

Girton Parish Council

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 February 2008 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, 7.30pm

Present: D de Lacey (Chair), E Bullman, J Ford-Smith, V Godby, R Gordon, R Hiley, R Hodgkinson, R Martin, J Mayfield, L Sparling, C Starling, P Starling, M Taylor, M Wilson

Action/Power

Paul Cook (Head of Service, Transport Policy and Strategy) and Graham Hughes from Cambridgeshire County Council were present to the end of item 08/19.2. 6 members of the public were present and Cllr J Reynolds who left between items 08/19.2 and 08/20.

08/17 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from District Cllr Bygott. Cllr de Lacey noted the absence of Cllr Barrett. He read out her letter of resignation and asked the Clerk to write expressing thanks for her work on the Parish Council.

HB

08/18 Members' declarations of interests

None declared.

08/19 Open Session for Public

Cllr de Lacey prop to suspend Standing Orders, sec Cllr Bullman, carried unanimously. The following items were taken out of order.

- 1. Members of the Public.** No speakers.
- 5. County Councillor's report.** Cllr Reynolds had previously circulated his monthly report. He said he was happy to receive questions on the congestion charge proposal. Cllr Ford-Smith expressed his concern about how the charge would affect the 7 different carers who visit him regularly between 7 and 9am. Cllr Taylor said he had attended the exhibition where he said only one side of the debate was given which was unfair and inappropriate. On another subject Cllr Hiley reported that the roads were breaking up rapidly this winter. Cllr Reynolds said they were regularly monitored and repairs would be made after the winter.
- 3. Police report.** No report received. Cllr Reynolds reported that he had attended a recent meeting at which Girton was mentioned regarding crime against vehicles – an action plan has been formulated for Bar Hill and Girton. He reported that PC Misik has been transferred to other duties and new officer has been appointed to Girton.
- 4. District Councillors' reports.** Nothing to report.
- 6. Girton Town Charity.** Cllr Hiley reported that Abbeyfield have bought the land at Wellbrook Way from the Town Charity.
- 7. Youth Works.** Nothing to report.
- 8. Footpaths and Rights of Way.** Cllr Starling reported that the new footpaths and bridleway are in place and that the bollards are missing from FP6 which he has reported.
- 2. Talk on proposed Congestion Charging from Paul Cook, County Council Transport Officer.** The Chairman introduced County Council Transport Officers Paul Cook and Graham Hughes. P Cook gave a brief background report on the growth of Cambridgeshire. The effect of Cambridge being a growth area coupled with central Government's plans for large-scale growth around the City puts an intolerable strain on the transport network. In order to tackle the problem the County Council has made a bid for a Government Transport Innovation Fund (TIF). About £500M would be made available for massive improvements in public transport and walking and cycling networks, together with a congestion charging area to operate 7.30am -9.30am in the Cambridge urban area. Modelling suggests that this would lead to a 10% reduction in traffic. It is central to these plans that the infrastructure be in place *before* introducing the charge. Mr Cook stressed that at this point in time the Council are merely consulting.

The following questions/points were raised by Councillors:

The CC are not in control of bus services: how can adequately-improved services be guaranteed?

Issuing of tickets is a major reason for bus journeys being unacceptably slow.

Service bus and P&R fares are too high to be acceptable alternatives to private cars.

For many journeys passing through the city is unavoidable.

I am angered at the falsehood of the presentation. The only reason for overdevelopment of Cambridge is due to Government's refusal for the development of northern towns. The London congestion charge has not lowered the level of traffic entering the City. It is a tax on poorer people and it is not environmental.

We are presented with a *fait accompli* rather than a set of alternative proposals to assess. What is needed is an affordable, comprehensive, efficient and joined-up transport system as in other parts of Europe.

Have feasibility studies been carried on including Girton entirely and excluding Girton entirely?

Response from P Cook:

A feasibility study is being carried out. We chose this boundary because we wanted the cordon to encompass the urban area. We need to look at fundamentally changing the way buses operate. The London scheme resulted in a 25% reduction of vehicles on day 1: road works in London last year made assessing the extent of congestion problematic. The issue of lower income groups is a significant problem – we need to balance affordable housing and feasible transport options.

Response from G Hughes:

Growth in Cambridge is going to happen but the congestion charge is *not a fait accompli*. Ticketing and bus delays need addressing. The charging within the zone will work via a combination of cameras and sensors on gantries around and inside the City. There will be automatic number-plate recognition and cars could be fitted with a device that the sensor picks up (this would attract the lower charge). There will be a one-off charge during the period.

