

**Minutes of Girton Parish Council's Meeting of Wednesday 17th March 2010
at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs D de Lacey (Chairman), S Clift (Vice Chairman), M Wilson, R Hiley (*from 10/33*), V Godby, J Thorrold, R Gordon, R Martin, L Sparling, J Ford-Smith, P Starling, & C Starling.

Trevor Falconer & Tracy Mann of South Cambridgeshire DC; Jenny Knights (GTC); and two members of the public.

In attendance: Robert Stone (Clerk) and Natalie Stone (PFO)

Items

10/30 Welcome from the Chairman

Cllr de Lacey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

10/31 Apologies

Cllrs E Bullman, M Taylor, & B Bromwich; and Cllr T Bygott (SCDC)

10/32 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

Cllr Gordon declared a personal interest in Item 10/36/5.

10/33 Public Participation session on agenda items & matters of mutual interest

1. Trevor Falconer, Senior Planning Officer, SCDC advised that the NW Cambridge University Development would go out to public consultation in the middle of 2010 with a view to gaining outline planning permission towards the end of the year. The Environment Impact Assessment would include transport & traffic; and drainage and flooding issues. South Cambridgeshire DC would engage with the local community to listen to concerns. The joint Cambridge City/SCDC/Cambridge County Council planning team would decide on the plans. Specialists would be available to attend future meetings. Cambridge University had also set up a Community Forum and invited local stakeholders including Girton Parish Council to discuss issues of concern. The first meeting would be Wednesday 31 March.

Councillors raised a number of issues, including:

- the lack of reference to Girton Parish (*rather than Girton village*) in the planning documents to date;
- Girton Town Charity should also be regarded as a stakeholder;
- the negative effect on public footpaths across the development site;
- worries about construction traffic and the increase in local traffic, and the need for a senior member of Highways Department of Cambridgeshire CC to attend a future Girton Parish Council meeting.

Action: Clerk to issue an invitation

2. Members of the public:

- i) Jenny Knights, Town Charity Trustee, gave a short presentation about Girton Town Charity. It currently had 7 trustees, five of whom are appointed by Girton Parish Council and two by GTC trustees. Girton Parish Council's current appointments of Robin Hiley and Ray Gordon expired in May 2010. It was essential that the Council gave very careful

consideration to future appointments as trustees needed to be fully committed and prepared to cope with a heavy work load with regular meetings.

Charity Commission guidelines should be followed when making appointments. This would normally include receipt of information and an interview. Consultation with current appointees would be helpful. Cllr Hiley added that the normal process should include advertising, and receipt of briefing from GTC, followed by interview of short listed candidates.

Cllr de Lacey acknowledged that the time had arrived for the Council to formalise the past ad hoc approach to trustee appointments, and to be guided by advice issued by the Charity Commission and the Charity.

ii) Tim Shuker-Yates, was introduced as the new youth leader and welcomed by Councillors.

3. District Councillors' reports - Cllr de Lacey's report which was circulated in advance of the meeting is attached at Appendix A. No report was received from Cllr Bygott.

4. County Councillor's reports – Cllr Reynolds' initial report was circulated prior to the meeting. He advised that he had also produced a supplementary report shortly before the meeting. **Action:** Clerk to circulate

Cllr Hiley asked about the £10m over run of costs on the guided busway. Would these result in further cuts to public services? Cllr Reynolds advised that these monies would be deducted from the final payment to the contractor.

Cllr Martin asked whether Cambridgeshire had an integrated transport plan and was advised that the county was working towards one. He also queried the quality of emergency pothole repairs. Cllr Reynolds said that these were done with warm rather than hot tarmac resulting in quick but often temporary repairs.

5. Police Report for Girton from 16th February to 17th March – Two burglaries, three thefts and two crimes described as being of a “sensitive nature”.

6. Parish Plan – No report received.

10/34 To confirm the minutes of Parish Council meetings of 17th February 2010.

Prop: Cllr C Starling Sec: Cllr L Sparling

Approved by the Council, and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

10/35 Matters arising

10/21/ii Spine road though Wellbrook Way	We understand that Cambridgeshire CC has offered to adopt the road straightaway.
10/24/iii Clearance works on Footpath 13	Now completed.

