

Girton Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Girton Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29th April 2009 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre

Action

Present: D de Lacey (Chairman), E Bullman, R. Martin, R. Hiley, M. Wilson, S Cliff, M Taylor, J Thorrold, R Gordon, L Sparling & C Starling.

Cllr J Reynolds (Cambridgeshire CC), and T Bygott (South Cambridgeshire DC).

In attendance: R Stone (Clerk); Mrs N Stone (PFO)

Items:

09/48 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

09/49 Apologies

Cllrs J Ford-Smith (Vice Chairman), R Hodgkinson, V Godby and P. Starling.

09/50 Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda

Cllrs D de Lacey and L Sparling declared a personal interest in items 95/45/2.

09/51 Public Participation session on Agenda items & matters of mutual interest

- County Councillor John Reynolds' report was circulated in advance. No questions were raised.
- District Councillor Tom Bygott reported on the NIAB development, SCDC's Housing Transfer, free swimming programme for under 16s and over 60s, and South Cambridgeshire being the second best place to live in Britain.
- Cllr Hiley reported on Girton Town Charity. The post of Community Warden had been filled subject to CRB checks. A new scheme and registered company was in the process of being set up by GTC. A revised planning application had been submitted for 7 houses (including 4 social houses) at Wellbrook Way. Girton Youth Works was in abeyance. The YMCA was advertising to replace Darryl McMurray as youth leader. In the meantime youth work was continuing with the help of volunteers under the oversight of a senior member of the YMCA. It was hoped someone would come forward to relaunch the gardening programme.
- No reports had been received for footpaths & rights of way, or from the police.
- No members of the public were present.

09/52 That the minutes of the meeting on 18th March 2009 be confirmed.

Approved, and signed by the Chairman.

09/53 Matters arising

09/40	Minutes of meeting of 18 February 09	Signed by Chairman after agreed amendment inserted thanking Cllr Cliff for chairing PC meetings in his absence.
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09/43/i	Proposed policy meeting of the Council in July to inform budgetary process.	Marked forward for July meeting.
09/43/vii	Girton Parish Council – insurance cover	New policy received. Personal cover still to be arranged.
09/44	Committee reports	Motions on dog control included in agenda at Items 09/57 above at 7, 8 & 9.
09/45/4	Drainage ditch work on recreation ground	Discussed at Environment Committee of 8 th April. Advice to be sought from Environment Agency.
09/45/8	Staff contracts	Contracts for Clerk, Assistant to the Clerk, and PFO signed.
09/46	Proposed motion on Parishes Joint Action Group.	Included at Items 09/57/2 & 3.

09/54 Correspondence received (*Circulated at the meeting.*)

Invitation by Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum to meetings to improve recreational access to the countryside	Next meeting is at Wicken Fen on 26th May 2009
Letter from resident of Thornton Close asking about views of GPC on NIAB development	Clerk responded by referring to Parish Chairman's article in GPN, and Cllr Wilson's representations on the development on behalf of GPC.
Letter from former Parish Councillor on the impact of St Colette's School on traffic in Girton.	Parish Chairman made contact with Head, and responded saying majority of pupils would be transported by coach.
Letter from CCC advertising new website to help residents and business through recession.	Details available at: www.weatherthestorm.org.uk
Letter from Peter Rounds requesting annual 3% increase on 2009 -2012 open spaces contract	Taken forward at Item 09/57/10
Letter from Information Commissioner's Office with DVD explaining parish council duties under the Freedom of Information Act 2000	Clerk will view.
Crimestoppers poster featuring Jacob Hall's ASBO. Police have requested publicity.	Clerk will advertise in June's GPN. Posters will be displayed on GPC noticeboards.
Quote from BSV Construction Services Ltd to repair Pavilion balcony at total price of £2600.	Clerk will seek 2 other tenders and refer to next S&R meeting for recommendation to Parish Council.
Madingley PC seeking views on adjoining clay pit	Clerk will refer to Environment Committee.

09/55 Finance & resource management

- i) To approve payments for 18 March to 28 April 2009.
Approved.
- ii) To approve the Bank reconciliation.
Approved.

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iii) To note progress against budget.
Noted.

09/56 Committee Reports

None.

09/57 Business item(s) requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council

1. That Girton Parish Council receive and note the following reports:

i) Cllr Thorrold on the updated Asset Register
Received by the Council. Cllr Thorrold was thanked for compiling the updated register. Copies of the full register were passed to Cllrs Gordon & Wilson. Advice was requested from the Clerk on the status of the war memorial. Clerk

ii) Cllrs Clift and Martin on a meeting of the Parishes' Joint Action Group (JAG) on 26.2.2009.

Minutes of the meeting was received and noted by Councillors.
Cllr Martin said that there consensus on the A14 issues. It had been agreed to continue to discuss the issues at future JAG meetings. The next meeting of 30th April would be attended by Cllrs de Lacey and Clift.

iv) Cllr de Lacey on a meeting of the JAG on 26. 3. 2009.