Comments from Parish Councillors:

There is surely a danger that by the time the guided buses reach Northstowe they will already be full. People will then be forced to drive in, and are likely to park in Girton. The congestion charge will not stop people driving into Cambridge and people on low incomes will suffer because shop workers won't be able to afford the bus service. If the (as P Cook suggested) buses are to stop for only 30 seconds under new ticketing arrangements, there will not be time for the elderly to be seated before the bus re-starts.

Will there be a multi-level charge for bigger vehicles?

Will those leaving Cambridge city still be subject to the charge?

I have never met a transport policy person who is against the charge. When Camboume was built they promised it wouldn't cause congestion – it *has* caused congestion. Same with Northstowe which has grown from 10,000 people to 10,000 homes. The lowest paid people will not be able to afford housing. This has been taken away from any form of democracy. I am concerned about how this will affect disabled people.

There has been no debate about where jobs for growth development are – they don't have to be in Cambridge.

The proposed TIF grant is not a lot of money, and is inadequate for the necessary development. Where will the necessary continuous funding for subsidies and replacement stock come from?

Response from G Hughes:

The issue of affordability is important. We somehow need to secure funding and need a disincentive for people driving and an incentive to use public transport. House prices probably won't plummet in Cambridge but developers are required to provide 40% affordable housing. If the problem of congestion is not addressed it will damage the economy of the City. We are aware that the surgery and school in Girton are a real issue and the cordon is being reviewed. From St Ives the guided busway will provide 6-8 buses per hour. From Northstowe this provision will be increased to 20 per hour.

P Cook finished the discussion by informing the Council that the consultation has been extended to Easter. Once all the results have been received and disseminated the project will go to CC Members who will consider how to proceed.

08/20 Standing Orders reinstated

Prop Cllr de Lacey, sec Cllr Martin, unanimous.

08/21 Unconfirmed Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 16 January 2008 be received

With an amendment to item 08/03.6 to insert the word *apparently* to read: *Cllr Hiley reported that the proposed sale of the 2 acres of land at Wellbrook Way has apparently fallen through*, the minutes were approved. Prop Cllr Godby, sec Cllr Gordon, 12 in favour, 2 abstentions.

08/22 That the unconfirmed Minutes of the Sport and Recreation Ground Committee be received

The minutes were received.

08/23 Matters arising from the minutes

The Clerk has taken action on all the items arising from the minutes (marked HB).

08/24 That the Council decide a mechanism for agreeing a response to the Northstowe Planning Application

Cllr de Lacey expressed his thanks to John Robson and Brian Bromwich who had read and reported on the drainage reports. He thanked them both for the attention they had given to the reports. He proposed that either we set up a committee of those interested or (if such a group does not emerge) each Councillor look at one these documents and give us a summary, and offered to allocate responsibilities. Cllr Hiley wished the Council to comment on recreational facilities. Cllr Wilson agreed to read the Transport Assessment papers; Cllr Gordon the Construction Method Statement and Cllr Mayfield the Draft Heads of Terms. Cllr de Lacey said he would call upon other Councillors to read the remaining papers. A draft response will be put to the next Council meeting.

MW
RG
JM

08/25 That the Council approve the renewal of the ACRE membership of £25

Prop Cllr Godby, sec Cllr Starling, unanimous. Cllr de Lacey noted that in future all expenditure for such memberships would be agreed at the Council AGM.

AGM

08/26 That the Council agree the renewal of the annual insurance with Allianz at £2365.82

Prop Cllr Mayfield, sec Cllr Hodgkinson, unanimous.

08/27 That the Council agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Gordon prop 8 May 2008, sec Cllr Bullman, 13 in favour, 1 abstention. To be held at the Cotton Hall.

08/28 That the Council consider quotations for the renewal of the grounds maintenance contract for the Recreation Ground and approve a contract for 2008-2001

The following quotations for a 3-year contract were tabled:

Peter Round £5407.56

Herald Contract Services £7228

MD Landscapes £6965

Buchans £8584.49

Cllr de Lacey recommended accepting the quotation from Peter Round, sec Cllr Mayfield, unanimous.

08/29 That reports from Parish Councillors be received

1. Cllr Hiley reported a pot hole near the Mayfield cushion on Girton Road.
2. Cllr Bullman said he was looking forward to the re-opening of Gatehouse Road.

