

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 Monday 21st September 2009 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Gordon (Chairman), de Lacey (Chairman, GPC), Clift (Vice Chairman, GPC), Godby, Action
Martin, P. Starling, Bullman and Messrs Seaber, and Thorpe.
In attendance: Robert Stone (Clerk), and two members of the public.

Items

09/93 Chairman's Welcome

09/94 Apologies

Martin Harnor

09/95 Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda

Cllr de Lacey declared a personal interest in Item 09/109. Penny de Lacey, his wife, was currently working on the Hibbert Ware Garden as a volunteer.

09/96 Public Participation session on Agenda items & matters of mutual interest

A resident of Woody Green outlined to the Committee the difficulties he had experienced with visitors parking across or adjacent to his drive. Whilst overgrown branches from the willow tree blocked access they helped to prevent parking. It was not possible to paint white or yellow lines on the road as the surface was poor. It was also unlikely that the majority of local residents would want parking restrictions introduced.

09/97 Correspondence

Complaints about car parking at Woody Green/Duck End	Three local residents
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09/98 That the minutes of the Environment Committee meetings held on 27th July 2009 be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

09/99 Matters arising from minutes

Item 09/90 Girton Black Squirrel logo.	Outstanding payment authorised by GPC on 19 th August. Council considering use of logo.
Item 09/92 Redesign of village centre	Awaiting SCDC's consideration of the future of parish recycling centres.

09/100 To agree what further actions can be taken on car parking at Woody Green/Duck End.

Several options were considered. Girton Parish Council could raise the canopy of the willow tree for safety reasons subject to no objections being raised by Cambridgeshire County Council.

Reducing the size of the willow tree traffic island was not considered an option as Highways Department of Cambridgeshire CC had previously rejected this. Improving the surface of the tarmac

Clerk

and adding white “I” lines was a possibility to be explored with CCC.

It may be possible to provide further parking by removing the bollards, and laying hard standing behind them but this would require the permission of the land owner, and require consultation with the immediate residents who may feel that this would exacerbate rather than improve the parking problems. It was agreed that the Clerk would update the complainants, and make inquiries. Clerk

09/101 To discuss and agree the next steps regarding the erection of new bus shelter on Huntingdon Road.

Having received a contribution of £150 from Girton College this project now needed to be moved forward. Following discussion the following steps were agreed. Chair

- i) To confirm the style, the supplier, and price of the bus shelter, and whether the manufacturer would check the utility stats, and carry out installation. A model used by Cottenham Parish Council with a curved rather than flat roof was a lead contender. Cllr Cli
- ii) To produce a scale plan of the site on the Huntingdon Road between the post box and the telephone pole. Cllr Cli
- iii) To position the shelter on the plan (preferably closed to the road and slightly laid back from it to provide clearance for buses). Chair
- iv) To obtain a picture/photo of the shelter. Cllr Cli
- v) To check with Highways Department of Cambridgeshire CC that they were content with the position of the shelter (& seat? – Clerk). Cllr Cli
- vi) To report to the next meeting of the Committee.

09/102 To receive a report on the installation of water at Town End Close.

The Chairman reported that water had been installed, and that cattle were now grazing at the nature reserve. There was a slight leak but this should be fixed in the near future.

Cllr Clift also raised the issue of the subsidence in the track along the line of the pipe. If the installation was inspected the repairs to the track would not meet current standards. The holes must be filled. Clerk

The Committee thanked Cllr Gordon and Clift for all their hard work on the project.

09/103 To discuss and agree work to be done following the tree survey in Girton.

It was noted that little had been done since the tree survey had been completed last autumn. Works were needed on Weavers Field, Woodlands Park, and the Recreation Ground. It was not clear what plans the Tree Warden had to progress the actions identified by the survey. A number of actions were agreed: GT

- i) George Thorpe will ask the Tree Warden if his other priorities still permitted tree work in Girton. Chair & GT
- ii) The Chairman and George would walk around the village on Saturday afternoon and look at what had to be done, and consider the budget implications.
- iii) A number of saplings were available on the Chairman’s and Peter Seaber’s allotments. These may be suitable for filling gaps in hedges on the recreation ground and 10 Acre Field. This should be discussed at the next meeting.
- iv) The Committee also needed to develop a forward looking tree planting strategy for the open spaces in the village.

09/104 To agree the specification for restoration of the hedge between the recreation ground and St

Johns Field.

It was decided to defer this item until advice was received on the ownership of the hedge.

09/105 To agree the specification for cutting the hedge on the NIAB boundary in 10 Acre Field.

Cllr Peter Starling explained that the original planting plan specified a hedge all the way along the boundary with NIAB. Unfortunately whilst the hedge should have been maintained at 5 foot high this had been overlooked. Several options were discussed:

- i) to take no action and allow the “hedge” to continue to grow upwards and outwards;
- ii) to trim the top and face up the sides; or
- iii) to lay the hedge.

