

Girton Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st December, 2011 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Members of the parish were invited to attend this meeting and to speak at Item 11/155.1

Present: Cllrs: de Lacey (Chairman), Clift, Cockley, Garner, Godby, Gordon, Hiley (from Item 11/158.2), Noble, Simpson (from Item 11/158.1), Taylor, Thorrold, Westley, Williams.

Councillor Bygott (SCDC) (until Item 11/158.1)

In Attendance: S Cumming (Clerk), N Stone (RFO)

11/152 Welcome from the Chairman The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Mr Simpson who had applied to be co-opted on to the Parish Council.

11/153 Apologies and reasons for absence Apologies had been received from Councillors Bromwich, Martin and Reynolds (CCC) and their reasons were accepted by the Chairman.

11/154 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda Cllrs Godby and Noble declared a prejudicial interest in Item 11/158.6. The Chairman declared a personal interest in Item 11/158.5

11/155 Public Participation session on agenda items & matters of mutual interest:

1. Members of the Public. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.
2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*)
3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Cllr Bygott spoke about the Diamond Jubilee project to collect photographs of Coronation Celebrations in the district. He then gave an update on the A14, where a toll for long-distance use may be introduced by 2018. The government is proposing to give £20 million for remedial works at the Huntingdon end and Girton interchange.
4. Police Report. There will be no formal police reports in future – see correspondence item 11/160.1. The Chairman recommended that all Councillors join E-Cops. Crimes in Girton reported on E-Cops over the last month were outlined by the Chairman. It was noted that there has recently been a significant increase in burglaries in neighbouring villages. Cllr Godby has received a letter from the new police chief, and this will be added to the correspondence file.

At this point the Chairman brought forward Item 11/158.1. Cllr Bygott left the meeting at this point.

11/158.1 Co-Option of Parish Councillor to replace Cllr Johnson

Mr Simpson was co-opted as a new Parish Councillor, signed the Acceptance of Office document and was welcomed by the Chairman.

11/156 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 16th November, 2011 and the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting of 7th December, 2011

The Minutes of the 16th November Parish Council Meeting were proposed as a true record by Cllr Godby, seconded by Cllr Gordon, approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman. The Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting of 7th December 2011 were proposed as a true record by Cllr Westley, seconded by Cllr Gordon, approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

11/157 Matters arising from the Minutes:

11/140.3 The Chairman reported that the repairs to the Trim Trail had been completed.

11/140.4 Regarding the proposal for double yellow lines at the junction of Weavers Field and Girton Road, the Chairman has consulted the Co-Op store manager and the Chairman and Clerk have met with the Area Highways Engineer to discuss how to take this matter forward. The Council will now consult with local residents. The costs of implementation may well have to be borne by the Parish Council.

11/150.1 Consultation with Abbeyfield is ongoing.

The Chairman also made a statement about Mr Calladine's planning appeal, which he attended on 13th December. A decision is expected in the new year.

11/158 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council:

1. Co-Option of Parish Councillor to replace Cllr Johnson. See above.

2. Appointment of Members to Committees

With three new councillors recently co-opted to the Parish Council, it was necessary to appoint them to committees. Cllr Cockley proposed that Cllrs Williams and Simpson be appointed to the Sport and Recreation Committee, and Cllr Westley be appointed to the Environment Committee, seconded by Cllr Gordon, and approved unanimously. It was also proposed by Cllr de Lacey that Cllr Westley be appointed to the Planning Committee, seconded by Cllr Gordon, and approved unanimously.

3. To authorise the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to sign all necessary documents for the Taylor-Wimpey Deed of Variation, the Land Registry transfer documents, and the transfer of the Wellbrook Way Section 106 monies to the Council.

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Godby, and agreed unanimously.

The Parish Council's solicitor should provide the transfer documents to be signed on 22nd December, 2011. The first monies should be handed over to our solicitor on 22nd December.

4. To authorise Histon Early Years Centre to operate a Mobile Toy Library in the Recreation Ground.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Garner, and approved unanimously with one abstention.

The proposal is for the Toy Library to be between the Pavilion and the tennis courts. Councillors raised questions of insurance, hygiene and the need to visit the Thornton Road area on their route through Girton.