HB

3. Cllr Sparling reported that the manhole cover at the top of Woodlands Park had still not been repaired. Ho also commented on problems with the Citi 6 bus service.
4. Cllr Mayfield said the Thornton Road street sign was still missing. HB
5. Cllr Gordon reported that he had sent out 3 notices to houses with overgrown hedges – all three had been rectified. He reported that the footbridge at Woody Green had been damaged through use by horses. HB
6. Cllr Martin had received a complaint about the poor maintenance of the street lights in Dodford Lane, with a number of lights out.
7. Cllr de Lacey reported that Acacia Tree Surgery would be working on the diseased horse-chestnuts on the Recreation Ground on 3 March.

08/30 Correspondence

1. Stagecoach – Response to a complaint about the Citi 6 service
2. PSC – The Future of Council Housing in South Cambridgeshire newsletter
3. Cambridge City Council – Adoption Statement CLDF Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document
4. CCC – Northstowe Rights of Way Project
5. Local Works – Sustainable Communities Bill is now an Act of Parliament
6. SCDC – Re-inspection of the Council; comments invited
7. CCC – Cambridgeshire Trading Standards magazine
8. Andrew Lansley – A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton
9. St Vincent's Close – Acknowledgement and thanks for donation
10. Wendy Barrett – Resignation from the Council
11. CPALC – Workshops
12. SCDC – Northstowe – Planning applications and Development Trust
13. COPE Newsletter
14. Audit Commission – appointment of external auditor (Moore Stephens)
15. Direct Information Service Newsletter
16. Department for Communities and Local Government – Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members
17. Natural England – Countryside Stewardship Scheme (TEC)
18. Direct Information Service Newsletter
19. SCDC Housing Futures Newsletter
20. Circle Anglia – Open day at the Cotton Hall on Saturday 16 February re shared ownership properties at Giffords Close
21. Justin Keen – New development at Mayfield Road – description of plans prior to planning application
22. Cambridge City Council – Reserved Matters submission for 187 dwellings on the NIAB site and erection of a part 2 storey part 3 storey office and laboratory building, glasshouse, decked car park, plant and equipment, access road, landscaping and ancillary works: invitation to speak at Joint Development Control Committee on 20 February

07/206 That payments for the period 15 November to 12 December 2007 be approved

Payments	20-Feb-08	Combined PC/Rec payments			
Cq no.	Paid To	Description	Gross	VAT	net
1953	Turfcare	Spray tennis courts with moss killer	90.00		90.00
1954	Alison Warlow	Fee for assisting Clerk with finances	150.00		150.00
1955	Nigel Childs	Cleaners fee	470.00		470.00
1956	P A Collacott & Co	To attend to carpark lights	105.70	15.74	89.96
1957	Norman Lewell	Security/Maintenance Officer fees	336.00		336.00
1958	C M R Wilson	Work on Recreation Ground	168.00		168.00
1959	Linda Miller	Bookings Administrator wages (month 10) + expenses	446.29		446.29
1960	Helen Bracey	Clerks wages (month 10)	648.62		648.62

1961	Orchard Close Sheltered Housing Scheme	Donation for use of community centre for meetings	175.00		175.00
1962	Girton Sheltered Housing Community Centre	Donation for use of community centre for meetings	175.00		175.00
1963	Inland Revenue	Tax and NI month 10	132.23		132.23
1964	E Simpkins	Roller service	232.13	34.57	197.56
1965	E.ON	Electricity charges	2,324.97	346.27	1,978.70
1966	Wendy Barrett	Mileage expenses	12.40		12.40
1967	J Wells	Various work for Pav and open spaces	224.10		224.10
1968	SCDC	Trade refuse quarterly charge	148.05	22.05	126.00
1969	Peter T Round	Grounds maintenance Jan 08	529.49	78.86	450.63
1970	Girth Youth Works	Path clearing	66.00		66.00
1971	A to Z	Noticeboard	292.28	43.53	248.75
1972	Nigel Childs	Cleaners fee	470.00	70.00	400.00
1973	True Value Histon Hardware	Lamps for the Pavilion	42.44	6.32	36.12
1974	Tamla Sparkes	Litter picker's fee	60.00		60.00
1975	Cotton Hall Foundation	Use of Cotton Hall	22.50		22.50
1976	Cambridgeshire ACRE	Membership renewal	25.00		25.00
1977	British Telecommunications plc	Quarterly Telephone charges	81.05	11.40	69.65
			7,427.25	628.74	6,798.51

Payments were approved, Cllr Martin prop, sec Cllr Godby, 12 in favour, 2 abstentions.

The meeting closed at 2130hrs.