

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 18 June 2008 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, 7.30pm

Action/Power

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

1 member of the public was present throughout.

08/80 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Clift, Gordon, Hogkinson and Starling and Cllrs Bygott and Reynolds.

08/81 Members' declarations of interests

None declared.

08/82 Open Session for Public

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

1. B Parnwell reported that the exit pipe in the Woody Green ditch was blocked.
2. Police report. Cllr de Lacey read out a police report (attached).
3. District Councillors' reports. Reports from Cllrs Bygott and de Lacey were tabled (attached).
4. County Councillor's report. No report received.
5. Girton Town Charity. Cllr Hiley reported that a £15,000 grant had been made to Impington Music Society to replace the concert Grand Piano.
6. Youth Works. Cllr Hiley reported that people interested in joining Youth Works were beginning to come forward.
7. Footpaths and Rights of Way. No report received. Cllr Hiley reported that it is now possible to cross the busway at St Audrey's Close.

HB

08/83 Standing Orders reinstated

Prop Cllr de Lacey, sec Cllr Martin, unanimous.

08/84 That the unconfirmed Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 21 May 2008 be approved

With a spelling correction noted by Cllr Wilson to item 8/77.3, Cllr Martin prop, sec Cllr Ford-Smith, 9 in favour, 2 abstentions.

08/85 Matters arising from the minutes

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

08/77.2 Cllr Sparling read out a letter relating to parking in Woodlands Park.

08/78.15 Cllr de Lacey noted that S106 requirements for Northstowe was an agenda item.

08/72 Cllr Taylor had contacted the GOSH action group.

08/86 That in the event of successful negotiations with the land owners and the County Council the Parish Council adopt a footpath/cycle route from Wellbrook Way to Whitehouse Lane (email from Stuart Clarke refers)

Cllr de Lacey prop to adopt the footpath/cycle route, sec Cllr Ford-Smith. Cllr Wilson enquired whether it was standard practice for parish councils to maintain footpaths. Cllr de Lacey said he was not sure what the legal agreement will stipulate but that if we were to proceed the PC does need to take ownership of the footpath and that we need to look to the future to make sure money is available. Cllr Hiley asked whether the police had been informed as often they are not keen on footpaths that link to roads making it harder for thieves to be pursued. Unanimous.

HB

08/86 That the Council approve a response (tabled) to the latest consultation on the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan

Prop Cllr de Lacey, sec Cllr Martin, unanimous. The Council agreed to repeat our comments where there had been no change; to request that goals for reducing water usage be reinstated

but not used as criteria for waste disposal; to welcome the revised University plan which re-routes the proposed road north of the Girton gap and to reiterate that we object in principle to any use of the Girton gap for a road.

HB

08/88 To receive and approve the Annual Return for the period ending 31 March 2008

Cllr de Lacey read out statement and questions in Section 2 of the Annual Return which were answered as follows:

1. Yes, unanimous
2. Yes, unanimous
3. Yes, unanimous
4. Yes, unanimous
5. Yes, unanimous
6. Yes, unanimous
7. Yes, unanimous
8. Yes, unanimous
9. Not applicable, unanimous.

Cllr Martin noted that the decimal point in the figures in Section 1 should be either removed or changed to a comma. The Council agreed unanimously, with one abstention.

08/89 That Cllrs de Lacey, Ford-Smith and Clift be the Parish Council's delegates to the Joint Action Group (JAG)

Prop Cllr de Lacey, sec Cllr Martin, unanimous.

08/90 That the Council re-appoint Gillian Scrine and Michael John Healey as Trustees of Girton Town Charity for a four year term to May 2012

Cllr de Lacey prop, sec Cllr Wilson, 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

08/91 That the Council approve a response to the NATS proposed changes to airspace

Cllr de Lacey prop the following response, sec Cllr Ford-Smith, carried 9 in favour, 2 abstentions: "Girton Parish Council wishes to object strenuously to the way in which this consultation was carried out. We were initially given the wrong leaflet pack, and despite our Clerk informing you of the fact the correct material did not arrive until after the scheduled end of the consultation period. The leaflet contains inadequate information and little justification for the options proposed. We believe the consultation should be re-run with full details of the impact to be expected and a plan for a review and if necessary a reversion to the current situation."

