

**Minutes of the Meeting of Girton Parish Council on Wednesday 20th October 2010
at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs de Lacey (in the Chair), Bromwich, Cockley, Ford Smith, , Godby, Hiley, Johnson, Martin, Noble, Taylor, Thorrold, Wilson, Barnard (from item 10/124.2). Garner (from item 10/127.1)

District Councillor Bygott and 1 member of the public.

In attendance: Linda Miller (Acting Clerk) Natalie Stone (PFO) Jo Howard (New Clerk)

10/120 Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public, and gave a particular welcome to Jo Howard who will shortly take up the position of Clerk to the Council..

10/121 To co-opt Mr John Thorrold to the Council

The Chairman welcomed Mr Thorrold back to the Council.

10/122 Apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ash and County Councillor Reynolds. The Chairman accepted their apologies.

10/123 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

None.

10/124 Public Participation session on agenda items & matters of mutual interest

1. Members of the public

No public participation.

2. County Councillor's report

In relation to the announcement made in Parliament today, the County Council will need to cut 7.1% each year over the next 4 years in order to save £135 million pounds over 5 years. Final allocations would be made on 7th December. In relation to infrastructure, the A14 had shelved, and Andrew Lansley and the Transport Minister had been on television to promote the need for improvement.

3. District Councillors' reports

Cllr de Lacey's report had been circulated (see Appendix A). Cllr Bygott reported that the District Council needs to save about 7.1%. It is in a fairly good position with the budget at the moment but will make some cuts.. In the first blue bin collection on Tuesday a lot more material was collected than expected. Several more collections will be necessary before useful statistical information can be obtained. S.106 money – there will be more scope for parishes and local residents to suggest projects. Parishes are being encouraged to produce emergency plans.. There is an initiative to identify unnecessary street clutter which detracts from the rural setting and there will be a competition to send in photographs of the worse street clutter. Also sustainable parish enterprise, expanding tidy streets to encourage residents to be more house proud.

Cllr Barnard joined the meeting at this point.

Cllr Martin asked about the budget in relation to the guided bus overspend. Cllr Bygott on behalf of Cllr Reynolds said there wasn't a great deal of scope to do anything at present and the matter was likely to end in the Courts.

The Chairman asked what was happening with the material which had been collected. Cllr Bygott replied that it will be processed in a Multi Use Recycling Facility (MURF) yet to be built, but the Company carrying out this work did have other MURFs and there was the potential to ship material to another site in the interim.

4. Police Report: See Appendix B

Cllr Godby noted that a vehicle window had been smashed in the car park and a bag stolen; she asked about CCTV. The Chairman said that the CCTV was pointed in the right direction but unfortunately the lady's car was obscured by other cars.. Cllr Godby asked if dummy cameras might be considered.

10/125 To confirm the minutes of Parish Council meeting of 15 September 2010.

The Minutes of the 15th September meeting were approved: Prop. Cllr Wilson Sec Cllr Ford Smith . Approved with 3 abstentions.

10/126 Matters arising from the Minutes

10/114.5	Hedgeworks in process. Landscaping to be negotiated with NHBC
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10/127 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council

Councillor Garner joined the meeting at this point.

1. That the Council spend £130.00 on experimental Christmas lights as per the proposal from Mr Sam Clift.(see appendix C) from the budget allocated. Prop Cllr de Lacey Sec Cllr Godby.

Approved with. 1 abstention. **Action: Clerk and Mr Clift**

2. That the Council approve arrangements proposed by the Appointments Committee for the Clerk's hours and salary. Prop Appointments Committee. The new Clerk left the meeting. It was noted that if the Clerk was not to be present at a meeting there should be some contractual arrangement with the person taking the minutes, and the Clerk should retain overall responsibility for the minutes. The desirability for the Clerk to be available by telephone, if not in person, for all meetings was noted..

Approved with 2 abstentions

3. To agree to reimburse the Groundsman £100 per annum for phone calls made on his personal mobile in execution of his duties. Prop Cllr de Lacey sec Cllr Johnson.

Cllr Hiley proposed, and Cllr de Lacey accepted, an amendment: That the Council agree in principle to a dedicated mobile phone being provided to the Groundsman for exclusive use in the course of Parish business only.

