

Girton Parish Council

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

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 20 December 2006

Present: M Wilson (Chairman), D de Lacey (Vice-Chairman), W Barrett, J Ford-Smith, V Godby, R Gordon, R Hodgkinson, A Meek, M Moore, P Starling, S Tutt

Action/Power

District Councillor Bygott was present until item 01/161.

06/152 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Bullman, Hiley, Mayfield and Taylor. The Chairman accepted their reasons.

06/153 Members' declarations of interests

No interests declared.

06/154 Open Session for Public

Cllr de Lacey prop to suspend Standing Orders, sec Cllr Moore, carried unanimously.

- 1. Members of the Public.** No speakers.
- 2. Police report.** Not present.
- 3. District Councillors' reports.** Cllr Bullman not present. Cllr Bygott reported on the financial state of the District Council, saying that SCDC had made cuts to the Budget of over £1 million a year even though the Council had transferred significant amounts from reserves. Questions were raised over the funding of street lighting. Cllr Bygott said he would take back the Parish Council's concerns to SCDC. In response to questioning about the petition for safety features to be installed at Girton Corner Cllr Bygott said he supported the proposals and he would request Cllr Reynolds to bring his support to the Transport AJC. In response to questions about the proposed changes to the provision of resident wardens in Council sheltered housing he said he had attended a recent presentation at SCDC at which the benefits were presented. He believed Girton to be covered by a scheme which also covers Histon and Cottenham. He said he had asked Cllr Roberts (Portfolio for Housing) to prepare some information for local residents to explain simply the forthcoming changes, and had agreed to convey to the Parish Council a report from Paul Quigley about the benefits of the current scheme.
- 4. County Councillor's report.** Not present and no report received.

06/155 Standing Orders reinstated

Standing Orders reinstated prop Cllr Godby, sec Cllr de Lacey, carried unanimously.

06/156 Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 15 November, 23 November and 12 December 2006

With the amendment that Cllr Mayfield had given his apologies, the Minutes for the meeting held on 15 November were approved and signed by the Chairman. Prop Cllr Meek, sec Cllr Barrett. With the amendment that Cllr Starling had not attended the meeting on 23 November and that Cllr Godby had, the Minutes for the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Hodgkinson prop, Cllr Godby sec. With the amendment that Cllrs Starling and Godby had given their apologies for the meeting held on 12 December, the Minutes for the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Meek prop, Cllr de Lacey Sec. All motions were carried unanimously. Apologies were given to Cllrs Starling and Godby for the errors.

06/157 Matters arising from the minutes

1. The Clerk has taken action on all the items arising from the minutes (marked HB).
2. 06/137 The letters have been written and will be sent with cheques signed at this meeting.

06/158 To approve the Budget and Precept for 2007/08

Cllr de Lacey presented the proposed Budget to the Council. With the amendment that the number of benches be corrected from 2 to 3, Cllr Wilson prop that the that the Council approve the Budget drawn up by the Budget Committee and the Precept upon which it is based of £66,000, which represents an increase of just under 5% per dwelling from £37.85 to £39.51. Sec Cllr de Lacey, approved 10 in favour with 1 abstention.

06/159 That the Parish take on responsibility for the power and maintenance of footway lighting

Cllrs Starling and Barrett declared a personal interest. Cllr Wilson explained that both CCC and SCDC have declared that they will not adopt the lights and that the CCC will not upgrade them to Highway standard. Both Councils have stated that it is not a statutory requirement for them that these spaces be lit. The Council has been informed by SCDC that so far no parish has refused to adopt its lights and no lights have been switched off. However a spokesman for SCDC informed us that if they are switched off they may deteriorate more quickly, though no explanation of this was offered. Cllr Wilson prop that the Parish Council, as advised by the Finance and Budget Committees, take on responsibility for the power and maintenance of the footway lighting for a maximum of one more year; that we inform SCDC and CCC of this fact and request the County to upgrade these lights to an appropriate level for a residential, essentially suburban, area. Sec Cllr de Lacey, approved unanimously. Following the vote Cllr Ford-Smith said he would be in contact with the Clerk to discuss how to progress this issue.

HB

JFS

06/160 To approve the letter as tabled concerning the new arrangements for sheltered accommodation wardens (text as follows):

At its meeting on 20 December 2006 Girton Parish Council voted *nem con* to convey its deep unhappiness with the recent changes in the administration of sheltered accommodation in the region.

