

**VISCOUNTESS BARRINGTON'S MEMORIAL HALL AND RECREATION
GROUND TRUST
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
AT THE MEMORIAL HALL
2ND NOVEMBER 2009.**

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor R Bartle

In attendance Mr. D B Pratt Secretary to the Trust

1098 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2009 were approved and signed.

1099 MATTERS ARISING

1088/1073/1060/1055 CAR PARK: Cllr Watson reported that he had agreed with Mr. Twitchen to spend a further day working on the Car Park surface. The Grids which had lifted around the edge of the Car Park would be lifted and the gravel board removed. This should alleviate the problem but he was sure this was an ongoing problem and Trustees should expect to see further problems with the surface as the year's progress.

1088/1079 SHRIVENHAM ART SOCIETY: No further correspondence on this matter.

1088/1090 HALL BENCHES: Unfortunately when then the second coat of varnish had been applied, it came on to rain and a further coat is required.

1100 ACCOUNTS: Cheques paid in October and for payment in November were approved.

1101 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Chairman had reason to speak to a person on the Recreation Ground for not keeping her dog on a lead. The Chairman was ignored and asked Trustees to consider methods for enforcing this rule. Cllr Saunders

suggested a byelaw but Cllr. Howell believed this would be unenforceable without some one to Police the area. The Chairman suggested taking names or photographs of offending owners. Cllr Saunders was of the opinion that unless an offender was taken to Court, this would have little effect. Trustees agreed to be extra vigilant and to urge users to report offenders.

1102 TREE FELLING ESTIMATES: Five estimates were received to fell 7 Chestnut trees, remove arisings, stump grind and replant with Lime Saplings (*Tilia Tormentosa*) complete with supports and ties.

Ian Walding	£2,900.00
Swindon Commercial Services	£2,240.00 including supply of saplings
Bawden Tree Services	£2,200.00
Westwood Tree Surgeons	£2,100.00
Greenshave Services	£3,754.75 including supply of saplings

On the proposition of Cllr. Downton seconded by Cllr Saunders, it was **resolved** to accept the tender from Swindon Commercial Services.

1103 LEAF COLLECTION: The Postal difficulties meant that only one estimate had been received. The item was held over to the December meeting.

1104 FOOTBALL CLUB LEASE: This item was dealt with previously when Cllr Holman and Cllr Mrs. Day signed on behalf of the Council.

1105 HALL ROOF: Several questions were raised regarding the wording of a letter to Smiths Roofing for re-imburement for poor workmanship. Cllr Spencer reminded Trustees that had they known the extent of the problems, they would have contacted Smiths sooner. The first inspection by Paul Morse had revealed problems with the Valleys on the east and North ends. Unfortunately, Trustees were not aware of further problems on the West and North sides which now equated to a total expenditure of £20,000. Cllr Tidmarsh asked whether the Trust should seek a legal opinion but Cllr Spencer was sure that this would cost in excess of £1,000. In addition to that cost, Cllr Watson informed trustees that an independent inspection would need to be carried out, again in the region of a further £1,000. He was also sure that Smiths would mount a vigorous defence which in the event of losing the case would cause even more expense for no gain. He also reminded members that when the first leak occurred, three contractors gave their views but only Paul Morse gave a proper opinion and eventually carried out the repair satisfactorily. Smiths had ignored our letter and Eric Cole and Partners offered to act for a fee. Cllr Howell proposed going to a Small Claims to recoup part of the expenditure. Cllr Saunders agreed saying that Smiths must be held to account. Cllr. Holman, who had some experience and success at the Small Claims Court, informed the meeting that there was a good chance of success on a proven complaint. There was a possible danger in that Smiths could claim that Eric Cole and Partners had approved the work in which case perhaps the Trust should take action against both parties. Cllr Watson pointed out that the original specification had not been followed and that this together

with the Photographic evidence should make a strong case. The Key evidence was the lack of “soakers, side laps and Laps”. Cllr Howell was heartened by this and suggested that should the case against Smiths be proved, the Trust should definitely take Cole and Partners to Court. The Chairman asked that in the light of this discussion whether the Trust should split the claims into 2 or 3 claims. Cllr Watson believed the Trust needed to seek advice and that he was prepared to put together the evidence. Cllr Saunders rounded off the discussion by advising that the Trust should register a claim and provide Smiths with claim number and the evidence. It was agreed that more research into the amount of claims handled by the Small Claims Court and in the meantime, Cllr Watson will work on preparing the evidence.

1106 HALL ACCESS: The Chairman informed the meeting that she had obtained a fresh quote from PFS which included all the alterations. PFS were still the most competitive and could carry out the installation in the near future.

1107 HALL SYSTEMS: Cllr Howell had carried more research and was confident a formal quote for the supply of a Lap Top and new Monitor for the office would come in at approximately £700.

1108 WIFI: The current system appeared capable of reaching other parts of the Hall except for the Pre-school office. Cllr Saunders suggested that Hawking Router could solve the problem. Cllr. Howell volunteered to research the matter but reminded Trustees that there should be a legal agreement for all potential users of this system.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm