

# Girton Parish Council

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

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 25 April 2007, Girton Glebe School

The meeting was attended by approximately 37 residents, Parish, County and District Councillors, PC Kevin Misik, PCSO Llian Cole and PCSO Karen Mahoney. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman Cllr Michael Wilson.

### **1. Welcome from the Chairman and introduction of Parish Councillors**

The Chairman introduced himself, the County and District Councillors and the police followed by the Parish Councillors, the Clerk and the Bookings Administrator.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Peter Starling, Wendy Barrett and Michael Woodisse.

### **3. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 April 2006**

The minutes had been circulated. Sheila Hiley proposed and Roger Few seconded and it was agreed the minutes were a correct record of that meeting.

### **4. Matters arising from minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Chairman's report for the year**

Cllr Wilson said that his report had been circulated which also included a report on the Recreation Ground. Members of the audience were given some time to read the report after which the Council received questions and comments.

Q. What is likely to happen with the cycle exit on to Huntingdon Road?

A. Cllr de Lacey replied that Wimpey submitted a reasonable plan which was approved both by SCDC and the CC but when the work was carried out they included a tiny upstand and post. The Parish Council complained to SCDC and CC and it subsequently failed a safety audit. Wimpeys must now remedy the situation.

Q. I notice the Rec fees have gone up but there is a decrease in income – why?

A. Cllr Mayfield replied that it was due to timing because some debtors had not paid yet.

Q. Thornton Road is being used as a rat-run. Putting humps or a barrier here has previously been suggested. Is there a proposal to do that?

A. Cllr Wilson replied that this issue was looked at when traffic calming measures were introduced in the village but it was difficult to identify what type of road calming features would be appropriate along Thornton Road. There are no proposals to do anything at the moment as the costs are prohibitive.

Q. Could the speed limit be reduced?

A. PC Misik replied that the County Council would only look at introducing a speed limit if there had been a serious accident where someone was injured. In his view it does not justify a speed restriction. He also pointed out the residents' cars parked on Thornton Road acted as a road calming method.

## **6. Accounts 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007**

Copies of the accounts had been circulated. Cllr Wilson invited questions from the floor.

Q. Why have the Building Society net assets increased so much?

A. Cllr Hliley replied that the majority of this is reserve funds set aside for the pavilion fabric, play equipment and games surfaces. One thing we have overlooked this year is that we haven't indicated the interest on that account.

Q. Grounds maintenance has more than doubled. I don't see an improvement in the grounds.

A. Cllr Tutt replied that the grounds have greatly improved and we have received excellent feedback from the clubs saying how good the pitches have been this season. The improvement is due to improved grounds maintenance and drainage work.

## **7. Report from County Councillor**

John Reynolds spoke on issues of public transport, waste, private finance initiatives, Renewables East, the Renewable Planning Panel and Cambridgeshire Horizons. The report is available on request. He finished by thanking the Parish Council for the work it does for the parish.

## **8. Questions/comments on County Council matters relating to the village**

Q. Girton Glebe School is under a lot of pressure at the moment. The Reception year is over-subscribed by 10 for next year. There doesn't seem to be any mechanism whereby a school can grow slowly.

A. I agree – the school should be able to accommodate all children from the village. For Early Years there is a maximum of 30 children per year group. The Governors are looking at whether we could have an additional class and how it would be funded. Split year groups face educational problems and parents often don't like it and it takes 7 years to work through. The other problem is that the numbers fluctuate in Girton and we don't know whether a child will appear until the start of term. Cllr Hiley said he was concerned that the integrity of the village was threatened because when the school is built at NIAB the village will be split by children attending two different schools. Much concern was expressed about potential over-subscription to the school.

Q. Recycling – where will the costs fall, what happens after 28 years and are there any off-setting incomes?

A. We get a Government grant which should cover the capital cost of the plant that is being invested in. We pay monies to Donarbon on a 'pain and gain' basis so the costs will depend on recycling efficiency. We will be charged £150 for every tonne of waste that goes to landfill from 2011.

## **9. Reports from District Councillors**

Cllr Tom Bygott reported the following:

Girton Corner – following the student fatality in 2005 the safety of this junction is a priority. I fully supported the petition last December calling for an upgrade of the junction with suggested changes and County Council Officers are currently costing some of these ideas.

