

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 18th September, 2013 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Girton, at 7.30 p.m.

To: Councillors de Lacey, Williams, Bromwich, Clift, Cockley, Garner, Godby, Gordon, Hiley, Noble, Simpson, L Taylor, M Taylor, Thorrold, and Westley.

Residents in the parish were invited to attend this meeting and to speak at Item 13/105.1

Present: Cllrs: de Lacey (Chairman), Williams, Bromwich, Clift, Cockley, Godby, Gordon, Hiley, Simpson, L Taylor, M Taylor (until end of item 13/108.6), Thorrold

Cllr T Bygott (SCDC) (until item 13/108.2), Cllr J Reynolds (CCC) (from item 13/108.6 until end of item 13/105.2)

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

13/102 Welcome from the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

13/103 Apologies and reasons for absence Apologies had been received from Cllrs Garner, Noble and Westley, and from PCSO Mani, and their reasons for absence were accepted by the Chairman.

13/104 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda None.

13/105 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*) This item was moved to later in the meeting
3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Cllr Bygott explained that the government has given SCDC a discretionary £150,000 to lessen the effect of the spare-room surcharge, particularly for people with children who are away studying. An extra £100,000 has been applied for.

The Local Plan Public Consultation Period has been extended to 14th October. Cllr de Lacey reported that six caravans have entered the NW Cambridge site. The University has the site under 24-hour surveillance. It is a complicated situation because the caravans' residents have asked for their children to be educated locally.

It is a matter of real concern that nothing has happened about Northstowe for more than six months.

The Greater Cambridge Cycling Challenge will have a planning meeting on 19th September, which Cllr de Lacey will attend.

During questions, it was suggested that people on benefits waiting for a smaller property could be eligible for relief, and Cllr Bygott agreed to take this up with colleagues.

4. Police Report (E-Cops) (*Appendix C*) The Clerk would pass on any questions arising from the Police Report.

13/106 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on Wednesday 17th July, and Wednesday 21st August, 2013 (previously circulated)

The Minutes of the July meeting were proposed as a true record by Cllr Gordon, seconded by Cllr Simpson, and approved with one abstention.

The Minutes of the August meeting were proposed as a true record by Cllr Clift, seconded by Cllr Cockley, and approved with one abstention.

13/107 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only) None.

13/108 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council

1. To approve the Balfour Beatty Street Lighting Design Plans for Girton and comment on concerns (*see correspondence item 13/110.12*).

Concerns have been raised about lamps in Dovehouse Close and Dodford Lane, but these are SCDC lamps and therefore not part of the current scheme. Balfour Beatty are looking into concerns about Smithy Green and Hibbert Ware Gardens lighting. Lamps on Huntingdon Road/Bandon Road are proud of the footpath because the hedge there was dense. Lighting at the end of Church Lane is very poor and at the top of Dodford Lane there is a need to recalculate lighting levels. Neighbourhood Watch signs are to be replaced on new standards. It is unclear from the plans where lamps are simply being removed. The Council was unanimously in favour for comments to be sent to Balfour Beatty.

2. To approve a response to the Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation (*Appendix D*) The Chairman went through responses to the questions one by one. Concerns were raised over the second question, that developers will say they can't afford a CIL – another loophole to let developers get away from their legal obligation. Would recommend no discretionary policy. Discretion could mean that almshouses etc might have to pay additional fees and might therefore stop something charitable.

Cllr Bygott left the meeting at this point.

Following a straw poll, the Council agreed to submit the following response to question 2: 'Girton Parish Council does not feel that there should be a discretionary policy'. Cllr Hiley suggested that the following sentence be added to the response to question 5:

'Street safety for pedestrians, those with disabilities and cyclists and improving infrastructure so that more people feel safe for non-motor travel', seconded by Cllr de Lacey. It was unanimously agreed to include the sentence. For question 9, Cllr Hiley proposed that the extraction of raw materials should incur CIL, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, and approved unanimously.

Cllr de Lacey proposed that the response be submitted, with amendments as above.

Seconded by Cllr Godby and approved unanimously.

3. To approve a response to the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Public Consultation (*Appendix E*) Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Williams. The Local Plan is likely to need reviews because national government will be implementing changes. Approved with one abstention.

4. To approve the electrical installation works at Wellbrook Way Bowls Green (*details previously circulated*) The Chairman thanked Cllr Gordon for his work on the Bowls Green electrical works. Proposed by Cllr Godby, seconded by Cllr Simpson. Approved with one abstention.

5. To accept the offer from Girton Social Club to host a Christmas event at the Village Institute, and to offer the loan of lights as appropriate from the Council's stock for the institute; and to arrange lights elsewhere with the rest of our stock (*see correspondence item 13/110.4*) Cllr Clift proposed an amendment to his motion, that the lights be given

not loaned. Seconded by Cllr de Lacey. Approved with two abstentions.

