

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 19th December, 2012 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Residents in the parish were invited to attend this meeting and to speak at Item 12/143.1

Present: Cllrs: de Lacey (Chairman), Bromwich, Clift, Cockley, Godby, Gordon, Martin, Noble, Simpson, Taylor, Williams

Cllr J Reynolds (Cambridgeshire County Council) (until item 12/144)

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

12/140 Welcome from the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

12/141 Apologies and reasons for absence. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Garner, Hiley, Thorrold and Westley, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.

12/142 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda None.

12/143 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*). There were no questions arising from Cllr Reynolds' report. Cllrs Reynolds and de Lacey have had a meeting with South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council representatives about Woodlands Park, and have come to agreement on the number of trees although there is still discussion about the type of trees. Local residents will be consulted. As trees come to their natural end, they will be replaced with trees more suited to the surrounding area, as part of a long-term process. It was suggested that the trees be sourced from British nurseries – they will be sourced by SCDC. Six trees have been removed and five locations for new trees have been identified. It is hoped the trees can be planted in 2013.

A Girton resident requests a response to his letter to Cllr Reynolds, whilst Cllr Reynolds was asked if he could ask Andrew Lansley MP to acknowledge Girton Parish Council's letters regarding the July floods.

Regarding flooding issues, the Highways Agency carried out works on the balancing ponds along the A14 last year and the capacity is in line with that set out in the original specification (from 1973-74) – any new work would require this to be re-evaluated.

3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*). Regarding the Girton Post Office, Cllr de Lacey has spoken to the Sub-Postmistress who expects a three-week gap in service until the new premises are open. She understands that the portakabin does not need planning permission.

4. Police Report (E-Cops) (*Appendix C*). Cllr Godby has received an email from the NW Cambridgeshire Area Co-Ordinator of Neighbourhood Watch to say that there have been a couple of convictions.

12/144 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Wednesday 21st November, 2012.

The Minutes were proposed as a correct record of the meeting by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Williams and approved with two abstentions.

12/145 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

12/98.1 The parish noticeboard at Wellbrook Way has been installed.

12/134.3 The Bowls Green Committee met on 5th December 2012.

12/134.4 The Emergency Plan Committee met on 19th December 2012.

12/134.5/6 Payment has been sent to Starlight Charity and thanks given for works undertaken (see correspondence items 12/148.2)

12/134.8 The Clerk has forwarded the Council's response to Cambridgeshire County Council (see

correspondence item 12/148.4)

12/139 The architect is to meet with councillors to discuss costings for the Recreation Ground Car Park plans.

Noted by the Council.

12/146 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council

1. To give full voting rights on the Bowling Green Committee to Mrs J Knights, as a Trustee of the Girton Town Charity. Proposed by the Bowling Green Committee, and approved unanimously.
2. To approve the Chairman and Vice-Chair to sign an indemnity for South Cambridgeshire District Council in relation to Section 106 payments for the development at 17 St Margaret's Road, Girton (see correspondence item 12/148.1) Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Godby. It was noted that SCDC require that each indemnity is agreed and signed individually, rather than issuing a blanket approval for the signing of all indemnities. The possibility of funding a bus stop opposite the allotments has been raised, and Cllr de Lacey agreed to look in to this and report back at a future meeting. Agreed unanimously.
3. To approve the quotation of £600 to provide bases for the proposed picnic benches as recommended by the Sports and Recreation Committee. Proposed by the Sports and Recreation Committee. Funding for this project could possibly be met by S106 payments. Agreed unanimously.
4. To accept the offer of £500 from Taylor Wimpey as payment to effect all necessary repairs to the Wellbrook Way LEAP in final fulfilment of the terms of the revised Unilateral Undertaking, to allow the transfer of the open spaces to the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Godby. The Health and Safety Officer undertakes a weekly inspection, and believes that satisfactory repairs can be effected for £500. The acceptance of this offer from Taylor Wimpey would mean that the final agreement with Taylor Wimpey can be signed and then the Parish Council's lawyer can pay out the final tranche of monies. The £500 would have to be paid before the Parish Council can take over ownership. It was noted that the Parish Byelaws regarding recreation areas are geographically-specific, and would therefore need to incorporate Wellbrook Way LEAP. Approved unanimously.

12/147 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve the draft budget for 2013-2014 and to set the precept-level (*Appendix D*). Proposed by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has met and agreed that the budget is reasonable, and envisages an increase in the amount requested for the precept. Regarding the change in the benefits system from 1st April 2013, from which time district councils will set their own rules regarding Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, this will mean that some people not in protected groups will have a cut of between 14-20%, which will affect some pensioners and low-wage earners. The changes will also affect the number of Band D households. Cllr de Lacey will explore the question of hardship, as the Parish Council has no mechanism for reducing Council Tax. Approved with one vote against.
2. To approve payments for the previous month. Proposed by Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Noble. There was a question regarding the remedial works at Wellbrook Way – £15,000 for this has come from Taylor Wimpey, and will be kept separate within the budget so that the Council knows how much this is costing, and also from general maintenance so the Council will know how much will need to be budgeted for in the future. Regarding the cutting of the panhandle and Girton Wood footpath, these are to be invoiced separately by the contractor. Approved with one abstention.
3. To approve the balance sheet (*Appendix E*). Proposed by Cllr Godby, seconded by Cllr Noble. Approved with one abstention.
4. To receive the Finance Report from 1st April 2012 to date (*Appendix F*). Received by the Council.

12/148 Correspondence (to be received)

1. 26 Nov 2012: Correspondence about development at Newmarket Road, Cambridge
2. 27 Nov 2012: Correspondence regarding SCDC indemnity for 17 St Margaret's Road, Girton
3. 29 Nov 2012: Correspondence regarding donation to Starlight charity
4. 30 Nov 2012: Information from the National Flood Forum
5. 06 Dec 2012: Correspondence regarding Girton post office temporary closure

6. 06 Dec 2012: GPC response to Local Enforcement Plan for Minerals & Waste Development Received by the Council.

12/149 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix G*). Regarding a request from a parishioner that the Highways Authority be notified that the flashing amber lamps are not working – it transpires that there was no power to them, and the Highways Authority are now going to repair them. The Chairman has received a request from the North West Cambridge developers, who want to go ahead with detailed discussions. It was suggested that they be invited to speak at the January Parish Council Meeting. The Chairman notified the Council that a tin of Christmas sweets has been received by the Parish Office from CGM Ltd, and the office staff would like to donate these to Jimmy's Homeless Shelter in Cambridge, in recognition of the work of the late Noel Knights, former Parish Councillor.
2. Girton Town Charity. No report this month.
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix H*).
4. Footpaths. No report this month.
5. Bowling Green Committee. No report this month.
6. Wellbrook Way Development Committee. No report this month.

12/150 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes

1. Planning Committee Meetings of 21st November and 11th December (previously circulated)
 2. Finance Committee Meeting of 29th November, 2012 (previously circulated)
- Received by the Council.

12/151 Matters raised by Members (for information only)

Cllr Taylor reported on a meeting on 3rd December about the NIAB/NW Cambridge developments.

Ash Dieback signs can be confirmed by the Forestry Commission.

Regarding the Oakington kerb lighting, Cllr de Lacey has spoken to Cllr Reynolds who has promised to take it further, as similar studs on the guided busway have been suggested.

The Council was notified of a newspaper spillage on Oakington Road.

Cllr Clift was thanked for organising the Christmas Carols event at the Village Institute on 14th December and Christmas lights at various venues.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.