HB

08/92 That the Parish Council approve in principle putting all our recreation spaces in to Trust and appoint a Committee to formulate concrete proposals

Prop Cllr de Lacey, sec Cllr Ford-Smith. Cllr Wilson prop an amendment to the wording as follows: That the Parish Council appoint a Committee to formulate concrete proposals for placing all our Recreation Spaces into Trust; sec Cllr Sparling. Cllr Hiley prop an amendment to the amendment to read: That the Parish Council appoint a Committee to consider, and formulate concrete proposals for placing all our Recreation Spaces into Trust; sec Cllr Taylor, unanimous. Vote to approve the amended proposal carried unanimously.

Committee members: Cllrs Wilson, Ford-Smith, Hiley and Martin. Members recommended finding an additional member with legal experience.

08/93 To approve expenditure not exceeding £1100 for repairs to play equipment as approved by the Sport and Recreation Committee

Prop Cllr Wilson, sec Cllr de Lacey, unanimous. Cllr Hiley recommended appointing Wicksteed to do the work. (From Budget; statutory.)

HB

08/94 That the Council approve a Section 106 application to the Northstowe developers

Cllr de Lacey tabled the following requests:

1. *It is anticipated in the Northstowe Planning Application that the route from Oakington and through Girton will be an attractive one for cyclists living in Northstowe. However, as the PA itself conceded, this is currently to a substandard design, a shared-use path of a maximum width of 1.8m, and in places barely over 1m. Bounded by the road and a ditch it is hard to see how this could be improved. At present there are already significant conflicts in using it. We therefore request that the developers provide out of S106 moneys a second path on the west side of the Oakington-Girton road, so that at least each could be one-way for cycle traffic. The cost of the path from this road to Histon was around £350,000 so we estimate*

this would require a contribution of the order of £0.75M if land need be purchased.
Cllr de Lacey prop, sec Cllr Hiley, unanimous. Cllr Hiley then prop to add the following line at the end: "We request footpath lighting for the Oakington-Girton route." Sec Cllr Godby, unanimous.

2. *We would also request that plans (which are already being discussed) for a foot- and cycle-path from Wellbrook Way to Whitehouse Lane be developed and funded as part of a route from Northstowe to Cambridge if they have not already been executed using other funds.*

Cllr de Lacey prop, sec Cllr Martin. Cllr C Starling prop to add the word "lit" to read...."for a lit foot- and cycle-path for Wellbrook Way...". Unanimous.

3. *For the same reasons, we request that works we have already requested at Girton Corner be financed by S106 funds from Northstowe, and their completion be made a condition of work beginning at Northstowe. These are: 1. To reduce the speed limit on the Huntingdon Road from 40 to 30mph. 2. To improve the state of cycle access to Huntingdon Road before Girton Corner and increase the width of the cycle lanes on Huntingdon Road to 2m. 3. To add hatchings to the shoulder of the north access to Girton Road to encourage vehicles to take the corner as wide as possible. 4. To move the Huntingdon Road bus stop southwards so that stopping buses do not obstruct cycles entering from Girton. The first three have been costed at a maximum of £12000: a very minor sum in the whole S106 package.*

Cllr de Lacey prop, sec Cllr Wilson. Re Item 3.4 Cllr Martin said he thought there was limited scope to move the bus stop. Carried 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

4. *The population of Northstowe will inevitably put greater pressure on our roads and increase traffic through our village. The Parish council is not convinced that traffic calming measures work either to discourage such traffic or to increase safety: we therefore request that S106 moneys are used to remove all the current calming measures, and to surface the road (High Street/Cambridge Road/Girton Road) with a red tarmac layer devoid of any road marking at all, a measure which does appear to have had significant effects on driver care in other areas. We are not in a position to cost this work.*

Prop Cllr de Lacey, sec Cllr Wilson. Cllr Martin said he was not convinced that traffic calming does slow traffic down. Cllr Hiley opposed the proposition and said that some traffic calming signs were very important, especially those by the school. Cllr Wilson said he would be very cautious about removing the traffic calming measures without greater thought. Cllr C Starling agreed saying he thought the measures do slow traffic down. The motion was lost to 4 in favour, 7 against.

