VISCOUNTESS BARRINGTON TRUST

Minutes of meeting held on 19th May 2025 at 20.10

In the Vic Day Hall

Present: Bjorn Watson, Chair (BW), Richard Bartle (RB), Lucy Brown (LB), Lewie Hilsdon (LH), Simon Howell (SH), Julia Jones (JJ), Bob Sheldon (RS), Elaine Ware (EW), Claire Winfield (CW)

In Attendance: Julia Evans, Lyn Frape

Public: 5 members of the public

25/50	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Gerard Pearson, Nathan Woodhouse.	
25/51	**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** None.	
25/52	**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2nd APRIL 2025.** The minutes were approved. Proposed: RS, Seconded: LB. RESOLVED. The minutes were signed.	
25/53	**MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING** a) **25/33 (25/19) – Action on the track**. No progress on the bollards. LH work on this ahead of the next meeting. The broken fence to be repaired at the same time. BW was awaiting a quote for the repair of the track.	**LH** **BW**
25/54	**PUBLIC REPRESENTATION** a) A complaint was received from VB Homes residents about traffic on the track. It was suggested that a sign be erected informing drivers of the route.	
25/55	**TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE PERSON PRESIDING MAY WISH TO LAY BEFORE THE MEETING** **a) Letter from the Charity Commission.** BW read out the letter which had been circulated to all members. Concerns had been raised by a Parish Councillor regarding the financial management of the charity and its internal transparency and referred to a dispute between the council and the Trust. BW expressed concern that it was an indication of lack on confidence in him personally and asked the member responsible to explain what the issue was. No one spoke in response. He asked the members if he still had their confidence. LB, EW, SH, RB, RS and JJ confirmed their confidence. LB felt that the Trust finances were well managed and transparent, and audit reports were always very positive. SH concurred and gave full support to BW's Chairmanship. EW pointed out that any issues would have been highlighted by the auditor. RB felt the matter was disgraceful and called for the resignation of the member responsible. BW could not understand where there was a lack of transparency. CW felt that it was because she did not have access to detailed payroll information. RS pointed out that the only matter in dispute was the pay of individual staff. There had been a definitive statement from OALC that only the Personnel Committee had the right to know the details of individual's pay. There was no absolute right for all trustees to have this information. The total payroll figure was published every	

	month. A discussion followed on who was responsible for the complaint with no conclusion reached and admission made. LB pointed out that the letter did not require any action from the Trust. Given that no one admitted to making the complaint, BW and RS felt it could only have been made by the member who had recently resigned. BW firmly stated that as there were no longer any parish councillors who were in dispute with the Trust this matter was now closed. **b) Request from Gigaclear to install fibre network connections across Trust land.** The proposed installation would follow the fence line. SH felt that there should be a wayleave agreement and associated payment. JE to go back to Gigaclear. **c) Request from the school to use the Recreation Ground for their sports day on 4th June.** A small fee was payable. The request was approved. Proposed BW, Seconded JJ. RESOLVED.	**JE** **LF (invoice)**
25/56	**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS** None.	
25/57	**FINANCIAL MATTERS** a) **Financial reports for March.** The reports had been circulated. RS pointed out that in the last financial year the Trust had benefitted from ARP use of the buildings, but this would not be sustained in the current, year. BW was heartened by the use of the pavilion and small increase in reserves. The reports were approved. Proposed RS, Seconded RB. RESOLVED. There was one abstention. The reports were signed. CW asked if the Trust could find the funds for the Tea Party. EW noted that as the request had been withdrawn the matter should not be discussed. b) **April payments.** The list of payments had been circulated. RS noted the payment for the tree work. SH noted the cancellation charge for the 1920's evening band. The payments were approved. Proposed LB, Seconded RB. RESOLVED. There was one abstention. The list was signed. **c) Bookings Report.** The booking report to the end of April was presented. Overall the current bookings had exceeded the budget for 2025/26. It was noted that some Sports Pavilion bookings had to be refunded due to cricket club use. BW clarified the terms of the Cricket Club licence.	
25/58	**HALL MANAGERS REPORT** **a) Energy Project.** There had been a delay to the project due to staff holidays. The outside work would be carried out in the summer. **b) Hall refurbishment.** The Loggia was complete except for the reinstatement of the fire alarms. This work was due to be completed on Thursday. There had been some comments about the Loggia doors; retainers were required. **c) Other hall matters.** There had been some boiler issues which had been fixed. The boiler in the main kitchen had been replaced.	**LH**

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	There had been issues at an event with the toilets which had lost access to water. The old tank in the loft needs to be replaced. A plumber was to be contacted to report on the system. LH to arrange. **d) Recreation Ground matters.** The new MUGA panels were still outstanding.	**LH** **LH**
25/59	**PROPOSAL FOR MEMORIAL TREE** EW reported that £800 in pledges had been received toward the purchase of the tree. The CCG planned to apply to the Vale Climate Action Fund for a grant.	**EW**
25/60	**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS** **a) Centenary Celebration Group.** The party in the park had been successful; the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire had attended the event. The sale of paintings by Chitra Madivan raised £200, which was generously donated to the Trust. The exhibition in the Claridge Room was very well received. EW and Neil Mawr were congratulated. The talk on the Claridge family was popular and there was a request to video it if repeated. The Tea Party event had been cancelled but the group was working on an alternative. There had been a visit to the hall from the Registrars who had been impressed with the building. It was hoped that a licence to hold marriage ceremonies would be approved.	**JJ**
25/61	**JUST GIVING SITE FOR CCG ACTIVITIES** The Just Giving Page would detail the proposals for the year including the celebrations at the August Fete, the proposed tree planting, and commemorative plaque, which each required an element of funding. Due to the losses from the cancelled May event, donations of any amount would be requested to support these activities. The concept of crowd funding had been approved at a previous meeting. There were no fees for registered charities. BW suggested that funds could also go toward the creation of a centenary garden. The request was approved. Proposed LB, S CW. RESOLVED.	
25/62	**TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM TRUSTEES ATTENDING MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE TRUST** None.	
25/63	**ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO BE ADDED TO NEXT MONTHS AGENDA** None.	
25/64	**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** Wednesday 2nd July at approx. 9pm.	

Meeting closed at 21.32