

that this would, in turn, free up the release of the S106 money. The costs of the pavilion in the accounts was raised. The PFO confirmed that the figure was anomalous, as the council had been obliged to borrow against the S106 expectation and it had therefore been decided to place £5,000 in the reserve for the pavilion. She said in reply to another question about the pavilion that the Council had only become aware of its liability for business rates on the pavilion in the past twelve months. The Valuation Office had now carried out its assessment and it had been deemed prudent to allocate the sum of £6,000 for rates for the current year. The PFO was asked whether the MUGA surface was self-financing as this had been the clear intention of the Parish Council at the time that it had been installed. It was clear that neither the MUGA nor any of the other sports facilities were truly profitable, but the overall cost of subsidy to the residents was extremely small.

#### **6 Report from County Councillor John Reynolds:**

Cllr Reynolds' report had been circulated. In response to questions, he confirmed that the county had experienced a difficult year, due to the need to save money, but Cambridgeshire was re-shaping services and had been able, unlike many county councils, to keep open the children's centres. He said that it was important to encourage more support for services and urged residents to volunteer to help in the community.

Taking questions, Cllr Reynolds agreed that the state of the of the footpaths, and especially in Mayfield Road, was bad, but resources were tight and the county was doing all that it could to repair and improve these. He confirmed that the expected 30 mph limit had been delayed, due to lack of funds. It would cost some £400,000 to lay the red asphalt and install the other controls. He had raised this with officers but they had said that the work had to be carried out according to regulations and the cost could not be cut.

The closed pedestrian crossing on Huntingdon Road was raised. A member of the audience had witnessed the struggle of a young mother with a pushchair and a toddler to cross the road and the current situation was unacceptable. Cllr Reynolds promised to speak to the relevant Director at CCC the following day.

Concern was expressed at the lights sequence at Gatehouse Rd. Cllr Reynolds said that when the busway was finally operative, the whole question of the lights and potential delays would be looked at and resolved. *Cllr Reynolds then left the meeting to return to a meeting of the Governors of Girton Glebe School.*

#### **7 Report from District Councillors:**

Cllr de Lacey's report had been circulated. He said that the Localism Bill promised increased responsibility and influence to District and Parish Councils

Cllr Bygott said that he was happy to support Cllr de Lacey's intention to press for a 30 mph limit on Huntingdon road. It had been promised, but central funding had not been forthcoming. SCDC was currently looking at how the money could be found from alternative sources. He said that the country was going through the worst recession for many years. SCDC had cut its expenses and balanced its budget, so further constraints imposed by central government had caused minimal disruption to the District Council's plans. Council Tax had been held at the previous year's level. There would be no redundancies at SCDC. The Council was looking to implement an efficiency programme and was currently evaluating the viability of the current arrangements for the contact centre. Since the introduction of the blue bins, recycling had increased to 57%, well on the way to the target of 65% and SCDC had received many compliments on the service

#### **8. Police and Security Reports:**

PCSO Bujar Mani and PCSO Kerrie Macinnes were present. PCSO Mani reported that there had been a substantial decrease in reported crime in the past twelve months, compared with the previous year. (113 crime reports against 240 in 2009-2010) there were currently six reports in respect of Girton. Two incidents were being dealt with, as the perpetrators were known to the police and investigations were continuing in respect to the other four. In response to a question from the audience, he said that Girton compared very favourably with other villages in the area so far as crime was concerned.

Cllr Godby on behalf of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme reported that the Watch held four meetings per year and encouraged residents to come to those meetings and to volunteer as co-ordinators.

#### **9. Girton Town Charity Report:**

Cllr Hiley's report was circulated. He wished to flag up two points. Firstly, the Town Charity's office in the High Street was now open and Penny Knights had been appointed as the Charity's Administration Assistant. She was the point of contact for the village and it was hoped to use the office as a 'clearing house' for contact with other charities. Secondly, but on the same theme, Cllr Hiley said that GTC had received a number of suggestions that a handyman scheme for the elderly and vulnerable should be introduced. This, in fact already existed, run by Aid UK and GTC would look to support this scheme for the benefit of residents.

