible layout and headings and the sub pages. Cllr Spencer, whilst appreciating the work on the layout, wanted to see the Shrivenham Parish Council link to be separate and not joined to organisations. Cllr Howell explained that the photographs on the Home Page could be changed frequently and the contact list could be changed on a different layout. He was pleased to report that he had concluded negotiations on the advertising income for a favourable split of 75% VBT, 25% to the web designers. Cllr Spencer preferred links on the side of the screen rather than across the top. There was a discussion on a number of possible improvements with the Clubs and Organisations on separate headings and a Chat page for local events. Cllr Howell was hoping after discussions with the staff to have a new Hall booking system in place. This proposal would cost in the region of £2,000 including all rearrangement of existing bookings. Invoices would automatically be generated which he felt was better than the current system.

872 STAFF MATTERS

The Chairman reported that Mrs Trudi Twitchen had been appointed to the dual positions of keyholder and cleaner. She had taken up her appointment on 1st February and the position would be reviewed at the end of three months. The Chairman was concerned that the new keyholder's telephone number be displayed in prominent positions in and around the Hall.

873 ACCOUNTS

The accounts paid in December and for payment were approved. The Secretary informed the Trustees that the Lloyds bank account was subject to charges as from 1st January. He had requested information regarding a Co-Operative Bank account which he understood was interest bearing. Payment could be made through the Post Office, which could keep a good local connection. Cllr Mrs Day undertook to read through the information and liaise with the Chairman and Secretary.

874 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

875 HIGHWORTH ROAD RECREATION GROUND ENTRANCE

The Trustees had previously been circulated with a letter from the Homes Trust offering a settlement of £22,000. The advice of this Trust's valuer was a figure between £45,000 and £50,000. Under these circumstances the Trustees decided that they were not able to accept this offer as they were bound to accept the advice given by the independent professional adviser.

Concern was expressed that should these negotiations prove satisfactory, the Trust needed to be assured of a right of way rather than an easement onto the proposed new track. The Secretary informed Trustees that the developer of the new houses had made a further request for an easement onto the track to connect to the drainage system. Trustees agreed to grant an easement pending the final negotiations with the Homes Trust.

MEMORIAL HALL MATTERS**876 FLAT RENTAL**

The Secretary reported that so far only one of the agents had inspected the flat. It was in reasonable condition but some decoration would be required. The Chairman proposed and it was accepted. that the new tenants would be supplied with decorating materials. Currently, interest had been expressed in the tenancy and Trustees were waiting for the tenancy agreement.

RECREATION GROUND MATTERS**877 FLOODLIGHTING MUGA**

The Secretary had contacted both OPFA and the police and had received a verbal assurance from the police that they would like to see the area floodlit. Roger Davis from OPFA had suggested that Trustees visit the MUGA in Stanford in the Vale, which was a good example of this type of floodlighting. Cllrs Dawson, Spencer and Holman volunteered to look at the site.

868 RECREATION GROUND BENCHES**(878)**

The specification had been agreed and all that was required before a firm order was placed was the correct wording for the memorial plaques.

869 DOG POLICY**(879)**

A number of complaints had been received regarding dogs fouling the Recreation Ground. The Trustees discussed the matter and decided that a dog warden would be too expensive but that a notice stating Dogs on Leads Only could have the required effect.

There was further concern from Chestnut Trees that dogs were being allowed into the Hall. They had requested that hooks to fasten dogleads be installed close to the entrance. The Trustees agreed.

870 BICYCLE RACKS**(880)**

Cllr Mrs Dawson asked if the old cycle rack could be reinstated. Unfortunately the rack had been scrapped and it was proposed to erect hoop type cycle rests. The Secretary was instructed to obtain designs and costs.

AOB**871 OFFICE OPENING****(881)**

Cllr Tidmarsh enquired whether it was possible to have an office open and closed sign on the ground floor. A number of elderly and infirm residents who were not aware of the opening hours would then be able to see when the office was open. The Trustees agreed and would seek further advice.

872 WRONG PHONE NUMBER**(882)**

Cllr Watson's telephone number as circulated in the current list of councillors contact points was wrong and should read Tel: 782748.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.