We understand that financial constraints and the European Work-Time Directive may have made the previous system unworkable, but deplore the attempts to dress this up as provision of a better service. Residents in the Girton schemes have opposed the present arrangements, and we believe there are other concerns raised by them and other residents of Girton which have been inadequately considered. In particular we would highlight the following:

1. The residents believe themselves to be losing the personal relationship with the warden whom they used to see as "one of them" and whom they knew personally. This continuity and confidence have been broken.
2. In general the resident wardens here have gone way beyond the call of duty in a variety of acts of kindness which have greatly increased the residents' quality of life. This is not possible with non-resident wardens.
3. The ecological impact of mobile teams, and the increased stress on the wardens of managing several different sites, are both to be deplored. How long is this system (let alone the PCT) going to be prepared to travel to a call to discover that it is a request to change a light-bulb?
4. It is unclear that the PCT has the proper resources to provide proper out of hour services for the general population without taking on this extra responsibility, however attractive to PCT managers the financial implications might be. There is potential detriment here to the whole community.
5. Despite requests for information about the changes (and a report from the briefing given to District Councillors) the Parish Council has found it hard to find detailed justification for the changes (why is there no briefing-paper on-line?) and remains unconvinced by the reasons given for the changes.

We understand that there is to be a review and evaluation early next year. We request that full documentation of the rationale, nature and effect of the changes be made public as part of

this review so that others concerned with the welfare of these communities may also assess what appears to be a very retrograde move.

Amendments:

Insert in the first paragraph between "better service." and "Residents": "Our considered view of this change is that it in fact represents a diminution of service to the residents." Prop Cllr Hogkinson, sec Cllr Barrett, carried unanimously. Delete point (2.), insert at the end of point (3.) "Lack of resident care will also leave residents vulnerable to unscrupulous tradesmen." and at the end of point (4.) "Given the inclination of many elderly people not to make a fuss, they may fail to call out services in time to the detriment of their health." Prop Cllr Godby, sec Cllr Meek, approved 10 in favour with 1 against.

With these amendments Cllr de Lacey prop, sec Cllr Moore, approved 10 in favour with 1 abstention. HB

06/161 To note the comments from the External Auditor on the Annual Return 31 March 2006 (for information only)

Cllr Wilson read out the comments from the external auditor as follows:

1. The level of fidelity guarantee insurance is low and should be revised. The Council's attention is drawn to S114 Local Government Act 1972.
2. The Council should ensure that the scope of its procedures for the assessment of risk is received to ensure that it is comprehensive, and it should formally record this review. The procedures should not only consider the likelihood of events occurring but also the consequences of them doing so, and whether they consider it appropriate to lessen the impact of such an event by taking steps to mitigate the risk. The conclusions should be recorded.
3. The inspection period for electors to see the Annual Return and supporting documents should be for the full working day (ie opening hours).

The comments will be referred to the Finance Committee for action.

Finance
C'tee

06/162 To receive the quotations below for repairs to Weaver's Field play area as follows:

Boyd Sport and Play Limited £745+VAT

Playtop £750+VAT

Adventure Playgrounds Limited £862+VAT

Cllr Tutt prop that the Council accept the quotation from Boyd Sport and Play Limited, sec Cllr Moore, carried unanimously. Cllr Starling reminded the Council that the money should come from the Weaver's Field account.

Rec C'tee

06/163 To receive the quotations below for drainage and clearance of the ditch between the Recreation Ground and Ten Acre Field.

(Due to the specialist nature of this work we have been unable to obtain three quotes.)

Peter Fernando £950

Turfcare £650

Cllr Tutt prop that the Council accept the quotation from Turfcare, sec Cllr Moore, carried unanimously.

Rec C'tee

06/164 To consider a request for financial assistance from the Shrievalty Trust's "Bobby Scheme"

Cllr Wilson read out the letter from the Shrievalty Trust and posed the question as to whether the Council should finance charities. Cllr de Lacey prop that the Council reply saying we do not have the funds to support charities. Sec Cllr Moore, approved unanimously.

