 **A Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Registered Charity Number 1199156**

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|  |  |  Mr G Chambers, Secretary23 Tudor Road,Barnet,EN5 5NWsecretary@mhctrust.org.uk |

Secretary’s Report to the Members for the AGM of Oct 2024

1. REGISTRATION OF TITLE

MHCT was finally registered by HM Land Registry as the owner of the Common this month with effect from 7-12-22 being the date of application, & 7 days after we acquired ownership under the terms of our statute.

1. TRUSTEES

The only change since the last AGM was that John Eldred resigned on 3-7-24 for personal reasons.

1. OFFICERS

The only change since last year was that Phil Harding was replaced as treasurer by Phil Keown on 1-1-24. He is also our accounts administrator in respect of investments managed by Investec.

1. CHURCH HOUSE

Planning permission (with conditions) has been agreed for the demolition & replacement of this property which adjoins the Common. The same is expected to be confirmed by the Council Planning Committee meeting on 30-10-24. Arrangements for access over the Common will have to be agreed in due course.

1. TRAFFIC PROBLEMS ON CAMLET WAY OUTSIDE MOUNT HOUSE SCHOOL

We are liaising with the school principals to seek to persuade the Council Highways Dept to include in its future works programme plans for the widening & extension of the current lay-by so that it accommodates two buses & more waiting cars. The aim is to take waiting vehicles off the carriageway so that it is not obstructed each school day morning & afternoon. The plan will entail the current path beside the road being moved around the enlarged lay-by a few feet onto Common land.

If you are interested the principals will be organising a petition to support the scheme.

1. FLOOD ALLEVIATION/ WETLAND CREATION SCHEME

The London Borough of Enfield’s application for consent of the Secretary of State (in effect DEFRA) under s. 38 of the Commons Act 2006 in respect of this scheme for Parkgate Crescent & Avenue (as outlined in the curators’ report to the AGM) is still outstanding so it cannot go ahead yet.

1. TRESPASSES

A vehicle crossed the Common from the railway bridge to the back of 62 Parkgate Avenue in January 2024. Letters were written to the owner, contractors & tree surgeon. Only the contractor replied & he denied responsibility. Nonetheless we achieved our aim of heading off any further incursion.

There is a planning application to redevelop The Grange at 18 Games Road at the far end of the Common. Originally the application included proposed “boundary treatment” on our land. We entered an objection & wrote to the architect. Subsequently this part of the application was withdrawn.

There have been one or two examples of fly-tipping of garden refuse by neighbours & even the planting of a bush screen. Those matters were remedied after letters were sent.

1. LEGACY TO FRIENDS OF HADLEY COMMON

The above charity was officially dissolved in August 2024 a few days after a particular local man died. MHCT is claiming the bequest he made to the Friends as a matter of law as our Constitutional objects of the preservation & maintenance of the Common are very similar indeed to those of the Friends charity. We are at an early stage in the process.

Finally, we are, as ever, indebted to our long-serving Chair, the trustees, the curators, the treasurer, our membership secretary Cornelia & most importantly our boots on the ground, the volunteers.

Dated 25-10-24.

Gary Chambers