5. To approve the naming of Walnut Grove (2 High Street), Girton.

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Noble. Cllr Hiley proposed an amendment that the name be 'Bullman Grove' in recognition of the civic service of the late Cllr Bullman, seconded by Cllr Noble. It was felt that the name needed to reflect the history of the village, which the suggested 'Walnut Grove' does not. Cllr Noble agreed to speak with Cllr Bullman's widow regarding family approval of this proposed street name. This amendment was discussed and approved unanimously. The amended motion was approved unanimously.

6. To approve a proposal from the Girton Diamond Jubilee Working Group that the Girton Parish Council contributes a sum of £2,500 under Section 137 towards the costs of the Girton Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, to be held on Girton Recreation Ground on 2nd June, 2012 (*Appendix C*).

Cllrs Noble and Godby left the meeting for this item. The Chairman explained that the Council has the options of approving, objecting to or modifying this request. It was noted that the Council could offer an unsecured loan which should be paid back to the Council after the event. The Chairman outlined the list of items in the revised list, which had been circulated since the Agenda was produced. The Chairman proposed that the rent for the Pavilion be £10, seconded by Cllr Cockley, and approved unanimously. Cllr Garner offered a charity donation of the white-lining material on behalf of her company. Cllr Gordon proposed an amendment: a split of £1,000 underwritten loan and a £400 donation towards the celebrations, seconded by Cllr Hiley. The amendment was approved and the proposal was carried with 7 in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions. Cllrs Godby and Noble returned to the meeting at this point.

7. To approve the Chairman and Vice-Chair to sign an indemnity for South Cambs District Council in relation to Section 106 payments of £743.82 for 3 Cherry Bounds Road, Girton.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Garner, and approved unanimously.

8. To approve the use of funds from the training budget as necessary for training for the Clerk and new
Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Gordon and approved unanimously.

9. To allocate up to £200 from the Pavilion Maintenance Budget to repair damaged cupboard doors (see correspondence item 11/160.8).

The Council agreed to defer this item, to receive a report on the other options.

10. To respond to the proposal to extend the 30 mph speed limit on Huntingdon Road and suggest the 30 mph limit should extend to Orchard Drive, where the 40 mph limit currently begins (see correspondence item 11/160.12)

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Cockley. It was noted that traffic speed on Huntingdon Road has improved since the development of the NIAB site. The motion was carried with one abstention.

11.To approve the spending of £160 to remove moss from the Recreation Ground's tennis courts surfaces. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Hiley and approved with one vote against.

11/159 Finance & Resource Management:

1. To approve payments for the previous month. Proposed by Cllr Garner, seconded by Cllr Hiley and approved with two abstentions.
2. To approve the balance sheet (previously circulated). Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Garner and approved with one abstention.
3. To receive the Finance Report from 1 April 2011 to date (previously circulated). Received by the Council.
4. To approve the 2012-2013 Parish Council Budget (previously circulated). Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Westley. The Chairman suggested that the Planning and Resources Committee meet to firm up the details of the budget for approval by the Parish Council. The motion was carried with one vote against.

11/160 Correspondence

1. 12 November 2011. Message regarding Police Reports
2. 18 November 2011. Correspondence from The Over Day Centre Association
3. 19 November 2011. Sample letter regarding Open Spaces contract 2012-2015
4. 22 November 2011. Correspondence from parishioners regarding street maintenance
5. 22 November 2011. Correspondence about the Draft Drought Management Plan 2011
6. 28 November 2011. Correspondence regarding development of 3 Cherry Bounds Road
7. 28 November 2011. Letter from parishioner regarding flooding issues in Dodford Lane
8. 30 November 2011. Quotations for repair works to cupboard doors in Pavilion
9. 1 December 2011. Correspondence regarding street naming – 5 plots off High Street, Girton
10. 4 December 2011. Minutes of Wellbrook Way Residents Association Meeting of 03/12/11
11. 5 December 2011. NIAB Huntingdon Road Safety Audit
12. 6 December 2011. Correspondence regarding extension of 30 mph limit on Huntingdon Rd
13. 6 December 2011. Correspondence regarding saving the Sustainable Communities Act
14. 7 December 2011. Correspondence regarding speeding vehicles on Oakington Road, Girton

11/161 To receive reports:

