

BOGGART HOLE CLOUGH COMMUNITY ACTION TRUST
Protecting and revitalizing Boggart Hole Clough Ancient Woodland Park

Minutes

of Executive Committee Open Meeting held 27 April 2005

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

1. Present: Anne Williams (Manchester City Council [MCC] Manchester Leisure [ML] North Area Parks warden), Bob Hill, James Walmsley (*Community Arts* Events organizer), Janet Shepherd (Rochdale Road Residents Action Group member), Jean Finch, John Howard (MCC/ML North Area Parks assistant manager), Kate Attan (Plant Hill Police Station sergeant), Mark Hackett (Trust chair, Charlestown councillor/MCC executive member for Culture & Leisure), Martin Saker (MCC/North Manchester Partnership [NMP] assistant manager), Mervyn Romain, Mildred Lloyd, Paul Evans (MCC Cycling officer), Peter Milner (Trust secretary), Ray Malone (Trust deputy chair), Ron Baines, Sam McCormick (Trust treasurer), Saul Mearns (MCC/ML North Area Parks warden), Shirley McCardell (MCC/NMP Zest Healthy Living Project coordinator), Steve North (MCC/ML Development officer), Suzanne O'Callaghan.

2. Apologies: Rose Mason.

3. Minutes of previous meeting 16.2.05 (revised Minutes dated 27.4.05) agreed as true record.

4. MCC/ML management report (see also items 5, 6, 7, etc).

4.1 **Angel Hill War Memorial.** Queen's Park Restoration Studios now carrying out surveys, calculating estimates, etc., as part of MCC's £200K restoration of city's war memorials.

4.2 **Wheelchairs** cannot get through kissing gate, beside bar gate at Boathouse Car park, to get onto Lake promenade. Dilemma: gates allowing wheelchair access also allow motorbike access (see item 7).

4.3 ML held public **consultation** meeting 19.3.05 at St. Peter's Church, Blackley, re interim measures for site of demolished building corner Rochdale & Charlestown Roads – flower bed, grass, flagpole, lectern - (see Minutes 15.12.04 meeting), and felling diseased Manchester Poplars for public safety reasons (see Minutes 16.2.04 meeting).

4.4 Alan Bell (MCC/ML horticulturist), Rose & Peter walkabout 18.4.05 delineating proposed **marginal expansion of woodland onto meadow** to increase biodiversity. Intention for boundary to be marked by trunks of felled Manchester Poplars to prevent further mowing down of planted saplings.

4.5 Steve suggests *setting up Funding Development Sub-committee to decide **priorities**, get something identified... bids to Capital programme...* MCC has online Grant Finder system, updated daily, which John can access. John, Steve and Peter to arrange meeting.

4.6 Steve recommends application for inclusion in the **Register of Parks & Gardens of special historic interest in England** managed by English Heritage. Registration would assist grant bids, etc.

4.7 Suggestion for **Manchester City Art Gallery curated Exhibition re Clough history**, including earliest images of Clough (e.g. possible etchings), etc., on same lines as their recent Heaton Park exhibition. To engender local interest/involvement, increase appreciation/understanding of Clough, help avoid planning mistakes/inappropriate developments, help ensure Clough undergoes highest quality regeneration in keeping with/making most of its heritage. As part of comprehensive review (heritage inventory, ecological surveys, etc) laying foundation for major grant-aid applications. Exhibition perhaps initially at Visitor Centre, subsequently tour exhibition spaces at e.g. local schools, Simpson Memorial Hall, Public Library/MANCAT College building (under construction, old Harpurhey Baths site).

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5. Conservation (see also item 4, etc).

5.1 **Lake regeneration.** English Nature/Ponds Conservation Trust *Ponds for People* grants available for establishing aquatic & marginal plants. Questionable whether this is appropriate for brick bottomed former boating lake. John to obtain Lake management plans from Platt Fields & Debdale Parks, Mersey Valley Countryside Warden Service, etc., to enable discussion re alternative options.

5.2 Restoring Ancient Woodland biodiversity (see also items 4.4, 8.2, 8.3). Nature Conservation Group & Wildlife Gardening Club volunteers (particular thanks to regulars Amy, Jo, Leanne, Michael, Rose, Sue, Tristan) working with Peter on Sundays. Tasks included sowing in areas cleared of invasive rhododendron, on patches slow to naturally regenerate, a **flower & grass seed** mix including Bluebell, Foxglove, Red Campion, St. John's Wort & Wood Aven, bought from National Wildflower Centre, Liverpool.

6. Arts, sports, events.

6.1 **Funding 8.8.04 Brass music concert.** Voluntary Action Manchester (VAM) Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest Funding Agreement was signed by Peter on the understanding that *Interim Grant Update Report* would be written by NMP/North City Arts (NCA) and sent to VAM by 30.11.04 deadline: it was not received by VAM until 4 months later. Sam: *This nearly harmed our future as an organization... there was no partnership... consequently we're a bit cautious of fundraising with NMP...* Louise McManus (NMP officer taken over NCA brief) to write *Final Grant Report* due at VAM 31.7.05, to be copied to Peter.

6.2 **Music 2005.** Bob argued for one-day event because successful for first 2 years. Others felt should experiment with different format – a rolling programme of several weekly smaller events so Clough might gain reputation as place where music played on regular basis e.g. every Saturday afternoon. James to draw up programme.

6.3 Proposed **Cycle Open Day** provisionally 20.7.05. Opportunity for people with learning difficulties to try out cycles adapted to their needs; one-off event from which to develop permanent cycle club for north Manchester (intention to have 3 clubs: North, South, Central) loaning out adapted & non-adapted cycles (2, 3, 4 wheelers) for use in Clough by whole community; Clough has suitable track and storage (athletics track and portacabins). Funding the Open Day: *Zest/ML* and *Wheels For All* under Trust umbrella grant bid perhaps to VAM Community Learning Chest. The above refers to self-powered cycling; motorcycling in the Clough, which is illegal, remains a problem (see item 7).

7. Security (see also item 4.2). Members report motorbikes deliberately aimed at people and deliberately churning up grass (all motorcycling in the Clough is illegal). Also reports of alcohol related abusive behaviour around Fish Pond environs. Kate: *there's a motorcycle unit targeting illegal motorcycling in north Manchester, this operation is on now...we will write a **Progress Report** on security in the Clough for Trust's next meeting...if circumstances allow I or another officer will attend the meeting...*

8. Treasurer's report/funding issues (see also items 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 6.1, 6.3, etc).

8.1 **Balance** at 21.4.05 of £607.85p.

8.2 VAM **Community Chest** awarded (letter dated 24.3.05) £1,500 for Conservation Volunteers ancient woodland biodiversity restoration project.

8.3 **Awards For All** grant application for £4,416.32p submitted 25.2.05 to cover Administration & Conservation Volunteers projected expenses for one year.

9. Next meeting is **Annual General Meeting**: Wednesday 6 July 05, 6.30 p.m., Visitor Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend Trust 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.