

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 3 March 2008

Present: Cllrs de Lacey, Ford-Smith (Chairman), Gordon, Colin Carr, Peter Seaber

Action

08/13 To receive apologies for absence

None

08/14 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

None

08/15 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.

08/16 That Standing Orders be reinstated and the Council meeting resumed

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

08/17 That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 January be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record

The minutes of the meeting held on 07 January 2008 were accepted as an accurate record with the amendment of fell to full in 08/12 and date of next meeting 19.30 not 7.30 as stated.

Proposed Cllr de Lacey seconded Cllr Gordon, unanimous

08/18 Matters arising from minutes

08/06 (07/54 07/27 and 07/40): Cllr Ford-Smith has met with the Baptist and Anglican ministers and will arrange to meet to discuss Christmas arrangements with Cllr Gordon

JFS

08/06 and 07/59: Anglia in Bloom: referred to Village Plan group

08/06 and 07/60: Co-Op litter bin. Cllr de Lacey reported that the CoOp will pay half the price of the litter bin but that SCDC had to purchase it. It was questioned whether the Co-Op would purchase it outright and empty it with their own litter bin.

DdL/HB

08/07: Long term planting scheme: CC and Cllr Ford-Smith will bring this back to the committee once they have a quote for planting Smithy Green and revamping Hibbert-Ware

JFS/CC

08/11: Horse Chestnuts on the recreation ground: One of the trees had fallen in the gales on Friday the other two had been felled and the others pruned. The remaining trees will be monitored. CC to provide list of possible replacement specimen trees

CC

08/19 To receive reports:

1. From the Map Working Group – In Cllr Martin's absence Cllr de Lacey proposed that we approve the working group to mount the map on the notice board at the recreation ground. Seconded Cllr Gordon. unanimous
2. From the Recreation Ground Working Group – Cllr de Lacey reported that the notice boards were being put up this week and that he is approaching the firm who remove the newspaper recycling bin about relocation of the bins.
3. From the Tree Warden
 - a) Birches on Woodlands Park – a report had been received that these were damaged and potentially dangerous. This was not obvious from looking at them at this time of year and we probably need to wait until they are in leaf to see if there are any problems.
 - b) Limes at Mayfield – we have received a request to take the top off the limes at Mayfield as in previous years. No one was aware of this ever having happened and it was thought that this may refer to the removal of lower branches in 2003. The trees do not

- present a public danger and are very healthy. Referred to SCDC for advice.
- c) Shrubs at Mayfield [bus shelter] – request to cut back shrubs due to leaves blocking the drains. Since both shrubs are evergreen and do not encroach the path or highway the committee supported the view that they should be left alone.
- d) To discuss proposal for “health check” of all trees in public spaces in Girton – this was proposed by a resident – we could refer to SCDC to see if they thought it was worth it but general feeling was that we would decline this offer **HB**
4. It was reported that a resident had asked if it was possible to get a tree preservation order on trees at 27 Hicks Lane. It is possible and Cllr Ford-Smith will arrange to look into it **JFS**
5. On Open Spaces
The pump garden is being tended by Penny de Lacey and George Thorpe and looks very good Cllr Gordon proposed that the dog litter bin on Pepys Way be relocated on the opposite side of the road to the Doctors’ Surgery, Seconded Cllr de Lacey unanimous **HB**
The land around the willow tree and the overhanging and damaged branches will be removed this week
Cllr Gordon reported that there was a significant amount of litter around the play area in Weavers Field and that some fencing was missing and trees damaged and that he had asked for this to be cleared up and repairs made,

08/20 To receive a report on progress of new signposts at village boundaries and development of village logo. Cllr Ford-Smith to report.

Cllr Ford-Smith reported that SCDC had suggested sites for village signposts. The one on the Huntingdon Road coming from the A14 will be illuminated and the total cost will be approximately £1000. Cllr Ford-Smith proposed that the purchase goes ahead, seconded Cllr de Lacey unanimous.

08/21 That the Committee accept with gratitude the offer of £500 from George Wimpey for hanging baskets through the Village, and empower the Chairman to seek other such sponsorship and to put in hand the installation and maintenance of the baskets

There was some discussion about the cost of purchasing suitable hanging baskets and watering. It was thought that we might use the funds for planters which are cheaper to install and do not require the same maintenance. Proposed Cllr de Lacey seconded Cllr Gordon, unanimous **JFS/DdL**

08/22 That the Committee authorise Mr Thorpe to liaise with Natural England over a management scheme for Town End Close and to ensure its execution

Cllr De Lacey reported that the PC’s agreement with natural England was not being adhered to and that we needed to have an emergency management plan to resolve the situation. Cllr Ford-Smith said that he was happy to liaise with Mr. Thorpe to set this up. Proposed Cllr de Lacey seconded Cllr Ford-Smith, unanimous. **JFS/GT**

08/23 That the Committee request the Clerk to ensure that litter picking and surveillance of the Weavers Field open area operate on a weekly basis

It was agreed that we need a litter picker and monitor for this area in view of the above report. Cllr Ford-Smith proposed that the clerk be asked to action, seconded Cllr de Lacey, unanimous. **HB**

08/24 That the Committee approve the purchase and installation of a dog litter bin at Fairway/Dodford Lane

Proposed Cllr de Lacey, seconded Cllr Ford-Smith **HB**

08/25 That the Clerk be asked to establish the whereabouts of the bench formerly at Girton Corner. If it cannot be recovered, that a new bench be purchased and installed as near to the corner as practicable.

Proposed Cllr de Lacey, seconded Cllr Ford-Smith **HB**

08/26 To formulate a response to the County’s proposals for review of speed limits (proposals previously circulated)

It was agreed that the chairman of the PC should write to the County Council, copied to Cllr John Reynolds that the speed limit on Huntingdon Road (A1307) should be 30mph along its entire length from before Girton College replacing the current 40 mph restriction. Proposed Cllr de Lacey seconded Cllr Gordon unanimous.

DdL

08/27 To discuss BBC's approach for help in filming black squirrel population of Girton

For information – the BBC will be filming on Thursday 13th March for inclusion in the wildlife slot of the ONE show.

The meeting ended at 20.34.

Date of next meeting Monday 28 April 2008 at 19.30 venue to be confirmed