

Girton Parish Council

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The Pavilion
Girton Recreation Ground
Cambridge Road, Girton
Cambridge CB3 0FH

Minutes of the meeting of the Sport and Recreation Committee with Users held on Wednesday 11th March 2009 at the Cotton Hall

Present:Chairman M Wilson : Cllrs R Hodgkinson, J Thorrold, S Clift, L Sparling, C Starling
co-opted Members: CMR Wilson , L Miller

Representatives of User Groups: Bob Killick (Girton Tennis Club), Sally Thorpe (Bobtails Toddler Group), Gerald Daish (Cambridgeshire Football Association) Paul Dawson (Girton Cricket Club) Margaret Mitchley (North Cambridge Bridge Club)

09/24 Apologies

Apologies had been received from G. Clare, J. Barnett (CAE), L Fry (Newham Rangers FC)

09/25 Members declaration of interest for items on the agenda

None

09/26 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Sport and Recreation Committee with Users held on 10th September 2008

The minutes had been confirmed and signed at the Meeting of the Sport and Recreation Committee on the 12th November 2008.

09/27 Matters arising from the Minutes

Tennis Court practice wall (minute 08/103) A risk assessment had been prepared and would be considered by the Committee at the meeting following.

09/28 Bookings Administrator's Report

This was tabled and read out at the meeting.

09/29 Comments from the Chair

1. Safety Inspections of site and follow up actions:

As part of a new regime of safety inspections a general tour of the Pavilion and recreation grounds was carried out in January by Michael Wilson, Graham Clare and Linda Miller. An additional visit to the Weavers Field play area will to be arranged. Combined with the recent Fire Risk Assessment the interim report of this tour identified over thirty recommendations or actions required. This tour is in addition to the annual professional safety inspections of the play equipment. It was requested that if users, including parents accompanying children to the Parish play areas, were aware of any safety issues or concerns to report the matter in the first instance to the Clerk, Assistant to the Clerk or a Parish Councillor. The Fire Safety report had also prompted greater urgency over consideration of proposals to install storage cabinets for Bobtails and other users within the main hall. It was likely that rental charges for the use of these cabinets would be made.

2. Proposed actions to keep dogs from playing fields and play areas:

The Parish Council will be considering proposals in April to establish a designated dog walking route around the Recreation Ground and 10 Acre Field. Plans are in place for dog-proof fencing to be placed around the perimeter of the car park and a draft version of the route has been prepared. The proposals would ensure that dogs will be excluded from all play areas and playing fields while setting aside St.Johns Field as an area where dogs could be let off the leash and 'run-free'.

3. Proposals for extension of Pavilion, additional changing rooms and the effect of this on the overall footprint of the Recreation Ground:

As discussed at previous meetings due to the popularity of football teams using the pitches and facilities at the Recreation Ground there is a need to provide additional changing facilities and an additional referee's room. The Parish Clerk has identified possible sources which may be obtained to help fund this type of project. It was planned to take proposals for an extension to the Pavilion to the Parish Council for consideration in due course. A drawing of a suggested layout was tabled to illustrate the impact on the site with the caution that this was an initial sketch and the project was at a very early stage. The extension would on the suggested footprint extend towards the Tennis Courts and therefore eliminate one of the vehicular access points onto the 7 Acre Field. The project was also likely to include the conversion of the loft area

in the Pavilion which provide additional storage plus a meeting room.

4. Litter/plastic bottles on 7 Acre and 10 Acre Fields

Large numbers of plastic bottles are left on these fields, particularly at weekends in the winter months after football matches. Unfortunately resolving this problem has not been made any easier by the fact that the plastic re-cycling container was recently removed by South Cambridgeshire District Council. An appeal will be made to clubs and users to request that plastic bottles are taken home and disposed of responsibly.

5. Parking Congestion

This matter is another recurrent weekend problem particularly with multiple football fixtures on Sunday mornings when the car park is also used heavily by the Church. In the absence of any additional parking space the Chairman suggested he write and encourage clubs to encourage car-sharing in an effort to reduce the number of vehicles arriving on site and to park responsibly elsewhere when the car park is full. Parking on pavements or grass such as on Smithy Green was however clearly unacceptable. Although parking was a serious concern on Sundays it was noted that the underlying problems and need to change behaviour is a general issue. The car park and surrounding area are also abused in the mornings and afternoons with people bringing/collecting their children to/from the school.

09/30 Comments from Users/Clubs/Individuals

Sally Thorpe (Bobtails Toddler Group) asked when the storage cupboards (item 09/29.1 above) were to be installed in the Pavilion Hall and what amount of rent will be charged for the use of these cupboards. The Clerk replied that no decision has been made at this time but suggested it may be useful for those clubs who will use the new cupboards to make a lump sum contribution towards the capital cost in exchange for waiving rent charges for one or two years.

Margaret Mitchley (Bridge Club) requested that the club be notified early of any increase to their fees for storage as their own budgeting process had to be considered for the coming year.

Bob Killick (Girton Tennis Club) referred to the matter of the practice wall (item 09/27 above) and informed the meeting that the club had been unsuccessful in a request for funds from Girton Town Charity. The Chairman noted he had previously passed information on a portable practice net available quite cheaply that may resolve the issue.

Bob Killick (Girton Tennis Club) noted regarding the future plans for an extension to the Pavilion that it would be an improvement if the Club's present entrance gate could be moved from its present position to nearer the access road side. The club may help fund the cost of extra fencing if needed. Bob Killick thanked Chris Wilson for his work on removing the moss from the Tennis Courts – it was stated that the spraying of the courts needs to be done twice a year otherwise the courts become slippery and dangerous. The Chairman re-iterated that if any playing courts/areas become dangerous or unusable clubs or individuals should report the matter.

09/31 Date of next Users Meeting

Provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 9th September 2009.

The meeting ended at 8 pm