

Girton Parish Council

Robert Stone
Clerk to the Parish Council

The Pavilion
Girton Recreation Ground
Cambridge Road
Cambridge CB3 0FH

Minutes of Planning and Resources Committee Meeting of Monday 5th July 2010 at Orchard Close Community Centre at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Michael Wilson (Chair); Douglas de Lacey, John Ash, Carol Noble, & Mark Taylor, with Robert Stone (Clerk); Natalie Stone (PFO); and Nicola Alison (Admin Asst) in attendance.

Items

10/01 Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Planning & Resources Committee. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Brian Bromwich, and Cllr Joanne Garner.

10/02 That the Committee agrees to conduct business according to the Standing Orders of Girton Parish Council.

Prop: Cllr Wilson Sec: Cllr de Lacey.

Approved by majority vote with one abstention.

10/03 Open session for members of the public

No members of the public were present.

10/04 Receive nominations for and to elect a vice-chair for 2010/11

Cllr Ash was proposed by Cllr Taylor, and seconded by Cllr de Lacey. Cllr Ash agreed to stand, and there being no other nomination this was approved by majority vote with one abstention.

10/05 To receive and confirm the remit of the Planning & Resources Committee

The circulated remit was discussed. Following discussion the version at Appendix C was proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Ash and approved by unanimous vote for recommendation to the Council.

10/06 To receive the Minutes of the Wellbrook Way Committee meeting of 25th May 2010
The minutes were tabled.

10/07 Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr de Lacey noted the membership of the previous committee and the value of co-opting individuals to future meetings as required.

10/08 To discuss, and make recommendations to the Council, on:

- (a) the financial projection for construction of a bowling green, and associated works.

The Chairman reported that the S106 monies expected from Wimpeys for the Wellbrook Way development were currently estimated as a £90,950 lump sum allocated for open space and play area maintenance over a number of years and another amount of £125,450 for the community facility. These funds were not yet in hand.

The latest financial projections for construction of the bowling green and infrastructure were received. These showed that even on the basis of the quotations in hand the costs were significantly higher than the S106 monies and additional funds would be needed. It was considered that additional costs of works required would need to be identified before the full extent of the shortfall could be quantified. **Action** Cllr de Lacey/Clerk

A paper on VAT prepared by the Finance Officer (circulated in advance of the meeting) was also briefly discussed. It was clear from the guidance received that proceeding with the bowling green as a separate project from the proposed building would not only attract VAT on the construction cost but also potentially affect the Council's recovery of VAT on its other activities. Abandoning a two stage approach therefore seemed the only available course of action.

Proceeding with a single projects would require engaging with the Town Charity over their requirements within and plans for a community building.

The issues stemming from the VAT paper for the project are complex and may require the Council to also review its governance of sports activities along the lines proposed under item 10/10. Further work by a small sub-group of the Committee to establish options on a number of issues was needed before a clear recommendation to the Council could be made.

Action: Chair to set up sub-group

- (b) Whether to identify a preferred supplier from one of the companies that has submitted a tender for the construction of the new bowling green.

This item was deferred until a later date.

- (c) Establishing a working relationship with Girton Bowling Club.

The Chairman referred to the original risk assessment and additional papers he had circulated on the importance of establishing a sustainable relationship with the Club if the Green is built. It was clear to the Committee that the VAT issues had further complicated this and it was far from clear what an eventual managing structure may be. Some of the issues/options could be examined and tested by the sub-group as proposed under item 10/08 a.

The Clerk was asked to communicate with the bowls club explaining the latest delay and suggesting a joint meeting in the near future.

Action: Clerk

- (d) A timetable for action(s).

This item was deferred pending further research as outlined above.

10/09 To consider initial information on Queen Elizabeth Fields and to make a recommendation to the Council that Girton's Recreation Grounds be protected under this new scheme in autumn 2010.

The explanatory literature at Appendices A & B was noted, as was advice from the Fields in Trust office that the new Queen Elizabeth scheme only applied to sports fields not other open spaces as had been previously understood. Further information on Fields in Trust would be forthcoming. Cllr Taylor reported his understanding that Little Thetford Parish Council considered placing its playing fields in trust to have been a success. Although this was seen as a good idea to pursue it was another factor which needed to be considered as part of the activity of the sub-group noted at 10/08a.

Action: Chair as at 10/08 a.

10/10 To receive initial information on an alternative management structure for Girton's sports facilities.

Copies of Milton Parish Council's agreement with Milton Community Centre (MCC), the charity responsible for the village community halls and recreational facilities, and the Constitution and Rules of the MCC, were discussed as precedents for a possible future model of administering Girton's facilities. Following discussion it was agreed further research on this and other governance models was required prior to making any recommendation to the Council. It was noted any reorganisation of this activity should also be taken in to consideration by the sub-group identified above.

Action: Clerk

The meeting ended at 8:55pm.



Fields in Trust

Fields Protection

Fields in Trust (FIT) is the only independent UK wide organisation dedicated to protecting and improving outdoor sports, play spaces and facilities. Founded in 1925, we have over 80 years' invaluable experience of this work.

We want to make sure that everyone – young and old alike, and wherever they live - has somewhere nearby to go for healthy outdoor activities. Through our work we improve the well-being of millions of people nationwide.