Approved with 2 abstentions. **Action: Clerk to investigate suitable mobile phone packages.**

4. That Cllr Cockley be appointed to the Planning and Resources Committee and Cllr Thorrold to the Sport and Recreation Committee. Prop Cllr de Lacey sec Cllr Godby

Approved unanimously.

5. That the Council approve a task-and-finish group to assess the Council's reactions to the Parish Plan and report on a final version. Prop Cllr de Lacey, Sec Cllr Wilson. Cllr Wilson proposed an amendments wich Cllr de Lacey accepted: that the matter be dealt with by the Planning & Resources Committee on 1st November.

Approved with. 1 abstention. **Action: P&R Committee**

6. That the Council approve the quotation from Pica Flooring to remedy the Pavilion floor (see appendix D). The Chairman noted that this entails the Council suspending Financial Regulations as 3 quotations have not been sought since Pica were recommended by Junckers as the appropriate contractor. This was agreed unanimously. Cllr de Lacey then put the main motion, sec Cllr Wilson.

Cllr de Lacey noted the Council would continue to look into whether we can get the builder or architect to take responsibility in relation to the original floor.

Approved unanimously.

7. That the Council vote for a Parish Council Member of the Standards Committee. (This will be abolished, at some time in the next Parliament). Prop Cllr de Lacey, Sec Cllr Godby.

The Council felt it had inadequate grounds for a decision.

Rejected unanimously.

10/128 Finance & resource management

1. To approve payments from 16 September to 20 October 2010. Prop Cllr Thorrold sec Cllr Garner

Approved with one abstention

2. To approve the balance sheet at 30 September 2010: Prop Cllr Garner sec Cllr de Lacey
Approved with 1 abstention.

3. To receive the finance report from 1 April 2009 to 30 September 2010

The report was received.

10/129 Correspondence received

1. Application for post of Councillor	
2. Project report from Director of NW Cambridge Project	
3. Letter from Head Teacher of Gretton School	
4. Letter from resident concerning cycles on pavements	Chairman's response attached
Letter from County Council concerning winter gritting arrangements	
6. Letter from resident concerning dog walking	Cllr Wilson's response attached
7. Letter from resident concerning 2 High Street.	Chairman's response attached
8. Reply to Girton Bowls Club	
9 Reply to Ms Savino	
10 Correspondence from a resident of Weavers Field	Chairman's response attached
11. Correspondence from a resident concerning the ARU field	Chairman's response attached
12. Letter from Chairman to Parish Plan Committee	
13. Letter from Chairman to Cllr Bygott	
14. Letter from Chairman to Cllr Reynolds	
15. Letter from Chairman to January's	
16 Ballot for Parish Member of Standards Board	
17 Letter from SCDC re new planning website	
18 <i>Local Councils Update</i>	
19 Addenbrookes <i>Members Matter</i> newsletter	
20 <i>No Need for Nuclear</i> newsletter	
21 CPRE Hedgerow Course information	
22 County Council notification of Public Inspection of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy DPD	

10/130 To receive reports:

1. Chairman's Report . Included at appendix E
2. Girton Town Charity. Cllr Hiley noted there was nothing he could share with the Council at this stage
3. Girton Youth Club. No report
4. Footpaths and Rights of Way. Included at appendix F

10/131 To receive unconfirmed Committee minutes.

Minutes of Planning and Sport and Recreation Committee had been circulated.

10/132 Matters raised by Councillors, including items for the Agenda of 17 November 2010.

Cllr Taylor noted he had just circulated a letter from the County Cycling Officer offering cycle stands for Council buildings and local shops.

Cllr Wilson reported that a positive meeting had been held between the Planning and Resources Committee and the Bowls Club.

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.

Appendix A

SCDC Councillor de Lacey's October Report

Following my concerns about our Planning website, there have been a number of developments. At the relevant Portfolio Holder's meeting the issue was raised since a report had been promised. Although the Head of IT had apparently not been asked to produce one, he has now and it will come to the next meeting. Meanwhile I had a long session with him discussing a number of related concerns. The issue was also raised at the Planning Portfolio Holder's meeting where many grave concerns were voiced by District Councillors who also had Parish roles. It is clear that the new CEO will need to look at many issues to do with procurement and the role of the ICT department.

The Corporate Governance Committee has also asked for a further review of ICT, and added the Planning website to our list of risks. We also expressed concern over the lack of progress over identifying Gypsy and Traveller pitches in the District.

