

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 July 2008

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

Action

08/42 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Martin.

08/43 To elect a Chairman for the year

Cllr De Lacey prop Cllr Ford –Smith, sec Cllr Gordon, unanimous .

08/44 To elect a Vice Chairman for the year

Deferred

08/45 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

Cllr Ford-Smith declared that he resides in Weavers Field.

08/46 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.

08/47 That Standing Orders be reinstated and the Council meeting resumed

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

08/48 That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2008 were accepted as an accurate record with the amendment of 08/38 to read “at least six feet up” instead of “on the top six feet” and “interfering with” instead of diverting the direction”. Prop Cllr de Lacey sec Cllr Gordon, unanimous .

08/49 Matters arising from minutes

08/21 Hanging baskets/planters: now in place and receiving positive comments. Thanks were expressed to Cllr De Lacey for organizing the planting and purchase of the planters.

08/34 Tree Audit – 3 tenders had been received but only one was tabled which varied from £1500 +VAT to £2500 +VAT depending upon whether report was required on all trees or just those requiring attention. There was much discussion about the details of the tender and it was agreed to circulate the other tenders but go ahead with gaining approval for the estimated spend from full council

HB

08/35 Bus shelters & seating, Mayfield Road & Girton Corner. Cost of bench £263 + vat. The purchase of the bench was agreed, proposed Cllr De Lacey seconded Cllr Ford-Smith. Cllr De Lacey will circulate details of bus shelter designs for members to comment.

DdL

08/37 Budget priorities: to be agreed at meeting in September.

08/38 Anti-Vandal paint: Cost around £20; colour to be used is grey.

HB

08/39 Playing Fields in Trust: remitted to Council.

PC Agenda

08/50 That the members of this Committee accept that all business of this Committee shall be conducted according to the Standing Orders of the Council and the Rules of Debate therein

Prop Cllr Ford-Smith, sec Cllr De Lacey, unanimous. Copies of Standing Orders will be circulated.

DdL

08/51 That the Committee dedicate a specified meeting to determine planning and prioritisation for the year

Proposed Cllr Ford-Smith seconded Cllr de Lacey, unanimous. It was also agreed that a walk around the village to get a general view of the environment and public spaces might be useful. Cllr Ford-Smith will choose a date in the next few weeks (possibly Sunday 3 August at 2pm) and inform all members of the committee.

JFS

08/52 That the Committee approve the suggestion by Mr A Sursham of an additional footpath to follow the line of Washpit Brook from the corner of Washpit Lane to the Golf Club car park, and propose it to the County Footpath Officers

It was generally agreed that the footpath needed to be discrete enough not to cause any discernable difference to the landscape. The committee also needs to know who owns the land. Prop Cllr Ford-Smith, sec Cllr Gordon, unanimous

DdL

08/53 That the Committee agree to repair work on the fencing around the Weavers Field LEAP

A quotation of £238 had been received to carry out the repair work to a higher standard than the present fencing, possibly using both screws and rigid wire to prevent further damage. Prop Cllr Gordon, sec Cllr De Lacey, unanimous.

HB

08/54 That the Committee approve a tender to deal with the hedges at Hibbert-Ware and Smithy Green

The tenders received were for very minor work to remove a holly bush when what was required was a major piece of work to remove the existing hedges and replant imaginatively with low maintenance (i.e. annual cut only) hedging more appropriate to the site. Cllr De Lacey prop that we obtain a tender for this work, sec Cllr Hodgkinson. Unanimous

DdL/HB

08/55 That the Committee consider the request to remove a Silver Birch from the verge outside 12 Woodlands Park

The tree is healthy and poses no risk to the public. It does not block the highway and it was thought that if piecemeal removal took place that residents would take it upon themselves to remove trees in a manner which would detract from the environment. Cllr de Lacey proposed that we write to the resident explaining that the tree would not be removed, seconded Cllr Hodgkinson, unanimous.

DdL/HB

08/56 That the Committee approve a long-term plan for the future of all the Silver Birches in Woodlands Park

After much discussion about the pros and cons of a replanting scheme and the timescale it was agreed to defer this item until the tree audit had taken place. Prop Cllr Ford-Smith, sec Cllr Hodgkinson.

08/57 That the Committee decide a strategy for St John's Field: either to propose to St John's that it be planted as a wood or to investigate what it would take to make the surface safe as a playing area

After much discussion the preferred option was to investigate the use of the field as a playing area. Cllr De Lacey prop that the committee investigate the cost of clearing the field and laying a new surface, sec Cllr Gordon. It was also agreed that we should approach St John's College and enquire about the possibility of planting the area as woodland.

DdL/HB

08/58 To receive reports:

1. **From the Map Working Group** – Cllr Ford-Smith reported that a draft version of the map has now been posted on the notice board outside the recreation ground. Once comments are received a final version will be produced.
2. **From the Recreation Ground Working Group** – Cllr Ford-Smith reported that Cllr Martin is approaching contacts in College to get estimates. The working group will meet to discuss.
3. **From the logo group** – Cllr Ford-Smith reported that work continued on adopting the black

squirrel as part of the parish's identity.

4. **Open Spaces**- Cllr Gordon reported that Weavers Field play area needed fencing repaired (see above) but otherwise in good condition. He also reported that oak trees planted at the Oakington end of the village were doing well.

Cllr De Lacey reported that Penny De Lacey had come across problems using Youth Works at Hibbert Ware in that the young people were not allowed to use heavy machinery etc. and that the adults had ended up doing most of the work. There were also problems with removing green waste and George Thorpe suggested that there might be ways of doing this using portable barrows which can be emptied regularly. George agreed to talk to the clerk about this.

GT/HB

Peter Seaber reported that the wood still has an excess of brambles and needed to be trimmed back. There is no sign of the selfseeded ash trees succumbing to the surrounding environment and they continue to thrive. The response from the Woodland Trust continues to be that they are quite happy with the way the wood is developing.

5. **From the Tree Warden**

The ash on the corner of Sterndale Close and Cambridge Road requires trimming back away from the houses and the overhang over the road. The tree is on public land and is presumably the responsibility of the parish council.

HB

The meeting ended at 20.48.

Date of next meeting 1 September 2008 at 19.30 venue to be confirmed