5. *We also believe that green routes around Northstowe should be encouraged, and suggest a path from Dodford Lane Girton to the Dry Drayton Road be built.*

Cllr Hiley prop, sec Cllr de Lacey, carried 7 in favour, 4 abstentions.
The final response is attached.

HB

08/95 That the Council appoint a co-ordinator for the Community Access Point at St Vincent's Close Community Centre

Cllr de Lacey prop to appoint the County Council CAP Co-ordinator, sec Cllr Wilson, unanimous.

HB

08/96 That the Council agree not to hold Council meetings in August

Amend wording as follows: That the Council agree not to hold full Council meetings in August from henceforth. Prop Cllr de Lacey, sec Cllr Martin, 10 in favour, 1 against.

08/77 That reports from Parish Councillors be received

1. Cllr C Starling noted that the verges need cutting. He asked the Clerk to write to Stagecoach to complain about bus drivers failing to indicate when pulling out. He also reported that he and his wife have taken on the organization of the Girton Feast Week next year.

HB

2. Cllr Sparling asked for a noticeboard to be sited at Wellbrook Way. He also commended the new planters sited through the village.

3. Cllr Hiley asked the Clerk to request a disability access assessment from the County Council for the new bollards sited at the entrance to Giffords Close.

HB

4. Cllr Bullman noted he still had 5 bollards should anyone wish to use them.

5. Cllr Martin noted that parishioners were not always crushing plastic bottles before putting them in the recycling bin. He also noted that the draft version of the Village Map was on the noticeboard at the Recreation Ground and invited comments.

HB

08/78 Correspondence

1. SCDC – BT’s proposal to re-align payphone provision
2. TCN Consultation Team – Terminal Control North – proposed changes to airspace
3. A Norris – Bird scarers
4. The B C Group Trust – Howes Close Sports Facilities
5. BASF – Potato trials at NIAB
6. Cope Forum – Membership
7. SCDC – Review of Street Trading Consent South Cambridgeshire District
8. SCDC – Housing Futures leaflet
9. St John Ambulance – Open Garden at Gretton Court 22 June 2-5pm
10. IVC – Department for International Development Global Schools Project
11. CCC – Parish Paths Partnership, confirmation of grant funding
12. Cambridge Water Co – Cambridge Water Village Life Fund 2008
13. SCDC – South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework, Supplementary Planning Documents Public Participation
14. Independent Review Service – increasing awareness of the Social Fund
15. A Mellor – Citi 6 bus service and bus stop at Girton Church
16. Taylor Vinter – claim for damages for accident in Recreation Ground car park in May ‘07
17. SCDC – Post Office closures, meeting 16 July

08/79 That payments for the period 14 May – 18 June 2008 be approved

Payments	11-Jun-08	Combined PC/Rec payments			
Cq no.	Paid To	Description	Gross	VAT	net
2040	Linda Miller	Wages	361.99		361.99
2041	Inland Revenue	Tax and NI month 2	294.39		294.39
2042	C M R Wilson	Work at Recreation Ground	144.00		144.00
2043	Helen Bracey	Clerk's wages (month2) + expenses	769.48		769.48
2044	Norman Lewell	Security/Maintenance Officer fee	367.00		367.00
2045	Cambridgeshire County Training Partnership	x 3 Cllr training	60.00		60.00
2046	Jenny Mills	Litter picking at Weavers Field	20.00		20.00
2047	Prime Plumbing (Cams) Ltd	Repairs to toilets	105.87	15.77	90.10
2048	True Value Histon Hardware Ltd	Pavilion supplies	11.91	1.77	10.14
2049	NCC (Cambridge) Ltd	Cleaner's fee	470.00	70.00	400.00
2050	Alison Warlow	Book keeping assistance	105.00		105.00
2051	Cambridge Water Company	Half yearly water rates	178.19		178.19
2052	Peter T Round	Grounds maintenance	529.49	78.86	450.63
2053	Mr P Hacker	Taxi expenses for Cllrs de Lacey and Ford-Smith	24.00		24.00
2054	Cotton Hall Foundation	Hire of hall	37.50		37.50
			3,478.82	166.40	3,312.42

Payments were approved, Cllr Wilson prop, sec Cllr Martin, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

The meeting closed at 2112hrs.