SCDC has put in a joint bid for a Local Enterprise Partnership (the Government's latest way of making funding available to local communities): our bid is one of 22 which have gone to the next round. Of course the whole project may be scrapped in the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The New Communities PFH has received a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, a meaty document of particular relevance to the various proposed new developments (including NW Cambridge and NIAB) and therefore of great importance to Girton. Briefed by Cllr Bromwich I noted the comment 'The main driver of increasing future flood risk is climate change which, together with the potential effects from future development, could increase peak flows by up to 20%.' So why are developers assuring us that all their developments will be water-neutral? The issue will be investigated. Other Councillors noted various inaccuracies and problems in the Report; it is worrying that such issues remain in such a vital piece of work, but reassuring that Councillors are taking seriously our role of scrutinising our District's development. We were asked, incidentally, if any of our villages had sewers which combined surface water run-off and foul sewers, as though the answer would be 'of course not'. Well, it certainly happens in Girton.. And, incidentally, in Cambourne where it is a cause of major problems. Another incidental comment elicited the useful fact that there is an electronic map of the Award Drains in the region, and this will be put on-line. This should help our Parish to ensure that the whole of its open drainage system is functioning properly.

Douglas de Lacey

Appendix B

Girton Parish Council meeting Police report from 16th September to 20th October 2010

Apologises that none of us are able to attend for various reasons.

There have been 30 incident reported between 16th September and 20th October 2010 for Girton. Please note that some of the incidents/crimes are not suitable for disclosure.

1 Dwelling burglaries in Cambridge University Farm, Girton

2 Thefts, thefts of pedal cycle at Girton College. Theft from motor vehicle at recreation park, Cambridge Road.

6 Bilking over the month at BP petrol ST, Huntingdon Road.

1 Rowdy nuisance in Wellbrook Way, a group of approx 60 youths in playground area, under the influence of alcohol.

4 suspicious circumstances,: Thornton Road, regard a phone calls of rogue traders. Wellbrook Way, a vehicle with people in it was parked near to the play park with a good view of a lot of houses. Fairway, neighbours in the area became aware of people on one of the roofs, 2 men have asked the resident if there is any work needed to be done on their roof. Fairways, red van with 2 males wearing red tops have been knocking door to door asking if anyone wants guttering cleared.

The majority of incidents called in relate to suspicious circumstances.

These include reports of door to door sales, rogue traders, and vehicle driving slowly around the village paying attention to houses. We would like to encourage people to call these incidents into the police directly and at the time of it occurring. That way, if there are officers in or near to the area we have a better chance of locating the people or vehicles to establish their reasons for being in the area.

We also like to mention E-cops. It is a free emailing system that we use to stay in touch with the residents and keep you up to date with what we are doing as we sent out weekly updates and you can respond to us by returning E-cops or letting us know of anything needing out attention in you village. If you would like to register please visit the following website address:

www.cambs.police.uk/signup/ecops

We are very sorry that we cannot attend the Parish council meeting on October 20th 10, alternatively if you have any questions you might need to ask us or any issues you might need to bring forward to our attention please contact us via email:

Clair.reeve@cambs.pnn.police.uk

bujar.mani@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Appendix C

Xmas Lights - For circulation to all Parish Councillors please

Last year £800 was set aside by the Parish Council to purchase some Xmas lights for the village. Issues with regard to Health and Safety, safety of electricity outside and the various other dangers to the public from wiring etc have had to be taken into consideration. Clearly under these circumstances insurance would have to be considered and I suspect that that would not be cheap. Running costs are also an issue in these 'Green' days

To try to allay some of these costs and dangers I have purchased a 14metre long strip of LED solar powered lights for the Parish Council and I have erected them along the fascia of the Pavilion and overlooking the car park. The idea is to see how well the lights perform, whether they are bright enough for the purpose we propose and for Councillors to inspect and give their views. During the time that I have been in possession of the lights I found that they performed well and retained their brightness from dusk to daybreak. Since placing them onto the Pavilion I have found that they work well but the powerful lights of the building detract from their brightness.

My suggestion, if the Parish Council decides to progress this matter, would be to purchase more strings and display them in the large tree on Smithy Green. I believe that this is the best place to use lights of this nature and it is an ideal place where most people from the village would see them.