10/36 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council

- (a) To approve the recommendation from the Environment Committee for expenditure on the boundary works between the recreation ground and St Johns Field (*specified at Appendix B*) subject to external funding being obtained.

Prop: Cllr R Gordon Sec: Cllr D de Lacey

Cllr Gordon referred to the specification, and explained that the Environment Committee had considered all 6 of the tabled quotations. It was recommending the quotation of £4997 (+vat) by

Brookfields as it was one of the lowest bids, and included better quality fencing wire than other companies. The Council approved this recommendation by majority vote with two abstentions.

(b) To authorise an approach to Girton Town Charity for a grant to cover the cost.

Prop: Cllr D de Lacey Sec: Cllr V Godby

Approved by majority vote with three abstentions.

2. Girton Parish Council notes the proposals of the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste Disposal draft to extract material at sites M7E, M7F and M7G, for the expansion of the A14. It approves the restoration of M7E and F as a water feature. It proposes tree planting wherever possible. It requests Bridleway 6 and Footpath 7 to be restored. It requests to be consulted again on the detailed planning applications. It hereby authorises the Chairman to respond to the Consultation with these points (Appendix C)

Prop: Cllr J Ford-Smith Sec: Cllr D de Lacey

Cllr Hiley was concerned about the safety aspects of any water feature, and requested that Girton Parish Council be consulted prior to this being determined. Cllr P Starling said that the restoration of Bridleway 6 and Footpath 7 were complicated by the A14 works.

Approved by majority vote with one against.

3. To approve the response to the third transport plan for Cambridgeshire.

Withdrawn.

4. To approve proceeding with participating in the Future Jobs Fund scheme for Cambridgeshire (Item 09/113/8), and delegate appointments to the Parish Chairman and Clerk.

Prop: Cllr D de Lacey Sec: Cllr M Wilson

Councillors raised several queries covering employee insurance, supervision, and the need for a third person on the interview panel. Prior to taking a vote Cllr de Lacey proposed, and Cllr Ford-Smith seconded amending the motion by adding the words "and a Councillor" before "Clerk". This was approved by majority vote with one abstention. The revised motion was then put to the vote, and passed by majority vote with four abstentions.

5. To re-appoint Cllrs Hiley and Gordon as Girton Parish Council's Trustees to Girton Town Charity for a further term.

Deferred until April 2010 meeting.

10/37 Finance & resource management

1. To approve payments from 17th February 2010 to 16th March 2010

Prop: Cllr R Martin Sec: Cllr C Starling

Approved by majority vote with one abstention.

2. To approve the balance sheet at 28th February 2010

Prop: Cllr R Hiley Sec: Cllr R Gordon Approved. Unanimous.

3. To receive the finance report from 1st April 2009 to 28th February 2010

Received.

4. To approve back pay for staff based on NALC's recommended pay rates for 2009/10 announced in September 2009.

Prop: Cllr de Lacey Sec: Cllr

Cllr de Lacey explained that NALC's annual pay negotiations 2009/10 were not finalised until halfway through the financial year. The Council's approval was needed prior to 12 months back payments (*from 10p to 16p/hour*) totalling **£349.64** being made to the Council's four part time members of staff in April 2010.

Approved by unanimous vote.

5. To consider the list of insurance items at Appendix D, and determine which to approve to provide additional cover for the Council.

Following discussion Cllr de Lacey proposed, and Cllr Hiley seconded the following changes to the Girton Parish Council's insurance cover for 2010/11:

Trim trail	Removing replacement cover of £23,595.	Saving £311 for 2010/11.
Tennis ball serving machine	Owned by tennis club. To be removed from Council Schedule.	Reduction of £13.95 in premium for 2010/11.
Computers	New laptop to be added to schedule.	Additional cost of £4.60

The Council voted to approve these changes by unanimous vote.

6. To approve replacing the existing Cambridge Building Society Account with:

- an Easy Access Business Savers Account for non specified reserves; and
- a Business Savers Account for specified reserves.

Following discussion Cllr Hiley proposed, and Cllr de Lacey seconded opening two Business Saver Accounts, one for non specified reserves and one for specified reserves in view of the 1.50% interest rates they attracted subject to 30 days notice of withdrawal. These changes should be implemented after the new Council, and authorised signatories, were in place. This amended motion was approved by unanimous vote Action: PFO.

