

Girton Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Sport and Recreation Committee with Users held on Wednesday 12th September 2007 in the Pavilion

Present: Cllrs D de Lacey (in the Chair) and V.Godby; Leon Reed (Co-opted Member), Chris Wilson (Co-opted Member); Representatives of User Groups: David Wright and Tracy Sparks (Girton Colts Football Club), Bernard Buckley (North Cambridge Bridge Club), Pam Manning (Dance Group), Steve Mynott, Peter Cunnison, Chris Strachan (Impington Village Model Aeroplane Club), Simon Pawley (Girton Eagles Football Club / Girton Cricket Club), Sarah Sandercock (Bobtails, Baby and Toddler Group), Lesley-Anne Parker (Girton Tennis Club); Helen Bracey, Clerk to Parish Council, Linda Miller, Bookings Administrator.

U07/01 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Taylor, Mayfield, Wilson and Hodgkinson; Jodie Williams (Cambridge Rangers Football Club) and Barbara Wright (Line Dancing Club) and accepted by the Chairman.

U07/02 Introductions and preliminary comments from the Chair

Cllr de Lacey apologised to the meeting for the absence of Cllr Wilson due to illness and stated that the meeting would not be quite the same as on the Agenda as the Sport and Recreation Committee was not quorate. Cllr de Lacey stated that changes were being made to the present booking form and that Users were to be asked to sign the new application form once approved by the full Parish Council. This would not affect the use of the Pavilion or Recreation facilities at present but will put more onus on Users in respect of insurance, etc. in the future.

U07/03 That the Chairman sign minutes of the meeting with users held 26th April 2005 as a true record.

Cllr de Lacey stated that the Minutes would have to remain unsigned due to fact that no members of the former Committee were present.

U07/04 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

None

U07/05 Bookings Administrator's Report

The report was tabled and is attached.

U07/06 General comments/suggestions from Clubs/User Groups/Individuals

Julia Dale (Yoga Club) requested extra storage space and wall fitments. This will be forwarded to the Committee.

David Wright (Girton Colts FC) requested that the last paragraph in the Bookings Administrators Report to state that all the football clubs as well as Girton Cricket Club may use the poweroll purchased in June 2006. Noted.

Pam Manning (Dance Class) requested that the chain on the fire doors leading out onto the car

park be removed. On several occasions whilst using the hall it had proved difficult to undue making it a safety hazard for users. Cllr de Lacey would deal with the matter.

Bernard Buckley(North Cambridge Bridge Club) expressed his thanks for being invited to the meeting. He stated that the Bridge Club had gone from strength to strength since using the facilities at Girton and that the club's membership was at an all time high of 66 members. The new chairs that were purchased in August of this year were proving very useful. The club had also decided not to request to use the hall on Bank Holidays.

Steve Mynott (Impington Village Model Aeroplane Club) requested for a waste bin to be placed on the 10 Acre Field. There is a problem of litter on the field especially after football matches at the weekend. Cllr de Lacey said this would be discussed and considered by the Sport and Recreation Committee.

U07/07 Comments/suggestions from Clubs/User Groups/Individuals relating to strategic planning for Sport and and Recreation:

Background:Each subcommittee of the Parish Council has been charged to dedicate at least one meeting per year exclusively to strategic planning and priorities. The S and R committee held such a meeting in July. The Chairman has summarised the discussions below rather than circulate a separate paper. Input from users is actively sought before we fix our priorities!

In the course of this meeting topics were raised under the relevant headings of the Parish Council's Institutional goals.

Items raised included:

The need for proper fencing around the play equipment and the installation of 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.

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 Wellbrook 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.

The Chairman 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).

Improvements to the Pavilion fabric were discussed, including development of the loft area into a new meeting room and also to install a lift for any Councillors and Members of the Public who needed to get up to the Parish Office as an accessibility issue.

It was noted that the village as a whole did not know the full rang of activities offered by the Pavilion, and it was argued 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.

Initial Priorities identified:

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

Users comments as follows:

Pam Manning (Dance Class) – would a stairlift be adequate? No.

Simon Pawley (Cricket Club), Sarah Sandercock (Bobtails Toddler Group)

David Wright (Girton Colts FC) all agreed that more storage space was needed.

David Wright(Girton Colts FC) requested for more changing rooms.

Pam Manning (Dance Class) reiterated the fact that villagers should know more about the Pavilion and facilities.

All users agreed that fencing would be good especially preventing dogs having access to the children's play equipment.

Lesley-Anne Parker (Girton Tennis Club) requested for extra fencing to be placed on the new multi-goals area to prevent basketballs spilling over onto the Tennis and Astro turf courts. This will stop children being encouraged to climb over the fences to retrieve the basketballs.

David Wright (Girton Colts FC) agreed that more benches around the village would be a good idea.

Chris Strachan (Impington Village Model Aeroplane Club) stated that St John's Field would not be at all suitable for the club to use. The houses are too near and the trees too high. The 10 Acre field proves to be a much better facility for the club to use.

Mr Strachan asked if the Parish Council could explore the possibility of any other field that may become available for the club to use in the Girton area.

David Wright (Girton Colts FC) stated that the referees room is far too small for the amount of games now played on both Saturdays and Sundays at the Recreation Ground. This had been an ongoing issue for some time.

David Wright (Girton Colts FC) requested for a shed of some kind to be placed on the 10 acre field. This would enable the football clubs to be able to make teas and coffees directly for users of the 10 acre field. Changing facilities would also be a great asset. Cllr de Lacey asked if users would be prepared to pay for such a facility. Users were also asked if they would be prepared to use composting toilets – these would prove much cheaper than putting in mains sewers which normally supply conventional toilets.

David Wright(Girton Colts FC) challenged the increase in fees to the football club to be implemented for the 2007/2008 season. Cllr de Lacey stated that for all clubs/users there will be an annual increase in fees. Costs have greatly increased especially in respect of the cost of power. The electricity company made a mistake and the Parish Council was presented with a huge bill which was not passed on to Users. Cllr de Lacey appreciated the fact that some clubs/ users are on a different time scale in relation to when the Parish Council sets their budget for fee increases but the Council are responsible for the self-financing of the Recreation Ground and cannot increase the precept. All clubs/users would be notified of any increases once the Budget Committee have made their decisions. The Council will endeavour to phase in future increases in a way which will make it easier for Clubs' budgeting. All other points raised will be put to the appropriate Committees.

U07/08 Date of next Users Meeting

12th March 2008.