I would ask that Councillors visit the Pavilion and view the string of blue LED lights and bearing in mind the strong security lights from the Pavilion, make up their minds as to whether or not lights such as these would make a colourful statement if a number of them were to be placed in the Smithy Green tree. It appears that 14 meter strips may no longer be available from my source but 7.5 metre strips are available and in various and/or multi-colours. Cost for 75 metres would be around £130.

For your consideration and final decisions.

Sam Clift 1. 10. 2010

Appendix D

See attached letter. Pica have confirmed that this is a firm quotation and still valid.

Appendix E

Chairman's Report to Girton Parish Council 13. 10. 2010

Having received a letter from a parent whose child had been hit by a car as he crossed Oakington Road to access the shared-use path to Histon, I contacted the safety team at the county Council. The upshot was a site visit and a number of safety measures which officers hope to install over the coming half-term: such a rapid and helpful response is a great delight.

On 27 September I attended a meeting called by the Chairman of Impington PC to ensure that we have a contingency plan should the A14 survive the CSR. Three Parishes have allocated funds in their budgets and we agreed a number of steps which could be quickly taken if the Public Inquiry is reinstated.

I had scheduled a meeting with Tim Chaudhry of Abbeyfield, who wishes to co-ordinate their leisure facilities with our plans. This has had to be postponed but should have taken place before our meeting so I hope to offer a verbal update. By then there should also have been the meeting with the Bowls Club.

The Parish Plan launch on 11 October was a great success: well attended and with a great deal of interest shown. It is clear that the Committee feels its work is now done, and it is now up to the Council to take the project to the next stage.

CLr Ash and I spoke at the Regent House Discussion on 12 October to express our concerns over the current NW Cambridge plans. There was also an interesting contribution from Professor Ross Anderson noting that the financial case for the development of market housing has entirely collapsed in the current economic situation and urging the University to abandon that part of the plan completely.

Douglas de Lacey

Appendix F

Footpaths and Rights of Way Report

TABLE 1 – INSPECTION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATHS WITHIN GIRTON PARISH IN OCTOBER 2010

Footpath No	Approx. Length Metres	Location	Type	Remarks
1	320	East of Manor Farm Road	Tarmac/Gravel/Grass	
2	30	West of Oakington Road, opposite Manor Farm Road	Grass	Unmarked
3	150	Connects Church Lane with High Street	Tarmac	Some minor surface cracks
4	1300	Connects M11 underpass with Woody Green	Tarmac	Some minor surface cracks
7	400	Connects The Avenue with the base of the A14 road embankment	Grass path along edge of arable field (sown)	Ploughing too close to hedge line
8	980	Connects "Little Shrubs" with The Avenue (between Dry Drayton and Girton)	Grass path along edge of arable fields (western field ploughed; eastern field stubble)	Ploughing too close to hedge line in western field
10	200	Runs along SE Parish boundary connecting FP 48 with FP5	Mud and gravel	Needs resurfacing
13	230	Connects Thornton Close with FP48	Mud and gravel	Needs resurfacing. Especially muddy adjacent to the close boarded timber fence beside No 76 Thornton Close over a length of 25 metres
14	80	Connects Dodford Lane with Northfield	Tarmac	Good Condition
48	480	Runs along SE Parish boundary between Huntingdon Rd and FP10	Concrete access road	

GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT ON FOOTPATHS OCTOBER 2010

There are approx. 4.17 km of public footpaths within the Girton Parish Boundary as shown on Table 1 attached. All of these, apart from FP7, were inspected during October 2010 and their condition assessed. It was impossible to access FP7 because the adjacent arable field had recently been sown and the ploughing was so close to the hedge line as to leave insufficient space for walking. Despite the sign on The Avenue proclaiming, "Public Footpath Girton 1 Mile", FP7 seems to come to a dead end at the base of the A14 road embankment and from there, there is no obvious right of way which walkers could use to reach Girton. Part of FP8 is similarly restricted because ploughing is too close to the hedge line. This suggests that FP7 and FP8 are rarely used as a means of pedestrian access between Dry Drayton and Girton although they may have been used more in earlier times before the construction of the complex A14/M11 interchange. With regard to FP3 and FP4, some minor repairs to cracks in the tarmac surface would be beneficial to prevent further deterioration during winter frosts.

In the case of FP10 and FP13, consideration should be given to providing tarmac surfaces to the same standard as can be seen on FP14.

Brian Bromwich
17 October 2010