

Girton Parish Council

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

Meeting of Environment Committee of 8th February 2010 at 7.30pm in the Cotton Hall

Present: Cllrs Gordon (Committee Chairman), de Lacey (Parish Council Chairman), Martin, & Godby (from Item 10/11), and P Seaber. In attendance: R Stone (Clerk)

Items

10/01 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

10/02 Apologies, and reasons for absence

Cllrs Clift, Bromwich & George Thorpe

10/03 Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda

None declared.

10/04 Public Participation session on Agenda items & matters of mutual interest

No members of the public were present.

10/05 Correspondence

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| Resident acknowledging GPC's efforts to resolve the parking problems at Woody Green, and requesting timescale for repair works to road. | Issue raised with Cambridgeshire County Council. |
| Resident requesting action about the state of the verges at the top of Pepys Way. | Discussed with the Highways Officer for Girton who will visit site to consider options. |

10/06 That the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 14th December 2009 be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Gordon on behalf of the Committee.

10/07 Matters arising from minutes not covered by agenda items:

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| 09/122 Mayfield rose bed | Works by Paul Laston requested in the spring |
| 09/130 State of pavement from Coop to school | Reported to Highways Dept of CCC |
| 09/142 Hedge laying at 10 acre field | Successfully completed by Cllr Gordon and a fellow volunteer. 78 metres in all. The rubbish from the project will be burned, |

10/08 To approve the management plan for Town End Close as amended by Girton Parish Council's Countryside Stewardship agreement with Natural England.

The Committee approved the amalgamation of these two documents subject to the front cover specifying "The general management of Town End Close is supported by Natural England."

The same phrase should be added to the wording of the notice to be put up at the entrance to the nature reserve.

Action: Clerk

10/09 To approve of the specification (at Appendix A) for erecting the fence and replacing the hedge between St John's Field and the Recreation Ground.

Prop: Cllr Gordon Sec: Cllr de Lacey Unanimous.

It was noted that the lease for St Johns Field still needed to be signed. Prior to this a number of issues remained to be resolved, including responsibility for the boundaries of the field. The Woodland Trust would need to be consulted about a number of issues along their boundary. These included and the installation of gates and fencing, the safety issues relating of a number of elderly trees that provide a habitat for bats and woodpeckers.

The works detailed at Appendix A would need to be underway as soon as possible following quotations being requested from contractors. **Action:** Clerk

10/10 To review squirrel logo, and agree a recommendation to the Council on its future use.

It was agreed that Cllrs de Lacey and Martin would review the commissioned designs and report to a future meeting of the Environment Committee. **Action:** Cllrs de Lacey & Martin.

10/11 Following the hedge planning at Town End Close to agree and timetable a list of future tasks.

Cllr Gordon reported that 4 nest boxes had been put up, and a fallen tree and brambles cleared since the hedge planting. A number of additional tasks had been identified including treatment for creeping thistles, hedge cutting, and improvements to the northern boundary fence before cattle return to the field. Consideration also would be given to the removal of debris, and the future maintenance of the area cleared of undergrowth alongside the track.

Timetable and tasks would be discussed with Martin Harnor, and George Thorpe and a report made to the next meeting of the Committee. **Action:** Cllr Gordon

10/12 To receive reports on:

i) the removal of the bus shelter at Girton corner, and installation of the new shelter, and seat on Huntingdon Road

Cllr Gordon reported that both removal and installations had gone well. Cllr de Lacey added that he had received thanks for the new bench. It was noted that the second parish bus shelter along the Huntingdon Road was deteriorating and may also need replacing.

Action: Cllr Gordon – to view & report to the Committee

ii) Works at Alice Hibbert-Ware Garden

These had been completed to a good standard and viewed by George Thorpe. The garden was now more open but the hawthorn hedge near the adjoining house remained to be cut back. A rolling programme of works was needed. The cow parsley should be cut in mid summer.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Peter Rounds

iii) Works at Weavers Field, and Mayfield triangle

The hedge at the entrance had been cut but not at the specified battered angle. The 20% reduction in shrubs had either not been completed or not done to the required standard. **Action:** Clerk to query

iv) Smithy Green

Erecting bollards awaited a slot in Highways's schedule. **Action:** Clerk to chase in March 2010.

Cllr Martin tabled a planting plan of mixed shrubs for the 22 metres next to the fence to be funded from the village centre budget. The next step was to cost the plan. **Action:** Cllr Martin

v) Girton Tree Survey

The proposed works now needed to be reviewed and prioritised. **Action:** Clerk to request quote(s) from Haydens.

The meeting ended at 8.37pm

Girton Parish Council

Specification for the replacing of boundary hedge and fence between St Johns Field and the Recreation Ground.

The length of hedge between St John's field and the old recreation ground a distance of approximately 178 metres and extends from the boundary with the St Andrews Church cemetery and the ditch bordering the Ten Acre field.

What remains of the hawthorn hedge must be cut down to 10cm above ground level to allow the stumps to rejuvenate and the ivy removed.

As the ivy will re-grow it must be sprayed with herbicide twice during the first year, care must be taken to avoid spraying the new growth from the hawthorn stumps.

A kissing gate and a 12' field gate (both supplied) must be erected in the positions indicated and a fence erected on the recreation ground side of the hedge as close to the hedge as possible.

The wooden fence posts should be 2 metres long, approx' 10cm in diameter and treated with a wood preservative.

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.

A double row of hawthorn whips should be planted to fill any gaps between the stumps and rabbit guards used to prevent damage. The bare areas close to the chestnut trees should be planted with either well rooted holly bushes or hawthorn.

Please quote both.

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.

To gain access to the field gate and kissing gate the ditch should be piped using concrete pipes .5 meter diameter or wooden bridge erected.

Please quote both.

Contractors

Contractors may quote for the whole of this work or parts of it.

Because this work may extend over a long period stage payment can be arranged.

Ray Gordon

Environment Committee chairman.

6th February 2010