

Minutes

of Executive Committee Open Meeting held 25 February 2004

at Boggart Hole Clough Visitor Centre, Charlestown Road, Manchester, M9 7DF.

1. Present: Stephen Holt (chair), Cllr Paul Murphy (deputy chair), David Wilson (treasurer pro tem), Peter Milner (secretary pro tem), Cllr Mark Hackett, Mervyn Romain, Ann Williams (Manchester Leisure [ML] North Area Parks warden), David McCracken (ML North Area Parks manager), Frankie Mullen (North City Arts [NCA] development officer), Tom Sabin (NCA projects coordinator), Ray Malone, Bob Hill, PC Hussain, PC Michelle Cooper, John Horniman (Moston District Harriers Club secretary), Mike Glendinning (Middleton Guardian), Judy Crook, Brian Crook.

2. Apologies: Cllr Bill Risby, Sam McCormick.

3. Minutes of previous meeting 26.11.03 (revised Minutes dated 25.2.04) agreed as true record.

4. Annual Brass Music event and Guy Fawkes night.

4.1 To sustain high quality events need funds; to create high profile events need to invest in getting information out/marketing e.g. billboards, signs, flyers, internet, press. Arrange sub-committee (perhaps Frankie, Tom, Paul, Stephen, Peter) meeting to develop **grant applications**.

4.2 Brass Music event's success largely dependent upon weather. Last year held early June. **Move to August**, provisionally Sunday 8 August 04.

4.3 Guy Fawkes night provisionally Friday 5 November 04. Suggestion some sort of **attraction held on Asda carpark** to encourage people to park there (to avoid double parking etc) before walking to David Lewis to join procession through Clough.

5. ML Park Management.

5.1 Angel Hill **war memorial**. MCC's budget for all city's war memorials is £2K per annum; Mark says needs adjusting, supplemented by external grants, to nearer £60K per annum. Stephen requests proper Remembrance Sunday service be arranged this year.

5.2 Saul Mearns, **another full-time park warden** besides Ann Williams, employed by ML for its North Area sites.

5.3 **Knee rail** replacement underway along Charlestown Road.

5.4 Ray reports **brick wall bowing out dangerously** alongside path from Oak Bank Avenue. Paul to inform Julie Connor (North Manchester Partnership chief executive).

5.5 Gore and DeKonig company applied to hold **funfair** in Visitor Centre carpark. Majority against application believing it unsuitable for Clough.

5.6 Distribution of regular intra-weekly **athletics track sessions** between Salford Harriers and Moston District Harriers (running clubs). John says latter club, recently split from former, unhappy about allocation of sessions. David McC to invite members of both clubs to meeting to discuss.

5.7 Ray suggests regular **Clough circular minibus service** (Rochdale Road, Moston Lane, Charlestown Road) to facilitate movement around outside Clough and increase use of Clough by walkers. Refer to Cllr Fender (lead member Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive).

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5.8 Proposed **demolition of presently disused building** corner Rochdale and Charlestown Roads, formerly barber shop etc. Unable to proceed until gas pipe found/gas turned off.

5.9 Red Rose Forest paid £414.19 for seeds of 17 **woodland wildflower species** from Landlife, National Wildflower Centre, Liverpool. Proportion of seeds given to Nature Conservation Group/Wildlife Gardening Club.

5.10 **Indigenous woodland roses and trees** (25 saplings of 22 species, totalling 550) purchased for £182.25 from Brentwood Moss Nurseries, Cadishead. Alan Bell (ML horticulturalist) working with Nature Conservation Group 22.2.04 planted 100 of these saplings along meadow edge; remainder planted by ML.

5.11 **Manchester Poplars** in danger of collapse due to venturia populina disease. Gale 8.2.04 blew 2 down onto lake promenade. ML will fell as necessary to ensure public safety.

6. Nature Conservation (see also items 5.9, 5.10, 5.11, 8.2, 8.4).

6.1 New Deal workers and Community Service Volunteers (Probation Service), directed by David W, cleared **litter and undergrowth** between Lake perimeter fence and promenade.

6.2 Ancient Woodland regeneration. Nature Conservation Group and Wildlife Gardening Club volunteers (including Whitemoss Club for Young People members and staff) and C.S.Volunteers (Probation Service) working with Peter on Sundays continued **invasive rhododendron** clearance in Middle Clough.

7. Security issues. Quad bikes entering Clough through gap next to kissing gate between Pevensey Court flats and Lake. See also items 4.3, 5.3, 8.5.

8. Funding issues (see also items 4.1, 5.1).

8.1 Application by David W for *CAS:H* grant, for **tarmacking carpark adjacent to Boathouse**, refused by Manchester City Council (MCC)/North Manchester Partnership in letter dated 21.10.03 on grounds that number of bids exceeded money available. Paul and Mark suggest apply again (emphasizing parking for disabled drivers) as more funds now allocated to *CAS:H* programme.

8.2 Conservation volunteers (Nature Conservation Group, Wildlife Gardening Club, etc) require funds to cover **expenses** including restocking tools. Perhaps apply for MCC's *Change:Capacity Building Grants for Community Groups*.

8.3 **Footbridge across clough below Fish Pond and footbridge approach paths in disrepair**, require renovation. Perhaps bid for MCC's *Living Spaces* grant.

8.4 **Lake and Fish Pond stagnated and silted**, remedial work required. Perhaps try for Heritage Lottery grant.

8.5 Ben Fleet (ML football warden) bid for £5K *Crime and Disorder* grant for **football training sessions** on Clough pitches.

9. Treasurer's report.

9.1 Copies of bank statements and treasurer's accounts distributed. **Balance** at 28.1.04 of £267.55.

9.2 Present three **cheque signatories** (no longer trustees) signed off. Three new signatories, Stephen, Paul and Peter (continuing trustees) signed on.

10. Next Executive Committee Open Meeting: Wednesday 28 April 04, 6.30 p.m., Visitor Centre. Members of the local community and any other interested people are welcome to attend BHCCAT meetings on the understanding that only paid-up members of the Trust have a right to vote at the AGM in election of trustees, and during the year only trustees and representatives from affiliated member organizations and co-opted appointees have a right to vote at executive committee meetings.