

# 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 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr Gordon (Chairman), Cllr de Lacey (Chairman, GPC - until Item 124 ), Cllr Clift (Vice Chairman), Cllr Martin, Cllr P. Starling, and M. Harnor & Peter Seaber. Cllr Godby and George Thorpe (from Item 119). In attendance: Robert Stone (Clerk)

Action

### Items

#### **09/110** Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members of the Committee.

#### **09/111** Apologies

Cllr Bromwich.

#### **09/112** Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda

None

#### **09/13** Public Participation session on Agenda items & matters of mutual interest

No members of public present.

#### **09/114** Correspondence

A resident advising on measures to be taken on damage to grass verges, commenting on cycle lanes, and traveller sites.
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BT invitation to adopt phone box at Huntingdon/Girton Road junction
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#### **09/115** That the minutes of the Environment Committee meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009 be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

Approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### **09/116** Matters arising from minutes not covered by agenda items

Item 09/90 Girton Black Squirrel logo.	Awaiting recommendation on future use of logo.
Item 09/100 Parking at Woody Green/Duck End	Advice received from Transport Dept of CCC.

To be added to Agenda of Nov mtg.

#### **09/117** To initially discuss works arising from the draft lease for St Johns Field.

The paper at Appendix D was tabled. It was noted that GPC needs to establish a permissive footpath across St John's Field. The Council's solicitor should examine the terms of the lease prior to signature. A further site visit with St John's agent will help to determine ownership of the boundary, and clarify required works.

Clerk

#### **09/118** To approve the specification for works on the hedge line between the recreation ground and St Johns Field at Appendix A.

Deferred pending advice on the lease as detailed at Item 117.

**09/119** To receive and initially consider the draft budget for 2010/11.

Deferred pending receipt of forecast costings.

**09/120** To receive the report at Appendix B on the removal of the old hedge and replanting a new hedge at Town End Close.

The hedge has been removed. The next stage is to plant the new hedge about 0.5metre from the new fence. There will be an twice year exercise to remove weeds. Some of the stumps will be treated to help rotting down.

**09/120** To receive an update on car parking at Woody Green/Duck End.

We are awaiting an email from Highways of CCC covering patching of the tarmac, and white "I" lines subject to payment from residents of £85. An increase in parking space adjacent to the willow island .

**Action:** Residents to be updated following receipt of advice from Highways.

Clerk

**09/121** To receive an update on the erection of a new bus shelter on Huntingdon Road.

Awaiting advice from Highways on position and design of shelter.

**Action:** Clerk to chase Highways if this is not received in the near future..

Clerk

**09/122** To agree the actions arising from the tree survey and visits to open spaces at Appendix C.

Town End Close –SCDC’s Ecology Officer, Rob Mungovan, liaised with the trees officer at South Cambridgeshire DC who agreed removal of the boundary hedge at Town End Close in view of its poor condition. Rob has offered a survey of flora and fauna at TEC in May, and recommended that the pond be cleared out. It was agreed he would be sent a draft copy of the Management Plan in advance of his survey. The Management Plan would be received by the Environment Committee when it reaches near final form.

MH &  
Clerk

Weavers Field – Removal of ties and posts to be built into budget. There may be a need to go out to tender for quotes depending on the scale of the required works. If these are small the necessary works can be commissioned.

Mayfield Green – It was agreed to remove the existing rose bed and consider creating a new bed in new position.

**Action:** Prior to any works the owner of 2 Mayfield Close would need to be consulted as he maintains the existing rose bed.

**Action:** An agenda item for decision at future meeting.

Cllr RG  
Clerk

Pump Garden - A quote is needed to clean and restore the two seats.

The concrete planter would be improved by planting with winter bedding plants but a local resident would need to be found to maintain it.

Hibbert Ware Garden – It was agreed to go out to tender using digital photos to illustrate works to be done. OS maps will need to be supplied. George Thorpe was happy to lead on liaising with contractors.