#### **10. Questions and comments from the floor**

Concern was expressed at the unexpected work that had been carried out on the St John's Field hedge at Dodford Lane. The Chairman replied that the tenants had been instructed by the owners, St John's College, to bring the land into good order. It was generally accepted that the land clearance had made the land vulnerable to occupation by travellers, but the

Chairman was actively pursuing the matter with the agent for St John's and the tenants. The Parish Council had been invited to be consultees as to the land's future and it was hoped to encourage use to safeguard and preserve land as an amenity for the village

A resident complained that the street lighting in the Wellbrook Court area was inadequate and that the road surface was sub-standard. Cllr de Lacey replied that the land in question was privately owned and that the owner refused to take any action until his application for development was decided by the planning department at SCDC. Cllr Bygott agreed, saying that neither council had the power to require the owners of private land to bring lighting or road surfaces up to adoption standard, which he considered to be scandalous.

A resident asked if SCDC could provide smaller black refuse bins as these were now under-utilised, due to the residents recycling and composting efforts. Cllr Bygott said that it would not be possible, but agreed with the suggestion from the floor that neighbours could perhaps reach private agreements to share their black bins

Cllr de Lacey reported that he had raised the question of the SCDC land at Wellbrook Way, with a view to acquiring at least part of that land for the provision of Public Open Space, which was at a premium. Cllr Bygott stated that the land had been assessed as being worth £250,000, but Cllr de Lacey pointed out that the valuation had not taken into account that the land was encumbered and that the value was, therefore, considerably less. Cllr Bygott suggested that the purchase of land between the village and the NIAB site would provide more space at less cost, but the feeling of the meeting was that parents would want open space to be adjacent to or near their homes. Cllr Hiley said that it would be reassuring to know that the village would be given the opportunity to buy the land at Wellbrook Way and called on SCDC to provide details so that the viability of such a scheme could be assessed.

The Chairman was asked what measures were in place to monitor through traffic, which was growing, both in number and size. Cllr de Lacey replied that the Parish Council had considered this about eighteen months ago and had decided at that time that such a study was unnecessary. However, there had been a significant increase in the past year and said that this would be included as an agenda item for Council to reconsider. Cllr Ash said that he was concerned at the possible levels of noise and chemical pollution and called for further monitoring. It was agreed that this should be seriously considered at the earliest opportunity.

Cllr Taylor reminded the meeting of the recent death of Cllr Ford-Smith. Despite his disability, he had served the community up until his death and had touched many people's lives. A minute's silence was observed in his memory before the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.44 pm.

## **Girton Parish Council**

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### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2011 Tuesday 10 May 2011, Girton Glebe School**

The meeting was chaired by the Parish Council Chairman, Councillor de Lacey, and attended by 12 Parish Councillors and 34 residents of Girton.

#### **In attendance:**

County Councillor J E Reynolds, District Councillor T Bygott, John Burridge (Parish Clerk) and Natalie Stone (PFO)

The Chairman welcomed all comers to the meeting.

#### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Cllr Suzan Ziobro, Mr & Mrs Few

#### **2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 1st June 2010:**

Proposed: Cllr J Garner Seconded: Cllr R Gordon

Approved by those present and signed by the Chairman

#### **3. Matters arising from the Minutes:**

Cllr de Lacey confirmed that the Parish Council would be going ahead with the building of the Bowling Green (Item 6, page 1). He also stated that the Village Plan had been forwarded to SCDC. He agreed with the suggestion that the plan should be published and supported the call for volunteers to implement it.

#### **4. Chairman's Report on the Parish Council's activities:**

The report had been circulated and was noted. The Chairman announced that Town End Close was having an Open Day on Tuesday 1st June and encouraged those present to come and see what had taken place over the past twelve months

#### **5. Accounts for the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011:**

The Accounts and Balance Sheet had been circulated. .

The maintenance costs regarding Wellbrook Way had risen sharply, as these included the capital cost of laying the foul and storm water sewers, which had to be done before the spine road was completed. In response to a query as to when the money from the S106 Agreement might be forthcoming, the Chairman reported that the delays to the overall agreement with Taylor Wimpey were close to being resolved as a result of a meeting that he and Cllr Gordon had had with one of their Directors and