Peter
Seaber

The last option was preferred. Further discussion will be needed at the next meeting when details of potential hedge layers and costs should be available.

09/106 To discuss and agree future mowing arrangements for the open spaces at Wellbrook Way.

As the Section 106 agreement was moving forward it was necessary to plan for spring next year. The Committee agreed to go out to tender this autumn but that budget implications would need to be considered. A tender document with a tight specification based on SCDC plans would be needed.

Chairm

09/107 To approve the recycling of an old cattle trough from the nature reserve as a flower planter at Smithy Green.

Cllr Cli

The cattle trough is made of galvanized metal and measures 8’ long by 18” wide and 18” deep. Some repairs would be needed to improve its rusty condition and a wooden frame would be needed before it could be used as a planter.

Chairm

It was proposed that it be positioned facing the entrance of the recreation ground between the path and fence. The cost of peat and flowers would need to be established before final approval was given at the next meeting. It would also be necessary to resolve the issue of who would be responsible for watering the plants.

Cllr Martin also raised the possibility of building a brick planter if that would fit in better with the architect’s scheme for the redesign of the village centre.

09/108 To discuss erecting bollards on Smithy Green to prevent car parking.

The Chairman reported that he had investigated the costs of wooden bollards, and posts. The lowest cost of bollards identified in a catalogue was £38 (+vat). Posts with a 6” diameter, and 4’ long (2’ in the ground, and 2’ out) were more reasonable. Berrycroft Stores could supply them at £10.90 (+ vat), and Cottenham Sawmills at £6.38 (+ vat).

It was agreed to further discuss at the next meeting having established whether the Cottenham posts were tanalised, how many would be required, and what the cost would be. It would also be necessary to confirm with Highways that they would be content with what is proposed as owner of the land, and that they would install the posts at no charge.

Chairm

Cllr Cli

09/109 To receive and discuss a report on Hibbert Ware Garden.

Penny de Lacey’s and George Thorpe’s report (Appendix A) was tabled. Following discussion several actions were agreed: (i) to invite volunteers in the GPN to help with the garden; (ii) to review the

Clerk
Cllr de

original low maintenance plans of the garden; and to review the whole area including Smithy Green to see if both areas could complement each other. Cllr Martin agreed to produce a forward looking plan that had regard to the original design as far as was practicable, and facilitated the production of an annual maintenance plan. Contractors should be asked to tender for the works identified in Penny de Lacey's and George Thorpe's report.

Cllr RM
Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Proposed date of next meeting: 19th October 2009 (tbc)

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Appendix A

**A quick survey of Hibbet Ware Garden, on Monday 3rd August 2009
For Girton Parish Council Environment Committee
By Penny De Lacey and George Thorpe**

Background

Some garden maintenance of this area has been undertaken by the Youth Project, particularly planting along the bank on the Church Lane side, and planting and weeding the flower bed. The YP project is now under review. Latterly it is the flower bed that Penny has tended single handed. She is willing to continue to do so but would appreciate company. She has become aware of much else that needs doing so we looked at the site together. These jobs are too big for one person to do and would need to be contracted out. They are listed below.

General suggestions

1. Opening it up

The garden is not easily viewed from the boundaries along Cambridge Road and Church Lane because of the dense canopy of the horse chestnut tree near the corner, the over-large forsythia opposite Cotton Hall, and further west an 'over-mature!' Philadelphus. If the canopy of the horse chestnut was raised to 2.2m., the forsythia cut back by a half, and the Philadelphus was removed more than half the garden would be visible, and more welcoming. It might also allow the cutters to mow the wild area underneath.

2. Tidying up

The "wild flower"/long grass area looks sad including the bank by Church Lane. It looks best when the Cow Parsley is flowering in May and by the end of June this has finished and gone to seed. It would be good to have an exact time for this to be cut every year, say by Midsummer's Day or the end of June.

Two sizeable lilacs have fallen over and the fallen bits should be cut off. It would probably be OK to leave a neat stack of cut wood, for its wildlife value, towards the SW corner under the spreading chestnut there.

Two small lengths of hedge need a little annual work: the first a sort of hedge along the fence line to the south: cut off shoots that are taller than the fence, and by the NW corner, a few metres of mainly hawthorn hedge: cut neatly, ensuring a reasonable view for an emerging car from number 12's drive.

[*I believe this was tackled last year P de L*]

Some tree branches are too low over the circular path and should be trimmed to make walking round easier.

3. Longer Term

The Alder near the bank along Church Lane could be removed, as it is a funny shape and the nearby young oak will be competing with it in less than 5 years. An annual review of the trees would be prudent.