7. To approve expenditure for two training courses (& travel costs) for the PFO to attend:

- CPALC 14th April 2010 Year End Accounts at St Ives £55
- SLCC 15th June VAT course at Haslemere, Surrey £95 (+ standard rail fare).

Prop: Cllr de Lacey Sec: Cllr C Starling Unanimous

10/38 Correspondence received (circulated at the meeting)

Standards Committee Newsletter	Parish Council member vacancy. Volunteer(s)?
SLCC 2010 Course Programme	Available to Members
Big Lottery Fund - Extra Funding available	Lead Councillor to assist with funding bids?
Neighbourhood Panels Publicity	Clerk to display on notice boards
Girton Bowls Club	Future relationship with GPC
SCDC letter on parish council elections	Advice on dates in the event of combined elections.
Northstowe & low carbon demonstrator project	Update on national eco towns policy statement
Roger Taylor, Project Director NW Cambridge	Environmental standards for new development
Changes to Stagecoach & Norfolk Green services	Includes Girton – see Citi 5 & 6

Insurance cover	Proposals (see Appendix D)
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10//39 To receive reports:

- i) Chairman's Report (Attached at Appendix B) - Cllr de Lacy added that Wimpeys had been very helpful regarding the LEAP at Wellbrook Way and had ordered the play equipment. Planning permission had been granted by SCDC but with six pages of conditions. These included a requirement that the fencing around the play area should be black rather than green. Another development within the village was that St Colette's School would be closing because of lack of support.
- ii) Girton Town Charity Report – Gaining planning permission for alms houses on Wellbrook Way was proving time consuming and costly. The Community Warden Scheme was becoming increasingly successful. GTC existed to help meet local needs but residents were not requesting assistance to the extent that might be expected. This was to be addressed by improving publicity about the charity's work in Girton. A special celebration was being arranged in June to mark Girton Town Charity's 100th anniversary.
- iii) Girton Youth Club - The YMCA had recruited a new youth worker for a further three years. The youth club was being successful in attracting those in their teenage years but was not doing quite so well with the 8 to 13 year old age group.
- iv) Footpaths and Rights of Way – No report given.
- v) Dog Control – Cllr Wilson tabled a report for information detailing the recommendations of the working group. This would need to be considered by the new Council. Prior to a Dog Control Order being made for Girton there would need to be formal consultation with the residents of the village. Publicity would be important. The Chairman thanked Cllr Wilson and working group members for their work to date.
Action: Clerk for future agenda.
- vi) Smithy Green – Cllr Gordon reported on the Environment Committee's work on Smithy Green. Rather than replanting a traditional hedge the Committee had approved the design drawn up by Cllr Martin for a shrubbery to provide colour and interest for much of the year. He had visited six garden centres to gain quotations. Five had responded. The Committee had approved the tender by Scotsdales of £540 as this most closely met the specification. Planting costs would be approximately £90 to £100. It was hoped this could be progressed in the near future.

10/40 To receive unconfirmed Committee minutes for the Planning meeting of 1st March and Sport & Recreation Committee of 10th March.

The minutes of the Planning Meeting of 1st March were received. Councillors were advised that the Sport & Recreation minutes of 10 March would be circulated as soon as possible.

10/41 Matters raised by Councillors including items for the next Agenda.

Councillors commented that signs of local events posted by the roadside should be taken down shortly after they had occurred, and that play equipment should be made available for disabled children.

Cllr de Lacey advised that agreement had been reached with the Clerk to as far as possible reduce his workload, and reassess the role after six months at the end of September 2010.

The meeting ended at 9:13pm.

