

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 14th December 2009 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Gordon (Chairman), Cllr Clift (Vice Chairman), Cllr Martin, Cllr B Bromwich and Cllr V Godby, M. Harnor, Peter Seaber, and George Thorpe .
In attendance: Robert Stone (Clerk)

Action

Items

09/126 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

09/127 Apologies, and reasons for absence

Cllrs de Lacey and P. Starling.

09/128 Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda

None.

09/129 Public Participation session on Agenda items & matters of mutual interest

No members of the public were present.

09/130 Correspondence

7/12 Orchard Close resident's concerns about the condition of the pavement en route to the Co-op. The Clerk advised that he would raise the issue with Highways Department of Cambs CC.

Clerk

09/131 That the minutes of the Environment Committee meetings held on 26th October 2009 be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

The Minutes were approved by the Committee, and signed by the Chairman.

09/132 Matters arising from minutes not covered by agenda items:

09/64 Girton Squirrel logo	To be discussed at next meeting	Clerk
09/100 Parking at Woody Green/Duck End.	To be reviewed at next meeting.	Clerk
09/118 Specification for hedge between the Recreation Ground and St Johns Field	Remains pending until latest version of the lease for St Johns Field is received.	
09/120 Planting of hedge at Town End Close	Will be progressed in near future.	
09/122 Mayfield Green rose bed	Quote of £25 received for pruning & feeding.	Clerk
09/125 Car parking posts at Smithy Green	Clerk to query installation date with CCC.	

09/133 To approve the management plan for Town End Close.

Deferred pending incorporation of objectives within Girton Parish Council's Countryside Stewardship agreement with Natural England. The Clerk will discuss with Martin Harnor.

MH &
Clerk

The issue of the date of the pond clearance at TEC was also raised. The Clerk will chase Rob Mungovan (Ecology Officer, SCDC) for advice on whether this should be done before or after the survey of flora & fauna next Spring.

Clerk

09/134 To approve one of the quotes for boundary clearance works arising in St Johns Field.

Specification: *To flail back brambles and pull out blackthorn*

The Committee approved the bid from Peter Rounds of £650 (+vat).

09/135 To approve one of the quotes for the erection of a new bus shelter on the Huntingdon Road.

Specification: *The shelter to be of a cantilever design with an elliptical roof approximately 2 to 2.5 metres long and up to 1.5 metres wide; of metal construction painted or powder coated in dark green with the words 'Supplied by **GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL**' in a contrasting colour on both ends. The roof sides and back wall should be of clear polycarbonate sheet or shatter proof glass*

The Committee agreed to recommend the Garrick Shelters quote of **£2124** (+vat) to the Parish Council for approval.

Clerk

09/136 To approve one of the quotes for:

(a) the removal of the bus shelter at Girton Corner

Specification: *To remove, dispose of and make good any damage caused to the footpath of the old concrete and wooden bus shelter. (a) the removing the shelter in such condition that it can be stored and re-used and (b) cutting off the concrete legs and disposing of the shelter*

The Committee agreed to approve the quote from Mead Construction of **£985** (+vat) to remove the bus shelter at Girton corner.

(b) the installation of a bench supplied by Girton Parish Council on the Huntingdon Road.

Specification: *To place and securely fix a bench seat in the footpath in Huntingdon Road between the post box and the bus stop.*

The Committee agreed to approve the quote from Mead Construction of Construction **£290** (+vat) to install the bench.

Clerk

09/137 To approve quotes for two Weavers Field projects.

Specification:

1. *Ties and posts should be removed from the trees and the area around the base of the trees treated with a herbicide. 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.*

The Committee agreed to approve the quote from Haydn Gray (Alan Snowball) of **£250** (+vat).

Clerk

Specification:

2. *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.*

The Committee agreed to Peter Rounds carrying out these works at no charge as part of his existing contract for Weavers Field.

Clerk

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09/138 To approve one of the quotes for cutting the beech hedge at Mayfield Close
Specification: *To cut the top and side beech hedge on the boundary between the green and the neighbouring house in Cambridge Road.*

The Committee approved the quote from Haydn Gray (Alan Snowball) **£125** (+vat). Clerk

09/139 To approve planting shrubs on the bank between the fence and the path at Smithy Green
Planting shrubs was agreed in principle pending Cllr Martin submitting a proposed layout to the Committee. This item and approval of its funding would be considered at the next Committee meeting. Clerk

09/140 To approve expenditure of £120 for maintenance works at the Alice Hibbert Ware Garden as specified in the report by George Thorpe and Penny de Lacey.

Prop: Cllr Gordon Sec: Cllr Godby. Unanimous.

09/141 To defer the redesign of the village centre in light of the current economic climate.

The Committee noted that the Finance Committee had recommended a budget of £5k for 2010/11 to permit modest works to tidy up the hedge between the churchyard and car park, and consider provision of a safe pathway for children. More major redesign works were deferred.

09/142 To approve hedge laying of the hedge on the top end of the Ten Acre Field.

Cllr Gordon explained that the hedge was now ready for laying. He had recently attended a course and intended carrying out the works with a fellow volunteer in January 2010. The Committee approved the project. Cllr RG

09/143 To approve the planting of young oak trees between the horse chestnut trees on the recreation ground close to the boundary with St Johns Field.

Cllr Gordon explained that the horse chestnut trees were likely to need replacement in the coming years. He had a number of suitable oak saplings that were now ready for transplanting. He proposed planting these in the gaps just forward of the existing tree line. This was approved.

09/144 To receive a report on the meeting of 14th December on the installation of new gates into St Johns Field, and the permissive footpath from the recreation ground to Girton Community Wood

Cllr Gordon reported that the Clerk and himself had met with Sarah Shepherd, the Rights of Way Officer for Cambridgeshire County Council. Sarah had provided the paperwork for a permissive path agreement from the recreation ground across St Johns Field to Girton Wood. This would need to be finalized with the assistance of Saville's land agent. Sarah had also made arrangements for Girton Parish Council to receive two kissing gates and a field gate free of charge from Cambridgeshire County Clerk

Council but no money was available from the County council for installation. This cost (approx £250 per gate) would need to be met by the Parish Council.

09/145 To receive a report on the meeting of 10th December 2009 with the Woodland Trust.

Cllr Gordon said that the Clerk and himself had met with Jonathon Plowe, the current Woodland Officer for Girton Wood. This had re-established contact with the Trust, and enabled several issues to be discussed, as follows:

- Peter Rounds would continue to cut the grass in the Community Wood in 2010 but would invoice the Woodland Trust direct rather than GPC paying and recovering these monies from the Trust.
- Whilst the Trust have acknowledged that some of the ash trees in their boundary with St Johns Field are becoming dangerous they provide valuable habitat for bats and woodpeckers so they are unwilling to undertake felling at present.
- The Trust was adopting a “survival of the fittest” policy rather than thinning the Community Wood but would be removing trees around the perimeter and widening pathways to allow continued access.
- The Trust would be replacing its sign on the edge of the wood to update it and correct the “you are here” statement.
- Girton Parish Council may wish to provide signage to the wood, and to the footpath to Histon as part of its permissive footpath map.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.