Why Protect Playing Fields?

Surely playing fields are already protected? Sadly the answer is no. Whilst the future of school playing fields is now slightly more secure, unfortunately the same legislation does not extend to cover our community playing fields and, without legal protection, they can be vulnerable to development.

At a time when the boundaries of local authorities are changing there is concern that it may no longer be local people who make decisions over the management and development of the field especially at a parish or town council level.

Some Protection

- State-run, school playing fields and community playing fields with a formal marked sports pitch of at least 200 sq metres used for recreation in past 10 years

Not Protected

- Other educational playing fields e.g. further & higher education, independent schools, academies
- Community playing fields providing non-sporting recreational space e.g. playgrounds
- Formal sports areas such as tennis courts and bowling greens
- Children's play areas
- All fields less than 200 sq metres
- Fields without formal sporting use for 10 years

Recreational Space Protection

Fields in Trust works with all types of local organisations, from local authorities and sports clubs to groups of individuals, to ensure the protection of their local playing field. Our methods of protection provide protection on a flexible and responsive basis.

The benefits of FIT protection are:

- Safeguarding land, facilities and opportunities for sport, play and recreation for present and future use
- Ensuring that such use remains the priority now and in the future
- Safeguarding public access, including individuals, sports clubs and voluntary organisations
- Providing reassurance about the long-term sustainability of facilities to potential grant providers or investors, and protecting those investments
- In the rare event of disposal, ensuring that better quality facilities are provided as replacement serving the same community, ensuring that all the proceeds of any disposal are applied to new facilities
- Fields in Trust's close working relationship with the Charity Commission and the Commission's approval of Fields in Trust's model deeds.

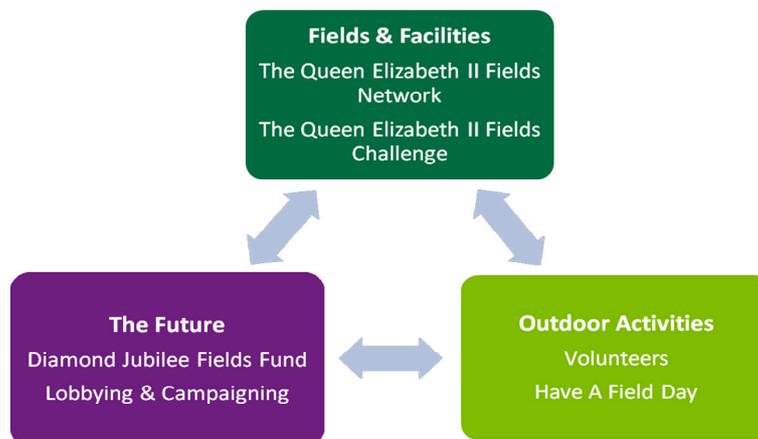
Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge



The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is an officially endorsed programme to mark Her Majesty The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee led by its Patron HRH The Prince William of Wales. It is an exciting project to create a permanent, tangible and relevant legacy from the two landmark events scheduled to occur in the UK in 2012; Queen Elizabeth II’s Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics.

The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics represent a fantastic opportunity to place both communities and participation in physical activity firmly at the top of the agenda and have the potential to be a real catalyst to improving the health and well being of the nation.

Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is the largest programme in the UK to protect and improve outdoor recreational space and is structured around three pillars:



The campaign will create a branded network of 2012 permanently protected playing fields in communities all across the UK – the Queen Elizabeth II Fields, in Scotland the Queen Elizabeth Fields - as a visible, permanent, grassroots legacy arising from 2012.

We plan to challenge the public, with the support of a national media partner, to create their own legacy by voting for a local playing field to be protected in their community. By working in conjunction with partners we will deliver increased participation in outdoor activities and

volunteering schemes. The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge will culminate in Have a Field Day, a nationwide mass participation community event on protected sites all across the country.

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in a high profile nationwide campaign with real local impact. It will secure a permanent and credible legacy which will benefit generations to come.

Planning and Resources Committee – Draft remit

To co-ordinate the financial and forward planning of the Council

- **Financial remit**
 - To receive from the spending Committees and the Clerk a statement of their actual and projected spending for the current financial year and their proposed budgets for the coming year at a meeting not later than the end of August
 - To prepare an annual budget and proposed precept to put before the Council in good time.

- **Strategic Planning remit**

To receive from the Committees and other cost centres outline plans and costs for initiatives planned over a rolling four year period. Establish priorities and draw up a proposed multi-year strategic plan with allocated resources for Council approval.

- **Human Resources remit**

To oversee and review staffing levels, staff activities, performance and training.

- **Assets and Physical Resources remit**

Overview of Council owned or leased facilities (land, buildings, pitches, courts, etc) while leaving day to day management as responsibility of relevant Committees of the Council.

- **Project Delivery**

Manage short to medium term projects as delegated by the Parish Council, including:

 - Wellbrook Way Community Land:
 - Advise Council on development of community land at Wellbrook Way.
 - To encourage the integration of the Wellbrook community into the village.
 - To investigate and if at all possible to implement a pedestrian and cycle route from the Wellbrook estate into Thornton Way or Thornton Close.
 - To consider appropriate administrative and ownership structures to safeguard the interests of all the people of Girton for the future of these facilities.