Cllr de Lacey's District Councillor Report for March 2010

On 25 February the Council met, primarily to set its annual budget. This was presented as a truly conservative budget: risk-averse, cutting millions off our spending yet somehow managing to meet all our needs. The leader of the LibDems claimed on the contrary it was an extremely risky budget: the reduction in staff would increase the risks of delay in planning applications (already quite excessive, and some huge applications yet to be assessed); risk in the planning of our new communities; and yet at the same time still facing the risk of being capped. However, he put forward no alternative, not too surprising as we had had so little time to digest the figures. My own major concern is the very great discrepancies between our last year's budget estimates and actual spending, with enormous overspends on items like agency staff and consultants, equipment purchases, and `other'(!). Correspondingly there are huge underspends, and the suspicious may think these indicate reduced value to our residents rather than prudent pruning by managers. The budget as approved proposes a smidgeon under 3% increase; about the same as the other authorities who bid for bits of your Council Tax. Our tenants were also awarded a 2.7% rent increase. It could have been worse.

The Chief Executive, Greg Harlock, has announced that he is resigning `in my own best interests and those of the authority'. He will work a six month period of notice.

We have a little more information on the breakdown of negotiations over the partial merger with Uttlesford, though no indication as to what follows now.

At the end of February SCDC dished up two interesting surprises. After months of pushing I was delighted to learn that the planning application for the play area on Wellbrook Way had finally been approved. But the Decision Notice adds five pages of conditions which are likely to delay procedures. Wimpey have agreed to pull the stops out to try nonetheless to achieve everything by 31 March, but it is another example of the lack of communication which makes the job so much more difficult. And for the Planning Committee another bombshell: an application that an eyesore derelict caravan which the Parish and District has been trying to get moved for years has now been in situ so long that the owner has applied to have the use legalised and officers seemed to think this would be straightforward. However, neighbours deny the owner's claims and so we have a messy situation developing which I shall monitor carefully.

Plans to `consider the future management maintenance and adoption of the proposed sustainable drainage system (SuDs) that will serve the NIAB development in the North West Quadrant' have just been announced and will be decided on by the Environmental Services PFH. I am grateful that Girton Parish Council has a qualified, retired water engineer among its number who can advise me on such matters. Future failure of NIAB's drainage could be catastrophic for Girton.

Douglas de Lacey

Appendix B

Specification for the replacing of boundary hedge and fence between St Johns Field and the Recreation Ground.

The length of hedge between St John's field and the old recreation ground a distance of approximately 178 metres and extends from the boundary with the St Andrews Church cemetery and the ditch bordering the Ten Acre field.

What remains of the hawthorn hedge must be cut down to 10cm above ground level to allow the stumps to rejuvenate and the ivy removed.

As the ivy will re-grow it must be sprayed with herbicide twice during the first year, care must be taken to avoid spraying the new growth from the hawthorn stumps.

A kissing gate and a 12' field gate (both supplied) must be erected in the positions indicated and a fence erected on the recreation ground side of the hedge as close to the hedge as possible.

The wooden fence posts should be 2 metres long, approx' 10cm in diameter and treated with a wood preservative.

The distance between the posts will vary because of the tree roots but should not exceed 4 metres.

Angled supports should be placed on both sides of the posts at not more than 50 metre intervals.

Three single strands of wire should be stapled to the posts and tensioned.

Pig wire .8 metre high should be stapled to the posts with a gap of 20cm between the soil level and the wire.

A double row of hawthorn whips should be planted to fill any gaps between the stumps and rabbit guards used to prevent damage. The bare areas close to the chestnut trees should be planted with either well rooted holly bushes or hawthorn.

Please quote both.

On the St John's field side of the hedge/fence the bramble and other growth should be cut back to ground level and the ditch cleared of debris. Any soil removed from the ditch should be spread at normal soil level.

To gain access to the field gate and kissing gate the ditch should be piped using concrete pipes .5 meter diameter or wooden bridge erected.

Contractors

Contractors may quote for the whole of this work or parts of it.

Because this work may extend over a long period stage payment can be arranged.

Ray Gordon

Environment Committee Chairman.