A copy of the draft constitution of the Joint Action Group was noted by Councillors. Cllr de Lacey reported that the draft had not been accepted by South Cambridgeshire District Council. A number of issues had arisen including the possibility of formalising the JAG as a Section 101 Committee. This would require formal representation, terms of reference, and may have financial implications.

v) Cllr C Starling, on arrangements for the Village Feast.

Cllr Starling reported whilst arrangements were on the whole going well help was needed on the Friday & Saturday evenings of Feast Week. The organising committee would appreciate back up from volunteer stewards. The marquee was available on 12th July. Ideas for events would be welcome. Also there was a clash of use of the recreation ground on Saturday 12th July when Girton Cricket Club planned to play. This would require changes to the layout.

Cllr Sam Clift volunteered to help with events.

vi) Environment Committee Meeting of 8th April 2009

Cllr Hiley requested that the autumn hedging works on Smithy Green should be carefully positioned to avoid possible damage to the newly erected fence.

2. That Girton PC reaffirm its commitment to, and membership of, the JAG.

Cllr Hiley commented that there there may be a funding and servicing issue for

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JAG members to resolve in future. Councillors noted this, and voted in favour of the motion.

3. That Girton Parish Council send a letter to Barbara Follett MP, Minister for the Eastern Region, expressing Girton Parish Council's concern about the potential noise pollution from the A14 Improvement Scheme

Cllr Martin explained that this would take the same line as the earlier letter to Andrew Lansley MP, and would include an invitation to the Minister to visit Girton. The motion was agreed subject to Cllr Martin amending the letter to include reference to the amenity losses the village would suffer as a result of the scheme, and new raised interchange. These were identified as footpath loss, visual & noise impacts, and increased pollution.

4. That Girton Parish Council approve the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting

Approved.

5. That Girton Parish Council record, and convey to SCDC, its deep dismay at the decision of SCDC to endorse the recommendation that the Inspector approve development on site 6 -- Land between Huntingdon Road, Histon Road and A14 -- in response to the alleged projected housing shortfall. This development, together with linked major developments planned on either side of Huntingdon Road, will be detrimental to the maintenance and integrity of our village community and the quality of life of its residents, and will establish virtual coalescence of the village with the city of Cambridge despite established Council statements of policy and assurances by SCDC officers to the contrary.

Approved.

6. That Girton Parish Council approves the following costs to extend the lease on St Johns Field for a further 10 years:
- solicitor charges £2000; land agent fees £500; and £600/year rental costs.

Approved.

7. That Girton Parish Council permit dogs to be exercised off-lead within St Johns Field.

Approved.

8 That the Council establish a formal dog walking route around the Recreation Ground fields to Girton Wood and St Johns Field.

Approved.

9. That the Council establish a working group to draw up dog enforcement notices to be posted at places decided by the working group.

Cllr Wilson proposed the following amended motion:
"That the Council establish a working group to draw up drafts of relevant dog enforcement notices."

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This was approved by the Council. Cllrs Wilson and Gordon volunteered to lead the working group. It was felt that dog walkers should be invited to contribute, and be part of any consultation within the village.

10. That the Council approve a fuel escalator increase of 5% to the Recreation Ground contract for 2008 -2011 agreed with Peter Rounds in 2008; and an annual increase of at least 3% for the Open Spaces contract for 2009 –2012 agreed with Peter Rounds in 2009.

Following discussion it was agreed that Peter Rounds should receive a one off increase of 5% to cover increased fuel costs for the recreation ground contract.

Annual 3% increases to the Open Spaces contract were not agreed. It was decided to refer the issue to the Finance Committee to identify how to factor in inflation/deflation.

11. That the Council nominate a second representative to the Parish Plan Steering Group following the resignation of Cllr Ford-Smith.

The Council nominated Cllr John Thorrold.

12. That the Council reconsiders the two lowest bids for the storage cupboards for the Pavilion following receipt of a revised tender from M J Black; and approve the recommendation of the Sport and Recreation Chairman.

Following careful consideration the Council awarded the contract to Dench Construction having approved its quote of £3520. M J Black's quote of £3350 was lower than this figure but only valid for 7 days from 3rd April 2009.

13. That the Council approve budgeted expenditure of £1100 for spring maintenance and repair of the Recreation Ground, as follows:

- Weed spraying £450; Fertiliser £300; Soil £300; and Seed £50.

This expenditure was approved.

09/58 Matters raised by Members including items for the next Agenda¹

Cllr Chris Starling raised his concerns about the deterioration of the footpath and road surfaces in the village. Cllr de Lacey reported that Cambridgeshire CC was short of funds for these works but was pleased to report that funding was available to repair the footpath at the end of Girton Road.

Cllr Len Sparling congratulated Cllr Clift on the success of the Spring Walk.

Cllr Mark Taylor referred to the planning application for flats at 11 Mayfield Road. The house has now been privately let.

The meeting ended at 8.46pm.

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