Planning – plans are underway in the Green Belt area between Girton and the City. The Government have changed their housing targets a number of times. The District Council and City Council are forming a joint Planning Committee for North-West Cambridge.

Cycle paths – we need to look at alternative cycle routes in to the City and support the plans in the NIAB application for a cycle path through the NIAB site using the current footpath.

Cllr Eustace Bullman reported that the derelict caravan on Oakington Road was due to be removed and the area tidied up by the owner within the next 10 days.

#### **10. Questions/comments relating to South Cambridgeshire District Council matters relevant to the Village**

Q. I am concerned about the future of Milton Country Park. Please can you assure me that SCDC are looking at funding it sensibly?

A. Cllr Bygott agreed that this is a tremendous facility. SCDC are trying to find a long term solution to running the park. If SCDC continue to fund it it may only be short-term solution if there is another budgetary crisis. Some good ideas which may be used came out of a recent meeting of 40 people from varying organisations who have experience in running such a business.

#### **11. Parish Plan**

Cllr Wilson explained that the Parish Plan involves all sections of the community in planning for the next five years. He said that involvement is not restricted to the Parish Council but everyone can participate. A Steering Group would need to be formed which would probably include two Councillors. The Group would identify the main issues and working groups would take on each topic and gather the community's views. The results would be written up as an Action Plan which would be presented to the Parish Council. The Plan once adopted would be reviewed in five years so that the community has continuity in planning. Cllr Wilson said he would be putting more information in the GPN and would be asking for interested individuals to attend an open meeting.

#### **12. Police and Security**

##### **a) Representatives from Histon Police Station**

PC Misik and PSCOs Cole and Mahoney introduced themselves. PC Misik said the two major incidents of note were the recent spate of burglaries and credit card cloning. He invited questions from the floor.

Q. Why is it that none of the card cloning incidents were listed on the Police website?

A. PC Misik replied that because this was a wider investigation they have been restricted by what information they could give and because the crime has to be recorded under the name of the victim, ie the credit card company (and not the individual owner of the card). PC Misik gave a detailed explanation of how cards are cloned.

Cllr Wilson thanked the Officers for attending the meeting. The Officers left the meeting.

##### **b) Neighbourhood Watch**

A report by Cllr de Lacey had been previously circulated.

Q. Are we *de facto* inside a Neighbourhood Watch scheme?

A. No – only if you have agreed to be in a scheme. If you wish to know whether you are in a scheme check with the co-ordinator.

#### **13. Girton Town Charity Report**

Cllr Hiley had previously circulated the report on the Charity's activities. He said money had been spent in a variety of ways but primarily as a facilitating organisation. The primary purpose of the Charity is to support those in need in the village, followed by money given to relief of need. The biggest project of the year has been the redevelopment of the Cotton Hall, followed by the building work at the Baptist Church and exterior lighting at St Andrew's Church.

Q. Is there some scope whereby the Charity could help alleviate the school?

A. We cannot contribute to mainstream expenses, such as an extra teacher for example.

Rev Will Adam commented that it is very difficult to get Trustees because being a Trustee means getting a lot of grief with very little in return. He said the Charity was a force for good and we should register that this force for good would not happen without the dedicated team of Trustees on the Town Charity.

Cllr Wilson thanked Cllr Hiley for his report.

#### **14. Additional questions/comments from the floor**

Q. Could all the Councils explain what they are doing to mitigate the noise from the A14 in view of its future expansion.

A. Cllr Reynolds replied that the order for the first section has been approved by the Highways Agency who will now work on the detailed scheme and they will have to look at wider issues and analysis. It will then go out to public consultation which could end up with a public enquiry.

Q. Will there be major works carried out on the A14 bridge in Girton?

A. Cllr Reynolds replied that this will be looked at in the next stage. Cllr Bygott said he would like to see more tree planting but this will have to wait until the banks have been re-angled. Cllr Hiley said he hoped the Highways Agency would look at sound barriers used successfully in other countries.

Finally the Revd Will Adam expressed a vote of thanks to the elected representatives and particularly to the Parish Council who serve the needs of the community and make sure the concerns of residents are taken seriously.