

## Minutes

### of Executive Committee Open Meeting held 28 April 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 Bill Risby, Mervyn Romain, Rose Mason, Suzanne O'Callaghan, Bill Brookes, Mike Glendinning (Middleton Guardian).
2. **Apologies:** David McCracken (Manchester Leisure [ML] North Area Parks manager), Tom Sabin (North City Arts [NCA] projects coordinator), Sam McCormick.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting 25.2.04** (revised Minutes dated 28.4.04) agreed as true record.
4. Sub-committee meeting 9.3.04, North Manchester Partnership office, Moston Lane, re **Annual Brass Music event** (Sunday 8.8.04, 2 pm). Present: Stephen, Peter, Tom, Frankie Mullen (NCA development officer). Tom says need £10K for hire of stage with roof, marquee, furniture, PA system, crowd barriers, chemical toilets, 2-way radios, bands' and soloists' expenses, stewards, first-aid staff, security guards, stage manager, compere, security supervisor, photographer, 500 posters, 5000 flyers, flyer distribution, press advert, insurance. Probably apply for *Community Chest* and *Awards for All* grants (see also item 5.2).
5. **ML Park Management.**
  - 5.1 **Angel Hill war memorial.** Stephen received letter dated 24.4.04 from Eunice Forshaw, local resident: *the monument could, once restored to its full glory, be a focal point of Remembrance Services for so many groups within the Blackley area...* Stephen to write to Eunice: Tom searching grant providers to pay for specialist craftspeople for full restoration of plaques, railings, stonework, etc.
  - 5.2 David McC received e-mail dated 20.4.04 from Andrew Baker, **Blackley Brass Band** musical director: *the City of Manchester which once boasted nearly 50 brass bands, now has only 2 registered contesting bands left. One of these, Blackley Band, founded during the war as the Blackley Local Defence Volunteers Band...can provide...the full band for concerts, to a small group for fanfares or other events...fees are very reasonable...*(see also item 4).
  - 5.3 Proposed **Clough circular minibus service** (Rochdale Road, Moston Lane, Charlestown Road) to facilitate movement around outside Clough and increase use of Clough by walkers. Stephen to contact Cllr Fender (lead member Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive).
  - 5.4 Proposed **demolition of presently disused building** corner Rochdale and Charlestown Roads, formerly barber shop etc. Gas now turned off and tenders returned; contractors due on site first week in June. Stephen suggests in its place 2-sided digital display board announcing forthcoming attractions at venues in North Manchester.
  - 5.5 Proposed **house building within Clough perimeter.** *Harpurhey and Lightbowne Local Physical Plan* presented by EDaw planning consultants 1.4.04 showed David Lewis Recreation Ground as a *potential site for development*. Suzanne, Stephen and other local residents oppose this. Paul floats idea of building houses in Clough along Charlestown Road: *we have got to change housing mix to keep in North Manchester people with wealth who want to buy bigger houses*. Mervyn, Peter and others argue against this: large houses could be built on development land already made available through selective demolition of terrace housing e.g. in Lightbowne (Egbert and Hugo Streets) and Moston (Albine and Cole Streets).
  - 5.6 **Brick wall bowing out dangerously** alongside path from Oak Bank Avenue. Paul suggests ML write to owner. ML could perhaps access *Housing Market Renewal Fund* monies to rebuild wall.

5.7 Operational Services Road Inspection Section will undertake **monitoring of pathways and path repairs** to reduce number of claims against ML for trip hazards etc.

5.8 **Manchester Poplars** in danger of collapse due to *venturia populina* disease. Agreed: need programme to fell and replant with more than take down and with more appropriate native trees; where possible Poplars should be left where felled as in time will change into attractive, biodiverse, natural woodland features.

## 6. Nature Conservation (see also items 5.5, 5.8, 7.1).

6.1 **Ancient Woodland regeneration.** Nature Conservation Group and Wildlife Gardening Club volunteers (particular thanks to regulars Bianca, Daniel, Geoff, Georgie, James, Jamie, Katie, Leanne, Leonard, Ray, Rose) working with Peter on Sundays continued invasive rhododendron clearance in Middle Clough.

6.2 Whitemoss Club for Young People members and staff 28.2.04 carried out **litter pick** along White Walk, path starting at Belthorne Avenue.

6.3 New Deal/Action for Employment workers and Community Service Volunteers (Probation Service), directed by David W, continued clearance of floating and submerged **rubbish from lake**.

6.4 DEFRA (Department of the Environment...) granted repeat licence 19.4.04 to reduce **Canada geese** population by preventing eggs from hatching: conservation risk to other aquatic birds caused by their monopolization of lake; public health and safety risk caused by their droppings on lake promenade. Gary and Peter 24.4.04 oiled 147 eggs on the island.

## 7. Fishing (see also item 6.3).

7.1 David W received letter dated 25.4.04 from Ian Hayes, Environmental Agency technical officer, containing **Fisheries Advice**...aim is to offer a choice of fishing...Cormorant Predation...installation of fish refuges...will provide shelter for the fish when threatened...vegetation over the top of these refuges...would provide a valuable food and spawning resource...the lakes would benefit from an introduction of a variety of marginal and submerged plants...there is no need at this moment to consider a costly de-silting operation...Both lakes would benefit from the installation of aeration equipment, I recommend the paddle wheel type aerator...These measures would help protect your fishery from harmful algal blooms and associated fish deaths...David W hopeful of funding from Mersey Basin Trust and Manchester Children's Fund.

7.2 David W says anonymous fisherman donating £2K for **fish restocking**.

## 8. Security issues: see item 4.

## 9. Funding issues: see items 4, 5.1, 5.6, 7.

10. **Treasurer's report.** Copies of bank statements and treasurer's accounts distributed. Balance at 19.3.04 of £414.54.

11. Next meeting is the **Annual General Meeting**: Wednesday 30 June 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.