

Girton Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held at Cotton Hall on 7 January 2008

Present: Cllrs de Lacey, Ford-Smith (Chairman), Gordon, Hodgkinson, Colin Carr, **Action/Power**

08/01 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Martin, George Thorpe

08/02 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

None

08/03 That Standing Orders be suspended for an Open Session for the public

No members of the public were in attendance, therefore standing orders were not suspended.

08/04 That Standing Orders be reinstated and the Council meeting resumed

No members of the public were in attendance, therefore standing orders were not suspended.

08/05 That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2007 were accepted as an accurate record with the amended spelling of George Thorpe's name. Proposed Cllr de Lacey, seconded Cllr Gordon, unanimous.

08/06 Matters arising from minutes

07/54 (07/27 and 07/40): Arrangements for Christmas celebration. Wimpey have offered money in lieu of taking on any responsibility for a tree, but too late for 2007. Cllr Ford –Smith reported that now the rector is back from sabbatical leave the Christmas Working Party will meet in February.

JFS

07/54 (07/29 and 07/40): Oak trees: Cllr Gordon will contact Girton Golf Club to offer the trees to them. Cllr Gordon has replaced 3 trees in Weavers Field.

RG

07/59 07/59: Anglia in Bloom: Cllr Ford-Smith reported that due to illness he was unable to attend a meeting at Bury St Edmunds but the organizers would like to speak to representatives of the village. Cllr De Lacey suggested that we wait until after the Village Plan meeting to decide how to handle this.

JFS

07/60: Co-Op litter bin. Cllr de Lacey is still waiting for a decision from the Co Op as to whether they will finance this.

DdL

07/62: Village Plan. The meeting is scheduled for 14 January. We may run another meeting later in March depending upon the interest expressed at the meeting of 14 January.

08/07 To receive reports:

1. From the Map Working Group – Cllr Ford-Smith reported that the map is now in its third iteration and Cllr Martin is redrawing the map based on a review by the group. Cllr Ford-Smith suggested that we use the black squirrel as a logo for Girton and Cllrs Gordon and Hodgkinson replied that it was an excellent suggestion.

2. From the Recreation Ground Working Group – Cllr Ford-Smith reported that money had been allocated in the 08/09 budget for architect's fees to draw up the scheme. Cllr De Lacey proposed that the waste recycling units be relocated so that they were all together and much tidier. Seconded Cllr Gordon, unanimous. DdL
3. From the Woodland Trust on Girton Wood (attached) – ash seedlings will be left to sort themselves out rather than being thinned
4. From the Tree Warden – there were problems with diseased chestnut trees on the recreation ground border, see 08/11.
5. On Open Spaces
 - a. Cllr Gordon reported that he had replaced some trees in Weavers Field and that the Hicks Lane corner was neat and tidy.
 - b. Colin Carr reported that we would like to replant the hedge on Smithy Green in the Autumn because it is in poor condition and that there was money in the 08/09 budget to carry out some replanting at the Hibbert-Ware garden. JFS/DdL/RM
 - c. George Thorpe had reported that clearance had been arranged at Town End.
 - d. It was agreed that the clerk should be asked to arrange for the ground under the Willow tree on Woody Green to be cleared. HB

08/08 Financial matters, to report on

1. the proposed budget for 2008/09 – this is approximately £15,000
2. spending for the remainder of financial year 2007/08 – currently stands at £5,301.18 and Cllr Ford-Smith reported that it will be spent on signposts at the village entrances, the map and the notice board at the recreation ground entrance and possibly some more planting.

08/09 To approve the long-term policy on planting up Open Spaces

It was previously agreed that we would require professional help for long term planting. Proposed Cllr Ford-Smith, seconded Cllr De Lacey unanimous. JFS

08/10 To approve the location of and wording on the three signposts at our boundaries on Huntingdon Road (NW and SE) and Oakington Road and to empower the Chairman of this Committee to press for these to be installed

Cllr Gordon proposed that the wording reads “welcome to the village of Girton” and if possible includes our logo. Seconded Cllr Hodgkinson. Unanimous. Cllr De Lacey proposed that if possible we could have some wording about being aware of cyclists. After some discussion it was agreed that if it was possible this should be a separate part of the sign and not as part of the actual “welcome to the village of Girton” sign. Seconded Cllr Gordon, unanimous. There was some discussion about the site of the signs, particularly at the Travellers Rest and members may want to suggest where that sign might be but there was general agreement that the sign approaching from the A14 west needed to be just before Girton College. Cllr Ford-Smith will take this forward with the Highways Agency at Cambridge County Council JFS

08/11 That the Committee approve the removal of diseased Horse Chestnuts from the Recreation Ground and decide on replacement planting

Colin Carr reported that there were 9 Horse Chestnut trees diseased at the recreation ground border and Cllr De Lacey reported that the Council had received a verbal report condemning the trees on the grounds of health and safety. There therefore appeared no alternative but to have the trees felled and replanted. Proposed Cllr De Lacey, seconded Cllr Ford-Smith. Unanimous. Referred to full Council and Clerk to obtain three quotes for felling. DdL/HB

08/12 To approve the purchase of a 3-panel notice board for the Recreation Ground and its temporary erection (until the completion of the Entrance plan) on the right-hand side of the entrance

Proposed Cllr Ford-Smith seconded Cllr De Lacey, unanimous. Referred to full Council. DdL/HB

The meeting ended at 20.40.

Date of next meeting Monday 03 March 2008 at 07.30 venue to be confirmed