6th February 2010

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals Consultation

Three sites are proposed for providing filling material (clay and other minerals) for the widening of the A14 from sites affecting Girton (coded M7E M7F and M7G): Slate Hall Farm (to the west of the A14 and south of Dry Drayton Road), Grange Farm (contiguous to Slate Hall), within Girton Parish, and between the Avenue and the Girton Flyover, west of the A14, also within the Parish. These would affect Girton very directly from 2012 to 2016. Given that M7E and M7F are contiguous we are effectively dealing with two sites. Within the consultation document we are dealing with paragraphs 7.47 -- 7.52. (The consultation document is at <http://tinyurl.com/yangew3> which takes you to Peterborough's website)

This is for building the A14, a government backed road building scheme which will proceed (subject to funding and a Public Inquiry) however much we may wish to prevent it from happening. We are not being asked to discuss the scheme. It is our task to ensure what is done at these borrow pits may be to the ultimate benefit of Girton

Issues which should concern us include moving of heavy vehicles between excavations and the A14 leading to an increase in traffic; and, at the end of it, two large holes in the nearby ground. However, the consultation does not at this stage cover traffic movement, only the end-use of the pits.

We note that with both the excavation sites the presumption is to return the land to agricultural use.

For M7E and M7F the proposal is "Restoration to agricultural after use. (Potential for irrigation reservoir providing opportunities for flood water storage)." The site slopes down towards Washpit and the Golf Club. On balance we might benefit from a partial return to agriculture use combined with a recreational and visually attractive water feature.

For M7G the proposal is that "Restoration should look at potential for contributing to Green Corridor 23 Cambridge Outer Orbital Corridor". ridleway 6 and Footpath 7 are both affected by this site. We need to ensure their retention.

An alternative to simple return to agriculture would be to use at least some of the land for tree-planting. Some trees such as poplar and willow have a significant effect in the absorption of water and maintaining the balance of the air, also they can make a very good sound barrier.

We propose seeking advice on the use of trees which may not immediately affect us but will be beneficial to our children and their successors.

The consultation period is 15.02.10 - 29.03.10 thus we cannot express our views in any useful manner unless we approve a motion at this meeting. The consultation requires response paragraph-by-paragraph rather than a simple overall assessment. We propose a motion which we hope will enable the Chairman to respond to the consultation on our behalf.

James Ford-Smith & Douglas de Lacey

Appendix D

REVIEW OF INSURANCE COVER – POSSIBLE CHANGES TO SCHEDULE

Item	Covered/not covered	Recommendation	Additional Cost
Subsidence (excess £1000)	Not covered	Ignore	Detailed questionnaire to be completed.
CCTV (external)	Not covered	Ignore.	£66 for £5k cover.
Gates/fences	Not covered (except for impact)	Ignore.	Valuation of fence(s) required.
War memorials	Not covered but GPC has powers to do repair works.	Ignore.	Valuation required from stonemason.
Mowers & similar	Not covered (apart from poweroller).	Consider for new equipment.	Cover for new £5K mower would be £145.50
Other ground surfaces (MUGA/bowling green?)	Not covered.	Consider for new surfaces	To be looked at by underwriter when installed
Playground equipment	Not covered	Ignore	Need to provide lists, costs and dates for quote.
Bus shelters (x4)	Covered	Current cover of £12,977.	Underwriters to advise based on cover needed.
Trim trail	Covered	Current cover £23,595. Remove.	Possible saving £311 for 2010/11.
Tennis ball serving machine	Covered	Owned by tennis club. To be removed from Schedule.	Reduction of £13.95 in premium for 2010/11.
Computers	Covered	New laptop to be added.	Additional cost of £4.60

Notes: 1.) Policy renewal date 1st April 2010

2.) Premium £2,704 (before adjustments are made to cover)

3.) Dependent on Clerk and Councillors not having been subject to any County Court Judgements!

4.) Personal cover to be pursued when new Council installed. **Action:** Clerk

Appendix E

Chairman's Report

Last month I attended the Parish Plan meeting and am pleased at the progress being made. The Plan should be ready well before the time of the Annual Parish Meeting (1 June) and will inform the discussion there on the way ahead for Girton.

At the end of February I joined a large and enthusiastic band of volunteers to plant the Oakington Wood, and met there County officers who are sympathetic to increasing woodland in Girton. The scrubby area behind the School will need some attention in the next few years and I am asking if some of this might be planted as an orchard,, but since it is earmarked for expansion of the school this might be difficult.

The string of conditions attached to the Planning Consent for the LEAP are very puzzling, but I have been unable to contact Melissa Reynolds for an explanation. Some of them appear to put requirements on us to do work before the LEAP can be constructed -- which is a requirement for us to receive the land! I shall keep trying.

Douglas de Lacey