**09/123** To receive a report on the meeting of 8 October with Wimpeys on the open spaces at Wellbrook Way, and the latest information on S106 maintenance funds.

Representatives of GPC attended a site visit organised by SCDC to meet Taylor Wimpey. Remedial

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works were discussed in the area of the balancing pond, and the replanting wild flowers, shrubs, and trees. A list of necessary actions has been forwarded to Girton Parish Council. S 106 discussions are nearing completion. When this occurs the open spaces will be transferred to the Council.

**09/124** To receive Nick Twitchett's proposals for the redesign of the village centre and decide how these shall be taken forward.

Three or four layouts have been put forward by our architect. The overall plan is to progress the project over several years. None of the alternatives made any real difference to the number of car parking spaces.

One of the key decisions will be to determine whether the current bus shelter is to be retained or not. A decision also needs to be made on the provision of seating. Consultation with the wider community will be required using the Girton Parish News.

A decision is awaited by SCDC on the future of the recycling area. No decision can be made until this is known.

Costings of the different options will be required to evaluate the proposals.

**09/125** To approve the specification and budget for erecting bollards on Smithy Green to prevent car parking.

It was agreed that 42 round rustic bollards 4ft long x 6" wide were needed at £6.38/post. A £300 budget was approved. It would be necessary to gain confirmation that Cambridgeshire CC's Highways Department would install the bollards prior to ordering the posts.

Clerk

The meeting ended at 9:15pm.

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Appendix A

## **Boundary hedge between Recreation Ground and St Johns Field.**

Draft specification for works in Autumn/winter 2009/2010:

- i) cut the existing hedge down to about 1' above ground level and remove the ivy.
- ii) Erect posts and pig wire throughout the length and plant hawthorn whips in the gaps.
- iii) Place 2" mesh chicken wire 18" high along the whole length to prevent cricket balls going through into the field
- iv) Erect three stiles to enable persons needing to retrieve footballs etc to climb over the fence and avoid causing damage to the fence.

Appendix B

## **Town End Close**

The removal and replacement of the fence and hedge bordering Woody Green drift was carried out and funded by the County Council during week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009. A planning meeting was held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October with Sarah Shepherd and the contractor. It was agreed that the two large ash trees and an apple tree which should be retained. They were marked by a yellow cross. The ivy

growing on these trees was removed. The contractor removed hawthorn and shrubs and all other growth on the drift side and cleared the area for future planting with native trees and a grass and wild flower mixture.

If possible concrete marker posts should be set in the hedge line to mark the boundary.

Appendix C

### **Action required highlighted by the Tree Survey 2008 and inspections made by some members of the Environment Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2008**

On Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 George Thorpe and myself inspected site around the village that may require work during the Autumn and Winter months.

#### **General maintenance at Town End Close.**

A long term plan should be drawn up to ensure that it is retained as a medieval ridge and furrow meadow. This will require the removing and controlling the growth of black thorn and brambles that encroach upon the grazing area and the control of nettles, thistles etc.

Bird boxes should be purchased and placed on trees at appropriate heights.

#### **Weavers Field**

**1.** The ties and posts should be removed from most of the trees and the area around the base of the trees treated with a herbicide (this is an alternative to the suggestion in the Tree Survey to cut back the turf from around the trees and apply a mulch).

**2.** Brambles growing over the fence from the A14 should be cut back to prevent them encroaching onto the Weavers Field side.

**3.** 20% of the shrubs should be cut down to just above ground level to allow them to grow back and retain the overall uniform height. This was done during the winter of 2008/9 to good effect and should be part of the annual programme of maintenance.

**4.** The shrubs growing beside the footpath on the right hand side need to be cut back at an angle of 60 degrees (this is known as battering). And the top trimmed to a uniform height.

**5.** All material cut off should be removed from site.

#### **Mayfield Green**

Last year we had the beech hedge on the boundary between the green and the neighbouring house in Cambridge Road. I note that the occupant of that house has cut their side and we should get the top and our side cut also.

