

Girton Parish Council

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The Pavilion
Girton Recreation Ground
Cambridge Road, Girton
Cambridge CB3 0FH

Minutes of the Strategic Planning Meeting of the Sport and Recreation Committee held on Wednesday 11th July 2007

Present: Cllrs M Wilson (Chairman), D de Lacey, (left the meeting at item 07/37) R Hodgkinson, V Godby, Mrs L Miller

07/30 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs J Mayfield and M Taylor

07/31 Members declaration of interest for items on the agenda

None

07/32 That Standing Orders be suspended for an open session

As read

07/33 That Standing Orders be reinstated and the meeting resumed

As read

07/34 To review current activities and consider how these are compatible with the Parish Council's Institutional Objectives:

The Chairman noted that although this meeting was dedicated to strategic issues he anticipated that the Committee would return to the topics identified and add to them in the course of "normal" meetings.

1) To execute its statutory duties:

Nothing was discussed under this specific heading although the following reports may indicate when relevant duties were involved or are relevant.

2) To maintain and enhance the amenities of the village including , but not limited to, managed open spaces, woods and recreational facilities for all ages:

Cllr Wilson asked the Committee for their ideas as to how improvements could be made to village facilities. It was noted that existing play areas around the village (Recreation Ground and Weavers Field) are well maintained. The Wellbrook Development when completed would include a Local Equipped Area of Play close by the Village amenity. The Management of the LEAP would come under the remit of the Sport and Recreation Committee but the overall responsibility of co-ordinating developments at the Wellbrook Way site is the responsibility of the Wellbrook Way Development Committee.

Cllr Wilson also requested that the Committee should, in concert with the Environment Committee, consider future options in respect of St. John's Field as it was unsuitable for organised games use (the original purpose of taking out a lease) and how it could be used to enhance village recreational facilities in more general ways. Several options were discussed.

The need for proper fencing around the play equipment and dog grids was raised.

Responsibility for the provision of benches now rested with the Environment Committee. In parallel with plans for fencing (above) the provision of benches/picnic tables close by play equipment was suggested.

3) To serve as the focus for community action and development:

Cllr de Lacey noted that the needs of teenagers should be considered in future developments. Lack of facilities or any space that teenagers can claim as their own within the Weelbrook site had been raised in another context but it was a more general issue. The new informal multi-goals/football/basketball had proved extremely popular with this age group at the Recreation Ground. A Teenage Youth Shelter had been previously proposed to be sited adjacent to this facility but had been omitted due to cost. The relative merits of a Youth Shelter (available all hours) and Youth Pods (supervised fixed hours) were touched on and it was suggested that Darryl McMurray could do a presentation to the Committee on Youth Shelters/Youth Pods for their information/consideration.

It was noted that locating space for Youth activities beyond the Recreation Ground was a concern – as the village is geographically stretch and the Council owns/controls so little space outside the core Recreation Ground that could be utilised in this way.

4) To represent the collective interests of the village to local, regional and national government or other bodies:

See references to Sport England at section 5 this item and item 07/36

5) To develop partnerships with voluntary organisations, community groups other local authorities to promote these objectives:

Mrs Miller informed the meeting of past activities and partnerships at the Recreation Ground. Organisations using the facilities have included Football for the Blind, Tennis for the disabled, Cricket for the disabled and the Ethnic Community Forum. The Sport Officers at South Cambridgeshire District Council are aware that we can accommodate these special organisations. It was noted that in addition to any statutory duties a condition of Sport England funding for the Pavilion had been the promotion and use of the facilities by just these minorities and that this type of promotion was one of the duties of the Bookings Administrator.

Additional Comments

Cllr Godby expressed a belief that the Village as a whole did not know the full range of activities offered by the Pavilion, in particular she pointed out that the Council should publicise the range and variety of activities Parishioners get from the Precept to demonstrate value for money. It was agreed that Public Relations was an important issue and that improvements in publicity would benefit both clubs and the Council.

It was agreed that Mrs Miller as Bookings Administrator write an article for the Parish News promoting sporting activities and other uses of the Pavilion that now takes place. Mrs Miller would try and get this published after the Users meeting on the 12th September 2007. Ongoing publicity in the PN from time to time – even a regular column – would also be beneficial.

07/35 To list modifications to present activities and new activities which are compatible with the Institutional Objectives: Covered by discussions at 07/34.

07/36 To review financial information on expenditure on Sport and Recreation for the year to date and the previous year including Reserve Funds:

Cllr Godby queried whether the day-to-day running costs of the Pavilion such as wages, cleaning and security should be covered by the lettings income received. Cllr Wilson noted that it should now be possible to identify this from the accounts, but he wished to confer over the exact allocations of costs in the current financial year with Cllr Mayfield before offering a definitive reply. Cllr Wilson also noted that one of the terms of Sport England also had an impact on this as the agreement specifically in that the Council should not contribute less to Sport and Recreation than they did prior to the grant application and that local charges are set at rates which does not hinder the promotion of sporting activity.

Cllr Wilson stated that the Reserve Funds for Play Equipment, major Pavilion maintenance and games surfaces were available.

07/37 To identify and prioritise strategic activities for the Committee for a five year period from April 2008:

Cllr Wilson asked the Committee to consider the possibilities for the use of St.John's Field in both the short term (until lease comes up for renewal) and beyond. As the field is unsuitable for field games it could be reallocated in whole or part as an authorised area for dogs (there being no other open field area for dogs). A further possibility was to move the Model Aeroplane Club to this field as the Ten Acre Field is now more used (Trim Track and football fixtures). In the longer term Cllr de Lacey suggested that a wood could be planted on the field thus keeping it as a recreation facility.

Cllr Godby suggested a future improvement to the Pavilion to develop the upstairs loft area into a meeting room for Parish Councillors and also to install a lift for any Councillors and Members of the Public who needed to get up to the Parish Office.

It was agreed that the installation of a lift was a high priority as an access issue. Given space lift shaft was built in costs may not be prohibitive. It was agreed that this would be appropriately charged to Building Reserves.

Mrs Miller was asked to obtain quotations from the Pavilions architect Murray Houlder as the basis for further discussion.

Priorities:

1. Investigate costs of installing lift in Pavilion. High
2. Investigate plans for fitting out of loft space in Pavilion. Medium
3. Publicity and promotion. High
4. Fencing and benches. Medium
5. St.John's Field options. Medium

The meeting closed.