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix D*)
2. Girton Town Charity. Cllr Hiley reported on the Town Charity Meeting of 19th December. The Town Charity will underwrite the cost of programme printing for the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, and a grant for the provision of a souvenir for children. Grants have been approved for Girton Glebe School for families in need and music provision, and to Mayfield School for projection facilities. Two candidates have come forward for the Trustee vacancy, and the Charity will be speaking with them over the next month. The Charity's accounts have been approved prior to being examined by the auditors. Capital has gone down 11% but dividends remain high. The seven new almshouses on Wellbrook Way are to be delivered on 27th August 2012, and the three 2-bedroom apartments in Abbeyfield are hoped for by April 2012.
3. Girton Youth Project. (*Appendix E*) Cllr Gordon commented on the good work being done by Tim Shuker-Yates and the team.
4. Footpaths. No report this month.

11/162 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes:

1. Planning Committee Meeting, 7th December 2011. Received by the Council.
2. Finance Committee Meeting, 8th December 2011. Received by the Council.

11/163 Matters raised by Members

Water is puddling on the cycle lane in Huntingdon Road near to Hotel Felix and needs attention. Traffic calming measures near the Co-Op store are too stringent and need attention. The Chairman and Clerk have raised this issue with Cambridgeshire Highways and await a response. Thanks were given to Cllr Clift for the excellent Christmas Evening on 9th December. Cllr Clift agreed to present a report on this for the next Parish Council Meeting. Cambridge Past, Present and Future have offered to give a presentation on Community Orchards to the Council, possibly at the February meeting. There is traffic congestion near the Post Office at peak times, which the Chairman and Clerk will follow up with the Environment Department at SCDC.

The Council has not received information regarding localism, outlined at the CPALC AGM on 3rd December, and will follow-up this with CPALC.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

The Chairman invited everyone to join him for a glass of wine and a mince pie (courtesy of former Councillor Sparling) after the meeting.

APPENDIX A

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN REYNOLDS, 11th DECEMBER 2011

COMPUTER VIRUS WARNING AFTER SCAM CATCHES PEOPLE IN CAMBS
TRAIN STATION ON THE RIGHT TRACK
CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S A14 CAMPAIGN SECURES MAJOR BOOST FOR ECONOMY
COMMUNITIES CHAMPION NEW VISION FOR LIBRARIES
LIBRARY FRIENDS GROUPS RECOGNISED AT SPECIAL EVENT
'GOOD NEIGHBOUR' CALL FROM COUNTY COUNCIL CARE CHIEF
CAMBRIDGESHIRE JOINS FAIR FARES CAMPAIGN
IT'S YOUR CALL - DRIVERS URGED TO TAKE THE TAXI
BEWARE OF EMERGENCY DRAINAGE SCAM
DRAINING OF THE FENS RECORDED FOR POSTERITY THANKS TO GRANT
TRACK YOUR VIEWS ON NEW TRANSPORT LINK AT WHITTLESFORD STATION
ROAD SAFETY UPGRADE TO MADINGLEY HILL
LET THERE BE LIGHT - FIND OUT WHERE AND WHEN
SHOP SAFE TO ENSURE YULE NOT BE DISAPPOINTED WITH WHAT SANTA BRINGS
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CELEBRATING LONDON 2012
DEVELOPING A PARK & RIDE SERVICE FIT FOR THE FUTURE
CASH AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

(The full report is available electronically)

APPENDIX B

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey

14. 12. 2011

Hardly had I sent my last month's report when I was informed that the Sustainability, Planning and Climate Change Portfolio Holder (who in February backed a motion to ban wind farms in South Cambs) has unilaterally thrown out the Solar PV project which, the Climate Change Working Group had argued, was still significant value for money even on the Government's reduced tariffs. So much for commitments to green government.

After a frustratingly long period, Girton's Village Plan was finally considered and adopted by SCDC on 17 November. The Plan Committee put an immense amount of work into developing it: I hope we can now find other volunteers to help the Parish Council to implement its recommendations.

I have had a very large number of meetings this month concerning the Abbeyfield development at Wellbrook Way. They included a tour of the site which has made me realise what a great asset it will be to Girton. Following the Parish Council's extraordinary meeting I shall work to ensure that the result provides greatest benefit to the village and to Abbeyfield.