#### **Pump garden**

The pyracantha need to be cut as a hedge. Prune back shrubs and replace as required. Hoe beds and weed kill the 'gravel area' the two seats could be scrubbed clean and given a coat of varnish or preservative.

#### **Hibbert Ware garden**

The work specified by the report from George Thorpe and Penny de Lacey to be put out to tender to contractors.

#### **Contractors**

Tenders should be invited from contractors who are known to specialize in certain work.

Peter Rounds, for grass cutting, removal and planting of hedges and fencing, hedges requiring to be cut by flail.

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Paul Laston for grass cutting of smaller areas, specialized pruning of trees and shrubs. Anything where gardening knowledge may be required.

Lawson tree surgery and some gardening.

Richardson Tree Surgery 01954 203836 For tree surgery and hedge cutting.

Town and Country

If any of these contractors wish to discuss before quoting I would be happy to meet them on site.

Ray Gordon 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Appendix D

## **St Johns Field - Work Programme arising from the draft lease**

### **Fencing**

**16.1** The lease agreement specifies that a stock proof fence be erected on the southern boundary within six months of the lease agreement being signed. We have to assume that permission is granted for a permissive footpath between the recreation ground and Girton Wood and that Cambridgeshire County Council footpaths will pay for and erect kissing gates with disabled access and vehicle access gates at both ends of the path.

The hedge between the recreation ground and St John's field is in a poor state and has many gaps. Because of the large chestnut trees on the recreation ground side it would be impossible to plant this gaps up and the solution could be as follows.

What remains of the hawthorn hedge should be cut down to a height of one foot and as much as possible of the ivy removed. Hawthorn whips should be planted to fill gaps.

A fence should be erected on the recreation ground side as close to these stumps as possible.

The fence posts should be 2 metres long and approx' 10cm in diameter.

The distance between the posts will vary because of the tree roots but should not exceed 4 metres.

Angled supports should be placed on both sides of the posts at not more than 50 metre intervals.

Three single strands of wire should be stapled to the posts and tensioned.

Pig wire .8 metre high should be stapled to the posts with a gap of 20cm between the soil level and the wire.

One problem will be persons breaking or bending the fence as they climb over it to retrieve footballs etc.

This can be overcome by erecting 3 stiles at intervals along the fence. between the gates. These should be constructed using a 6" dia' post on both sides of the fence .5 metre high with a plank 3cm thick 20cm wide and 70cm long passing through the fence and nailed to the top of the posts. The top of the fence where these stiles are should be protected by a plank of wood nailed between the fence posts and stapled to the fence. This plank should be no less than 3cm thick and 10cm wide and it's length governed by the distance between the fence post at this point.

**Quote as an option** 2" mesh chicken wire 20cm high should be stapled just above soil level to posts.

**Ditch**

On the St John's field side of the hedge/fence the bramble and other growth should be cut back to ground level and the ditch cleared of debris. Any soil removed from the ditch should be spread at normal soil level.

**Maintenance of the field, other than grass cutting.**

For both financial and ecological reasons this should, if possible, be done in stages over a period of 4 years.

The remaining three sides of the field should have all growth comprising of brambles, black thorn etc. flailed back to the hedge line.

The area in the south east corner should be cut back and the heaps of soil graded to form contoured mounds where any vegetation that grows could be cut by machine.

All of the resulting debris from the hedges brambles etc as well as the dead wood from previous fallen trees and branches should be burnt.

(There will be far too much to consider shredding). Care should be taken to prevent these fires to spread into the boundary hedges and consideration should be given regarding wind direction with smoke not upsetting neighbours.

**Grass cutting**

The grass meadow should be cut to a height of 7cm at least three times between March 1st and October 31<sup>st</sup>. Some areas should be left uncut for longer periods to encourage the growth of wild flowers and foliage that could sustain insects and caterpillars

**Ray Gordon**

Environment Committee Chairman.