

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 28 April 2008

Present: Cllrs de Lacey, Ford-Smith (Chairman), Gordon, Hodgkinson, Martin, Colin Carr, Peter Seaber, George Thorpe **Action**

08/28 To receive apologies for absence

None.

08/29 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

None.

08/30 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.

08/31 That Standing Orders be reinstated and the Council meeting resumed

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

08/32 That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2008 were accepted as an accurate record. Proposed Cllr de Lacey seconded Cllr Gordon, unanimous.

08/33 Matters arising from minutes

08/06 Christmas arrangements – Cllr Ford-Smith reported that there had been little response from the clergy in the village and that if anyone was really interested in pursuing this they should contact him after the meeting.

08/06 Co-op litter bin – Cllrs Gordon and de Lacey reported that SCDC were not prepared to support the site of the new litter bin and that the Co-op were not happy about emptying it themselves, therefore the purchase of the bin will not proceed.

08/21 Hanging baskets/planters – Cllr de Lacey reported that Wimpey had confirmed that the £500 donation could be used as we wish and that planters at the entrance to Wellbrook Way would not be a problem provided they get some publicity. Cllr Ford-Smith as chair of this committee to be involved.

08/22 Management plan for Town End Close with Natural England – Cllr Ford-Smith and George Thorpe to meet to discuss the action plan including the possibility of mixed cutting and grazing.

JFS/GT

08/34 That the Committee seek tenders for a tree audit of all trees under the care of the Parish Council, to include a visual inspection, a report on further inspection or management of any suspect trees, and a prioritisation list and budget for necessary work

Colin Carr reported that SCDC had provided names of firms that could carry out an audit of our trees and that it would be a good idea to get estimates from all 3 firms. Proposed Cllr de Lacey seconded Cllr Hodgkinson, unanimous.

HB

08/35 That the Committee approve the renovation or replacement of the bus shelters at Mayfield Road and Girton Corner, including provision of seating

After much discussion it was proposed that the bus shelter at Mayfield Road should be replaced or refurbished and that we should look to placing a bench at Girton Corner rather than trying to do anything with the bus shelter.

HB

Proposed Cllr Ford-Smith seconded Cllr de Lacey, unanimous

08/36 That the Committee approve as a maintenance plan for the beech hedge in Mayfield Road that it be cut back in early Autumn 2008 to 2.5m and the reafter be trimmed annually to restore its shape (quotation for initial trim £192)

It was agreed that the height should be 2m. Proposed Cllr De Lacey seconded Cllr Gordon, unanimous. **HB**

08/37 That the Committee identify priorities for the 2008-09 budget and plan a timetable for their implementation

Cllr Ford-Smith tabled a paper for the planned expenditure. It was agreed that members should send comments by email and that this will be brought back for action at the next meeting. **All**

08/38 That the Committee explore the use of anti-vandal paint on the poles for the lights in the Recreation Ground Car Park

This would be on the top six feet and may be coloured bronze. The reason is to stop people climbing up the pole and diverting the direction of the floodlighting. Proposed Cllr de Lacey seconded Cllr Martin, unanimous. **HB**

08/39 That the Committee explore the issue of putting our playing fields into a trust

Proposed Cllr de Lacey seconded Cllr Gordon, unanimous. **DdL**

08/40 To consider planting additional shrubs in the Hibbert Ware and Pump gardens

The committee recorded its gratitude to Penny de Lacey for her work on maintaining Hibbert-Ware and the Pump Garden. It was proposed that we needed a contractor to replace the hedge on Smithy Green and refresh and replenish Hibbert-Ware. Three quotes would be required. It was also agreed that Penny de Lacey could send up to £40 on perennials for the beds at Hibbert-Ware. Proposed Cllr Ford-Smith seconded Cllr Gordon, unanimous. **DdL/HB**

George Thorpe reported that he had an offer of box plants from the head gardener at Girton College. The committee agreed that we should take up that offer. **GT**

08/41 To receive reports:

1. From the Map Working Group –Cllr Martin reported that the annotation of the map was cramped due to the long thin nature of the village. The draftsman working on this had been absent but was now back on the job and would complete the first version for publication and display on the recreation notice board very soon.
2. From the Recreation Ground Working Group – Cllr Ford-Smith reported that we now needed estimates from architects to draw up the design. Cllr Martin agreed to approach his contacts in College to get estimates. The working group will meet soon to discuss. **RM**
3. Open Spaces - Cllr Gordon reported that Weavers Field is in a much better state but that only 1/3 oak trees had survived. The top of Hicks Lane is neat and tidy. **DdL/JFS/RM**
Cllr De Lacey reported that the Pump Garden and Woodlands Park were all OK
Colin Carr reported that Woody Green was OK. See above for Hibbert-Ware and Smithy Green.
Cllr Martin reported that the fencing at Mayfield needed repair and replacement. **HB**
Peter Seaber reported that there still remained an excess of brambles and long grass in the wood and that stumps had been left where the edges had been trimmed which needed further investigation. **DdL**
It was agreed that we should approach the Woodland Trust for advice about management between the trees similar to the wood on Dry Drayton Road in Oakington **JFS**
4. From the Tree Warden
SCDC have confirmed that we do not need to replant the horse chestnuts on the recreation ground with native trees, A list of possible trees will be presented to the next meeting. **CC**

The meeting ended at 20.48.

Date of next meeting 7 July 2008 at 19.30 venue to be confirmed