Council met on 24 November, preceded by three presentations including one to our Ecology Office Rob Mungovan who has won a prestigious national prize for his work to protect the largest colony of swifts in East Anglia when its home in Fulbourn was redeveloped, using a combination of nesting boxes and a CD of swift mating calls.

I was able to persuade the Constitution Review Working Party that we did not need a complex new proposal to clarify the use of social media, and Council agreed that nothing needs to be done to our Standing Orders, which do not prohibit use of social media as they stand.

We agreed in principle to the proposal from Histon and Impington Councils that they merge. I doubt there will be any effect on our good relation with our neighbours.

We also approved enthusiastically a motion not to increase members' allowances in the coming year.

On 30 November SCDC hosted a transport modelling seminar in which we were introduced to the arcane delights of PARAMICS and SATURN and other attempts to predict the effects on traffic of new developments. Details were thin, and when I asked for criteria by which councillors could challenge implausible sounding results of the modelling the speaker replied 'yes, some criteria would be nice, wouldn't they?' Very little actual data is fed to these models, and I would urge the Parish Council to consider collecting its own transport data in order to be able to provide a robust assessment of future plans.

The next stage of the roadworks at the NIAB Site on Huntingdon Road has been published: a safety audit on the work so far. This will be used to inform further development here and I am pleased to see proposals that the sharp angles should be smoothed out, the white lining removed at the point where the cycle lane splits, and several recommendations to make travel paths clearer. The formal process for instituting a 30mph limit along Huntingdon Road from Girton Corner to the present limit has also begun (see Correspondence item 12).

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX C

Budget Items from Girton Diamond Jubilee Committee, for the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations to be held on Girton Recreation Ground on 2nd June, 2012

Douglas requires full details of the money to be added to the agenda for the Diamond Jubilee. While we do not anticipate making a loss, so much money has to be paid up front. We should receive money on the day, which we were going to give the Feast Committee towards their 2013 event.

Marquee	£630	(this is much smaller than the Feast Committee wanted)
Insurance	£500	
St John Ambulance	£200	
To buy Games	£200	
Candy Floss	£100	
Hire of Pavilion	£160	
P. A	£90	
Thai Boxing	£150	
Programme shortfall	£200	
Hire tables & chairs	£100	
Hire Loos	£500	
Have white lines on grass	£100	
Bank holiday cleaning	£50	

APPENDIX D

Chairman's Report to Girton Parish Council

14. 12. 2011

I had hoped to be able to report the successful conclusion of the Wellbrook transfer, but we are not quite there yet. However, with my South Cambs hat on I told officers I was not happy with the TW offer to reduce payment for the culvert repair and am happy to see they now agree to pay the full amount requested. The Land Register maps now appear to be acceptable and our lawyer is looking at the Deed of Variation which will seal the transfer.

The Chairman of the Environment Committee and I have met the architect Nick Twitchett to discuss the possibility of a footpath behind the bus shelter to the Recreation Ground. We have also learned that the cherry tree by the shelter is diseased and will need to be felled, which would make the project easier to accomplish if we go ahead.

Many councillors had personal experience of the success of Cllr Clift's Christmas tree. I spent a happy hour or so helping children from our local schools decorate it, and the Friday event was a great success. I would like to thank all the organisers, and to hope it will now be an annual event.

The caravan at Oakington Road corner has long exercised previous Parish Councils. On 13 December there was a Hearing before a Government Inspector to determine an appeal by the owner against SCDC's refusal to allow development there. Cllr Gordon and I attended and although we still await the outcome I think it is fair to say that everyone involved received a fair hearing.

I have just been made aware that the Village Plan committee ran out of money as they were doing the final print run, and decided simply to print fewer copies and not distribute in Wellbrook Way. I think this was a very unfortunate decision as it implies that this estate is not a real part of the village, and am seeking money to allow copies to be distributed there.

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX E

Girton Youth Project November Report - Summary

The theme of cooking has been continued this month with making hot chocolate for the younger group and making Pizza available to all groups.

A brand new activity was introduced based on the very popular hide and seek games. A group were taken out to the recreation field and played hide and seek in the dark with torches. Although logistically complicated to manage it has proved incredibly successful.

Due to a management course I'm attending we have agreed to deliver 1 to 1 meetings with all staff and volunteers to discuss issues and development opportunities. We will also arrange and advertise our themes for the club sessions in advance to give the young people greater choice.