HB

06/162 That reports from Parish Councillors be received

1. Cllr Godby reported her concerns over the state of the footpaths in Woodlands Park and Pepys Way. Clerk to write to Highways. HB
2. Cllr Barrett asked whether it would be possible to have 'blind bend' signs erected at either end of Duck End. Clerk to write to Highways. HB

3. Cllr Starling reported his concerns about the dangers of entering and leaving the Crematorium. Clerk to write to Highways Agency. HB
4. Cllr Moore had been asked to raise the concern of a resident over the three-week break in the black bin collection over the Christmas period.
5. Cllr Hodgkinson asked the Clerk whether she knew when the hedge at Thornton Close was to be cut back. Clerk to contact Highways. HB

06/166 That reports from other groups be received

1. **Girton Town Charity.** Cllr Hiley had sent his apologies for the meeting.
2. **Youth Works.** Nothing to report.
3. **Footpaths and Rights of Way.** Nothing to report.

06/167 Correspondence

1. Girton Tennis Club – new floodlights for tennis courts. Pass letter to Rec Committee. Rec C'tee
2. Andrew Lansley – A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvements
3. St John's College – change of managing agent
4. Local Council Review journal
5. Direct Information Service journal
6. Cambridgeshire Community Archives Journal newsletter
7. EEAPTC News – newsletter for town and parish councils across the East of England
8. CALC Quality Council Scheme
9. Alan Rodger – modifications to cycle lane at Girton Corner. There is to be a safety audit.
10. Cambridge City Council – Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement: A Consultation Strategy for Planning in Cambridge
11. Andrew Lansley – response to petition for increased safety at Girton Corner
12. SCDC – Mutual exchanges and S106 restrictions
13. Cambs Guided Busway – safety crossings at Histon footpath
14. IVC – action on littering at bus stops
15. CCC – regulations for temporary signs for community or charity events
16. SCDC – Northstowe member briefings
17. SCDC – Hedge Planting Scheme 06/07
18. Mr Moston – repairs to footpath on Girton Road
19. K Gentle – BT phone box, Cambridge Road. Refer to the police. HB

06/168 That payments for the period 9 November – 13 December 2006 be approved

Paymens	GPC 13 December '06				
Cq no.	Paid To	Description	Gross	VAT	net
1011787	Helen Bracey	Clerk's wages (month 8)	589.36		589.36
1788	Inland Revenue	Tax and NI month 8	106.42		106.42
1789	Cambridgeshire ACRE	Parish Council membership	25.00		25.00
1790	CALC	Charles Arnold Baker Vol 7 + Health and Safety checklist	63.95		63.95
1791	W H Constable & Co Ltd	Supply and fit glass in bus shelter	82.00	12.21	69.79
1792	Cambridge Water Co	Water charges 1/6/06-31/11/06	347.04		347.04
1793	Paul Laston Garden Services	Grass cutting of Open Spaces 1/3/06-31/10/06	2,836.25		2,836.25
1794	British Telecommunications	Telephone and network service charges	211.32	31.46	179.86
1795	Moore Stephens	Audit charges	423.00	63.00	360.00
1796	Orchard Close Sheltered Housing Scheme	Donation for use of Community Centre for meetings	160.00		160.00
1797	Girton Sheltered Houses Community Centre	Donation for use of Community Centre for meetings	160.00		160.00
			5,004.34	106.67	4,897.67

Payments	GRC 13 December '06				
Cq no.	Paid To	Description	Gross	VAT	net
300539	CMR Wilson	Work on Recreation Ground + petrol expenses for roller	250.00		250.00
540	Scott Morley	Litter picker's fees	65.00		65.00
541	Stuart Turnock	Cleaner's fees	320.00		320.00
542	Norman Lewell	Security/Maintenance Officer fees	343.00		343.00
543	Linda Miller	Bookings Administrator wages + expenses	556.31		556.31
544	Wellsolved	Supply and fit handrail to office; remove graffiti	194.89		194.89
545	Algar Signcraft Services (Cambridge) Ltd	Parish Office post box sign	25.85	3.85	22.00
546	True Value Histon Hardware Ltd	Lamps for exterior lights at Pavilion	26.97	4.02	22.95
547	Cambridge Master Locksmiths	Repairs to handle and lock on Hall double door	50.00	7.45	42.55
548	Peter T Round	Grounds maintenance Nov 2006	514.06	76.56	437.50
549	L J Parker	Repairs to MUGA fence and drainage as per quotation	857.76	127.76	730.00
550	Precision Group	Rectify blocked toilet	76.37	11.37	65.00
			3,280.21	231.01	3,049.20

Payments were approved, prop Cllr Wilson, sec Cllr Moore, carried unanimously.

The meeting closed at 2100hrs.