

**Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting
held at Cotton Hall on Monday 9th February 2009 at 7.45pm**

Action

Present: Cllrs Ford-Smith (Chairman), Gordon (Vice Chairman), Clift (Vice Chairman of Parish Council), Hodgkinson, and co-opted members of the Committee, Messrs Seaber, Thorpe, & Carr.

In attendance: Robert Stone (Clerk)

Items

09/12 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Martin.

09/13 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

None.

09/14 That Standing Orders be suspended for an Open Session for the public

No members of the public were present. Standing Orders were not suspended.

09/15 That Standing Orders be reinstated and the Committee meeting resumed

Not applicable.

09/16 That the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 12th January 2009 be signed by the Vice Chairman as an accurate record.

Proposed Cllr Gordon; seconded Cllr Clift. Unanimous. Signed.

09/17 Matters arising from minutes

Items:

08/99 Parking at Woody Green/Duck End – Cllr Clift reported that Cllr Gordon and himself had cleared overgrown trees growing over the bollards, and made parking space for two more cars. He had placed a letter from Girton Parish Council on car owners's windscreens asking them to park with consideration for their neighbours, and had written to the complainants to let them know what had been done.

09/08 Schedule of tree works – Colin Carr had produced a list. Some minor works like removing tree ties could be done immediately. More major works relating to chestnuts and white beam need not commence until autumn 2009.

Clerk to cc with minutes.

09/11/02 Parish Pathway Application – Cllr Peter Starling had advised on works completed in 2008/09, and those required for 2009/10, and would check the paperwork prior to dispatch. (Deadline: 27th February 2009)

Clerk

09/11/3 Quotes from drainage contractors - would be available for consideration at the next Environment Committee meeting.

Clerk

09/18 To discuss and recommend actions to the Parish Council relating to the new mineral and waste sites proposed within Girton relating to the A14 upgrade.

The Clerk reported that Cambridgeshire CC and Peterborough CC were jointly carrying out an informal consultation. Proposals had been received from the A14 contractors to create three clay borrow pits within Girton's boundary. Several issues were raised in discussion including site

access, mud on roads, and what would happen to the pits afterwards. Would they become waste disposal sites or lakes? More information was required, and a notice about the consultation should be placed in the Girton Parish News.

Clerk

09/19 To receive a report from the Working Group on Town End Close on the meeting with Natural England on Thursday 29th January 2009, and progress with works.

The meeting with Natural England went well helping the Parish Council and Peter Rounds, the contractor, to gain a clear view of the necessary works. George Thorpe summarized the tasks to be completed by the end of February 2009.

Job 1 - flail the overgrowth, which was underway.

Job 2 - cut the grass on the meadow.

Job 3 – fence the boundary adjacent to Woody Green.

Cllr Clift said he had completed the paperwork to request a site visit by Cambridge Water to quote for laying on water for a cattle trough in the reserve near the entrance. Whilst a trough may be made available by the University Farm, works may be required to raise it up, and fix it in position.

Hedge laying was another possible task. George had been in touch with Cambridge Conservation Volunteers who had pencilled in 28th February as a suitable date to start.

Stephen Tomkins had previously suggested that local children might like to have guided tours of the site during the summer. It was agreed to advertise this during Feast Week.

Clerk

09/20 To receive a quotation from the third architect on the design of the frontage to the Recreation Ground, and to review all three quotations to determine which to recommend to the Parish Council.

The third quotation from Neil Cook was tabled. The Committee considered the merits of this against those received earlier from Tim Brading, and Nick Twitchett. All had done very good work within 100 metres of the Recreation Ground. It was concluded that the quotes could not be looked at just on a cost comparison basis. Quality of work was also important. Whilst all three architects were extremely competent the work done by Nick Twitchett in updating the Cotton Hall was outstanding. Whilst his quote was not the cheapest the Committee decided to recommend to the Parish Council that it should be accepted.

Clerk – PC
Agenda

09/21 To receive a report on progress in obtaining a black squirrel logo for Girton Parish Council, and to decide the next steps.

Sally Thompson's outline sketches of her proposed design for a black squirrel logo, and costings (£125/half day, £250/day) were tabled. Cllr Gordon proposed that these were accepted, and that the Parish Council be consulted on use of the logo. Cllr Clift seconded. Unanimous except for Cllr Ford-Smith who abstained.

Clerk – PC
Agenda

09/22 To discuss the process, actions and budget required to remove the old bus shelter at Girton Corner, and replace it with a new one next to the bus stop on Huntingdon Road.

SCDC has confirmed that planning permission would not be required if the new shelter is erected by the Parish Council. It should be no longer than 4 metres, and not be too close to the kerb to prevent damage to buses. Site measurements would need to be taken to determine how the shelter should be positioned. Care would need to be taken not to block pedestrian access to the pavement. The new bus shelter near to Oakington cross roads might be worth considering as a precedent. Once a suitable design had been identified and costed, quotes should be obtained for removing the old bus shelter at Girton Corner, and the Committee updated .

Clerk – to
make inquiries

09/23 To approve expenditure of £75 on squirrel guards to protect young trees.

Trees on the 10 acre field have been damaged by rabbits. It was agreed that 250 tree guards (24") Clerk
should be purchased for ongoing use. This would cost £95, an additional £20 over the costing
for 18" guards. Expenditure proposed by Cllr Gordon, and seconded by Cllr Hodkinson.
Unanimous.

09/24 To receive reports:

1. On open spaces, including quotes for works on Smithy Green.
The Clerk reported that three quotes had been sought as requested at the previous
meeting. These had ranged from £650 (& vat) to £350 (& vat). It was agreed to accept
the lowest quote from Cambridge Tree Surgery subject to assurance that the works Clerk
would be completed in February 2009.
An explanation of the felling of the four trees should be inserted in the GPN. Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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