

Girton Parish Council

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The Pavilion

Girton Recreation Ground

Cambridge Road, Girton

Cambridge CB3 0FH

Minutes of Environment Committee of Thursday 05th August 2010 at St. Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs Bromwich (Chair), Ash, Cockley and de Lacey. Mr Ray Gordon.

Items

10/24 Chairman's Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Bromwich welcomed and apologies were received from Cllrs Barnard and Martin.

10/25 That the Committee agrees to conduct business according to the Standing Orders of Girton Parish Council. (Note: if this motion falls Standing Orders call for the Committee to be dissolved with immediate effect)

Approved: Prop: Cllr Bromwich Sec: Cllr de Lacey, unanimous.

10/26 Open session for members of the public.

None.

10/28 To receive nominations for and to elect a vice-chair for 2010/11 and to co-opt George Thorpe, Peter Seaber, Ray Gordon, Martin Hauser and Colin Carr.

Cllr Ash was elected as vice-chair: Prop: Cllr de Lacey Sec: Cllr Cockley, unanimous.

As only Mr Gordon was present the motion was amended to co-opt him to the Committee and investigate whether the others had been made aware of the meeting, and co-opt them at a subsequent meeting. Mr Gordon noted that 'Martin Hauser' should be 'Marton Harner.' Prop: Cllr de Lacey Sec: Cllr Bromwich, unanimous. The Chairman welcomed Mr Gordon to the Committee.

10/29 To approve the Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of 15th March 2010.

Prop: Cllr Bromwich Sec: Cllr de Lacey. Mr Gordon noted that in Item 10/22 Scotdales' bid was not the highest and the clause was struck out. With this amendment the Minutes were approved with 2 abstentions. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

10/30 Matters arising from the Minutes.

1. 10/20: St. John's Field

It was confirmed that hedge and fence works would be begun in August by Brookfields of Longstanton and completed before the end of September. Mr Gordon agreed to oversee the work. He noted that the cost was being met by Girton Town Charity, and suggested that a note be included in the next Girton Parish News.

2. 10/17: Dangerous crab apple tree in Thornton Close.

Cllr de Lacey reported the County Council has undertaken to do necessary work but has been delayed by internal reorganisation.

3. 10/22: Smithy Green.

Mr Gordon noted that the Scotdales quotation was for £524.33, and he had negotiated a further 10% reduction bringing the figure down to £471.89 +VAT. He had been watering the shrubs regularly and they all seemed well-established.

10/31 To receive reports on open spaces.

1. TEC – The circulated report was received.
2. Wellbrook Way – Cllr de Lacey reported that negotiations were still continuing with Taylor-Wimpey on the Public Open Space.
3. Smithy Green – Mr Gordon's comments (as at 10/30 above) were noted with gratitude.
4. Alice Hibbert-Ware – No report received.
5. Car park and corner entrance – No report received.
6. Footpaths – No report received.

10/32 To allocate Wardens for the Open Spaces.

It was agreed the members should act as informal wardens as follows:

- Wellbrook Way – Cllr Bromwich
- Hibbert-Ware Garden and Woodlands triangle - Mr Gordon.
- Mayfield Triangle, Hicks Lane, and Smithy Green – Mr Gordon.
- Weavers Field and Pump Garden – Cllr Ash
- Duck End – Cllr Cockley.

The Committee will invite George Thorpe to continue as Warden of Town End Close. Prop: Cllr de Lacey Sec: Cllr Bromwich, unanimous.

10/33 To receive quotation for mowing the Grass Verges (to be circulated) and to award the contract for 2010/11.

Three quotations were received. J&P Plant, who currently have the contract, were lowest and it was agreed they do an adequate job. They were awarded a 1-year contract. Prop: Cllr de Lacey Sec: Cllr Bromwich, unanimous.

10/34 To approve the purchase of the touch up paint for the new bus shelter in Huntingdon Road.

Cllr de Lacey reported that the company which provided the shelter (Garrick Outdoor Shelters Ltd) has informed him that the paint was available at £20 per can (plus postage), but also that any car body company should be able to provide the right shade which is RAL6005. It was therefore agreed to defer this item until the need arose.

10/35 To approve the clearing of the pond at Town End Close to be done by Cambridge Conservation Volunteers.

Approved: Prop: Cllr de Lacey Sec: Cllr Bromwich, unanimous.

10/36 To approve the refurbishment of the name-labels on the 'Irene benches' following the bequest from Mr Robert Edwards.

Approved: Prop: Cllr de Lacey Sec: Cllr Cockley, unanimous.

10/37 To approve an approach to Girton Town Charity to refurbish the Hibbert-Ware garden, following a proposal to this effect made at the Girton Town Charity celebration.

Prop: Cllr de Lacey Sec: Cllr Ash

Cllr de Lacey proposed an amendment to include 'and the other surrounding green areas' after 'Hibbert-Ware'.

Cllr Ash raised the question of the main purpose of the garden: should a garden dedicated to a naturalist be primarily an area of maximum bio-diversity as distinct from an area for use by the public. It was agreed this should be raised with any landscaper we consulted. Mr Gordon suggested that George Thorpe might be a valuable person to consult.

With these considerations in mind, the motion was approved unanimously.

10/36 To receive a report (to be circulated) on the spending of this committee to date.

The report was received. It was noted that money for the redevelopment of the village centre could be used to finance the planning necessary for item 10/37. Mr Gordon underlined the need to begin work on the Christmas Lights project and it was agreed to approach Sam Clift to ask if he would take this project on. Cllr de Lacey noted that the Council has just been informed of a S106 sum of £2244.90 as an Open Space contribution.

10/37 To approve the registration with the Land Registry of the lease of St. John's Field, as required by St. John's College.

Approved: Prop: Cllr Bromwich Sec: Cllr Ash, unanimous.

The meeting finished at 8:34pm.