

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

## Minutes

### of Executive Committee Open Meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005

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

Manchester City Council (MCC) departments – MCG: Manchester City Galleries, ML: Manchester Leisure, NMP: North Manchester Partnership (NCA: North City Arts, Zest: Healthy Living Project).

**1. Present:** Ann Williams (ML North Area Parks warden), Bill Brookes, Freyja McCormick, Heather Mawhinney, Jean Finch, Kylie Ward (ML North Area Parks manager), Mark Hackett (Trust deputy chair, Charlestown councillor, MCC Executive member for Culture & Leisure), Peter Milner (Trust secretary), Ray Malone (Trust chair), Roger Barnard, Sam McCormick (Trust treasurer), Saul Mearns (ML North Area Parks warden), Shirley McCardell (*Zest* North City & Moston Hub coordinator), Suzanne O'Callaghan.

**2. Apologies** for absence: Ada Nzeribe (NCA Cultural Regeneration officer), Mervyn Romain.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting 14.9.05** (revised Minutes dated 30.11.05) agreed as true record.

**4. ML management** (see also items 5, 6, 7, etc).

4.1 Kylie Ward replaced David McCracken as **North Area Parks manager**. David now Central Area Parks manager.

4.2 **Angel Hill War Memorial**. Peter received *Condition Survey Blackley memorial* (including conservation proposals) and *Project Initiation Document* (Public Art Condition Survey including implementation of conservation proposals) from Amanda Wallace (MCG Principal Conservation officer). Copies distributed.

4.3 **Tree Preservation Order** (TPO) application for 16 trees, within David Lewis Recreation Ground perimeter, along Lewis Avenue. Several trees along Lewis Avenue were felled by MCC without consultation some years ago, undermining presumption of protection, therefore it is argued the remaining trees are at risk. Is there a statutory reason for not granting a TPO ? Ray offers to write letter to MCC Planning Division, Town Hall Extension.

4.4 Complaints re work practices of **Probation Service** workers doing Community Service: no written/set out plan, resulting in indiscriminate felling of trees, e.g. Hawthorn, Oak and Silver Birch, amounting to vandalism. Need to identify areas where wish Probation to work, if any. Woodland needs managing carefully, respectfully, using best woodland conservation management practices (see item 4.5).

4.5 To prepare for English Nature **Local Nature Reserve** status need 5-10 year management plan: "...to enhance wildlife interest, to maintain conservation value, to continue important contribution to local biodiversity..." (www.english-nature.org.uk). Elaborate Trust's 29.9.04 project outline: *Restoring Ancient Woodland Biodiversity* (see item 5.1).

4.6 **Secure storage for Trust property** (conservation volunteers' equipment/materials, adapted cycle for disabled people) required at Boathouse and Visitor Centre. Suggestion apply for grant to buy portacabin.

4.7 **Boundary at corner of Rochdale & Charlestown Roads**, site of recently demolished building. Contractor supposed to build low wall with railings on top but built high wall without railings. Various suggestions: replace new wall with railings or, to open up pedestrian access, replace with timber (e.g. Manchester Poplar) bollards. Mark suggests constructing Iron Age replica timber Roundhouse in Clough's lower quarter with perhaps car park as part of strategy to reanimate lower Clough.

4.8 Leo Armstrong has requested bookshelves in Boathouse for establishment of small **Community Library**.

4.9 **Green Flag award ceremony** 27.11.05: Mark and Tristan Jones (6-year old Conservation Volunteer) plant Caucasian Wingnut tree near Visitor Centre.

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### 5. Conservation (see also items 4, 6, etc).

5.1 Restoring Ancient Woodland biodiversity (see also items 4.3 to 4.6). Nature Conservation Group & Wildlife Gardening Club volunteers - particular thanks to regulars Leanne, Michael (& Tara), Neil, Rose, Sue, Tristan - working with Peter on Sundays. Working above Fish Pond Clough footbridge on woodland/meadow edge dug drain ditch and basins (potential amphibian habitats) to **prevent flooding and erosion of ravine-edge footpath**. Members considering changing workday from Sundays to Saturdays, probably more convenient for more people.

5.2 **Lake & Island** regeneration. Valve repaired enabling draining of lake. David McCracken has advised Lake should not be drained below one foot deep to protect silt ecology. Lake built at same depth throughout – need different depths. Gabions for establishing plant life as done successfully at Painswick Park where geese not destroyed plants.

6. Health activities & Sports (see also items 5.1, 7.2, 7.3, etc). *Wheels for All/Cycling Projects* and *Zest* scheme enabling people with disabilities/learning difficulties to use adapted cycles in Clough on regular basis. Main launch of Clough Scheme 19.10.05, 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., athletics track, funded mostly by Community Chest £1,475 grant. Shirley: “...very successful...70 people...some people don’t do any other exercise... great thing for park to be used for...” Successful North Manchester Primary Care Trust £4K grant bid through *Zest* for ongoing support of scheme: 12 months loan selection adapted cycles, 12 months Public Liability insurance, 2 days training to enable ML staff to run cycle sessions, purchase of adapted cycle incl 12 months insurance, etc.

### 7. Arts & Heritage (see also items 4, 5, etc).

7.1 **Funding 8.8.04 Brass Bands Concert**. VAM Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest final grant reporting. Re outstanding £2K of £5K grant, Peter received email 8.11.05 from Helen Taylor, VAM Monitoring officer: “...Louise [McManus] (NCA officer) is sending updated summary [of expenditure] along with supporting receipts/invoices. I will verify these and will be in touch with the outcome as soon as possible.” Still waiting to hear.

7.2 **Local Schools History & Arts Boggart Project**. Development meetings 5.10.05 and 19.10.05 at Visitor Centre. Present among others: Ada, Ann, Elaine Monk (*Zest* Blackley & Charlestown Hub coordinator), Heather, Peter, Roger, Saul, Shirley. To promote awareness/appreciation of local history & environment through exploring Boggart folklore including creating Boggart representations using materials found in Clough (employing community artists, providing artists’ materials, etc). Successful *CAS:H* grant bids: £1.5K Harpurhey ward, £6K Charlestown ward. *CAS:H* grant £1.5K Moston ward bid – decision pending. MCC to pay *Zest* by budget transfer when project completed.

7.3 Proposed new **St John’s Eve Event** – 23.6.06 (pilot event with idea of annual event) – complementing Local Schools Arts & History Boggart Project which works up to this event (item 7.2). Development meetings: same as item 7.2. Event celebrating Clough’s heritage: lantern procession commemorating traditional gathering of St John’s Fern seeds on St John’s Eve, theatrical adaptation of Clough legends, talks exploring place of Clough in Samuel Bamford’s writings, exhibition, etc. Green Space **Park It !** £5,000 grant bid submitted 29.10.05. Heather: “...we’re moving forward without funding at this stage...”

8. **Security issues**. Reports of truants in Clough. Reports of trial and quad motorcycling causing disturbance especially at weekends. Saul: “We need more regular police presence in the Clough...”

### 9. Treasurer’s report/funding issues (see also items 4.6, 6, 7, etc).

9.1 **Current account** balance at 18.11.05 of £6,989.11p.

9.2 **Collection box & raffles** arranged by Ron Baines at Summer 2005 *Picnic in the Park* Saturday afternoon Lakeside concerts. Treasurer not yet informed of amount raised. Collection 7.5.05, organized by Ron, outside Harpurhey Asda raised £62.00p. Treasurer not yet received this money.

10. **Next Executive Committee Open Meeting**: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 06, 6.30 p.m., Visitor Centre.