6. To approve an agreed joint response with Histon & Impington Parish Council on the A14 proposals (*Appendix F*) Each part of the response was voted on separately as follows. Item 1: proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Williams and agreed unanimously. Item 2: proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Cockley. Cllr Hiley proposed that Girton adds a note '50mph would increase the capacity of the road', seconded by Cllr de Lacey. It was unanimously agreed that the item response be amended. Item 3: proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Cockley and agreed unanimously. Item 4: proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Cockley and agreed unanimously.

Cllr M Taylor left the meeting, and Cllr Reynolds entered the meeting, at this point.

13/105.2 County Councillor's Report Since the recession, demand for services has increased and there is a funding gap of £37 million, which will have a big impact. Environment, Transport, Economy Reviews undertaken have taken 25% of staff out because the money is not available. Funding continues to decrease with works being done on what is the highest priority. Councillors noted that £26 million is being routed to the A14 scheme by the County Council, with more spent on compensation than road repairs. It was suggested that a 'Warning: Children' sign be put close to Oakington Bridge where the 30mph limit rises to 40mph, as Girton Nursery is there. It was also suggested that the new website 'My Space' duplicates existing local websites, and Cllr Reynolds agreed to find out more. Cllr Reynolds has been to two presentations by the Highways Agency about the A14. There is a lack of information about traffic flows, both current and in 2031. There is a lot of work still to be done on cycleways. The Chairman thanked Cllr Reynolds.

Cllr Reynolds left the meeting at this point.

13/109 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve payments for the previous month.

Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Gordon. Approved with two abstentions.

2. To approve the balance sheet (*Appendix G*)

Proposed by Cllr Thorrold, seconded by Cllr Hiley. Approved with one abstention.

3. To receive the Finance Report from 1st April 2013 to date (*Appendices H and I*)

Received by the Council.

4. To receive a report from the Finance Officer, providing the Bowls Green Acct

reconciliation (*Appendix J*)

Received by the Council.

5. To receive a report from the Finance Officer detailing 'Receipts – Invoices by Customer, 2012-2013' in response to a request for this information from councillors

(*Appendix K*)

Received by the Council. The Chairman extended thanks to the RFO for her work in producing the extra reports for items 13/109.4 and 13/109.5.

6. (a) That the Press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item number 6b in accordance with Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that, if present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended)

The Clerk and RFO left the meeting for the following item.

6. (b). To agree pay scales for the staff of the Parish Council for the next year (*details circulated to councillors*) Payscales were agreed.

13/110 Correspondence (to be received)

1. 17 July: Consultation on Local Plan 2014 Proposed Submission Stage
 2. 22 July: SCDC reply to queries raised at Parish Council Meeting, re: Darwin Green 2
 3. 23 July: Correspondence regarding dog-walking on field boundaries
 4. 30 July: Correspondence regarding village Christmas 2013 celebration event
 5. 2 Aug: Gritting routes for South Cambridgeshire
 6. 22 Aug: Information about CPALC e-bulletin
 7. 30 Aug: Correspondence regarding Cambridge Road bus shelter and street lighting in Dodford Lane
 8. 3 Sept: Correspondence regarding Connecting Cambridgeshire
 9. 3 Sept: Information on public exhibitions for A14 Cambridge-Huntingdon improvements
 10. 6 Sept: Funding plans for Cycle City Ambition programme, Huntingdon Road
 11. 6 Sept: Road traffic problems on Oakington Road
 12. 11 Sept: Information on Balfour Beatty Street Lighting Plans for Girton
- Received by the Council.

13/111 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Reports (*Appendix L*) Abbeyfield lawyers are now asking valuers to value the land and should plant the strip the other side of their fence. At the recent JDCC meeting, the NW Cambridge team gave a presentation. They are seeking to engage with communities. The Chairman hoped members could attend the meeting planned for 1st October.
2. Girton Town Charity. The charity held two meetings in August. A grant has been given to Cambridge Family Mediation Service as there is call for this service from Girton residents. The Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Service will operate from 12.30-4.30pm on Wednesdays. The charity is hoping to put on a Finance Workshop to help younger members of the community to manage their income and expenditure. This will be advertised in October's Girton Parish News.
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix M*)
4. Footpaths. There are still cuttings lying around on footpath 4, adjacent to A14.
5. Water Management. Contractors are onsite at Dodford Lane fitting an automatic water recorder. A next steps meeting will be held on 29th October, from 2.00-4.30pm, venue to be arranged.
6. Bowling Green Committee. Water and electrics are now on. The contractors Two County are currently off-site doing general maintenance on other greens.
7. Wellbrook Way Development Committee. There have been delays with SCDC regarding the plans for the Community Centre, particularly over car parking spaces. The Chairman thanked Cllr Gordon for his sterling work on the project.

13/112 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes

1. Planning Committee Meetings of 17th July, 21st August and 4th September, 2013 (*previously circulated*)
 2. Bowls Green Committee Meeting of 30th July, 2013 (*previously circulated*)
- Received by the Council.

13/113 Matters raised by Members (for information only)

A hearing loop has been fitted in St Vincent's Close Community Centre. The public are to be invited to the meeting with representatives of the NW Cambridge team on 1st October. The Clerk will liaise with the University about this.

The meeting closed at 9.04 p.m.