

# 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 December, 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 13/141.1*

**Present:** Cllrs: de Lacey (Chairman), Williams, Bromwich, Clift, Cockley, Garner, Godby, Gordon, Noble, Simpson, L Taylor, M Taylor (until end of item 13/144.4), Thorrold, Westley.

Cllr J Reynolds (CCC), Cllr T Bygott (SCDC) (until end of item 13/141.4)

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

**13/138 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially County Councillor John Reynolds and District Councillor Tom Bygott.

**13/139 Apologies and reasons for absences** Apologies for absence from Cllr Hiley and PCSO Mani, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.

**13/140 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda.** None.

**13/141 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*). Cllr Reynolds reported that there are ongoing issues with street lighting replacement and he has been building up a profile of emails from parishioners and officers over the past 2-3 months. Cllr Reynolds has met with the Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council to discuss lighting problems in Girton and a Senior Executive Director of Balfour Beatty will visit Cambridgeshire to go through a long list of issues. All lights have to remain in the original village – e.g. can't be moved from Bar Hill to Girton. Councillors raised concerns regarding trees obstructing street lights and whether Balfour Beatty would be trimming these back in a satisfactory way, and also whether the County Council or Balfour Beatty would be reimbursing the village for the poor service received. Cllr Clift agreed to draft a letter to Balfour Beatty.
3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*). Cllr Bygott spoke about the pilot scheme for the private company South Cambs Ltd to build 40 new homes in the next two years. Although welcoming the news that unemployment figures have reduced, Cllr Bygott noted the increase in homelessness nationally. SCDC want to halve the current bill to house people in B&B accommodation. Central government funding figures have been released with Cambridgeshire funding cut by 24% (£874,000) part of which could be offset by New Homes Bonus.  
Cllr Bygott mentioned the Community Pride Awards, nominations for which close on 24th January 2014.  
Cllr de Lacey gave an update on his report, to say that the JDCC has met and approved the Chesterton Station application. The Section 106 for the Darwin Green project has been agreed and signed. Plans for Darwin Green 2 & 3 will wait until the Local Plan is published.
4. Police Report (*Appendix C*) The Chairman read out an additional police report from PCSO Mani, received earlier that day. Concerns were raised over burglaries in the village. The Clerk agreed to forward any questions to PCSO Mani.

Cllrs Reynolds and Bygott left the meeting at this point.

**13/142 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th November, 2013** (previously circulated) The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Clift, and approved with three abstentions.

**13/143 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**

13/120.4 Royal Mail has not reported to GPC about the proposed post-box on Wellbrook Way.

13/132.1 Confirmation has been sent to SCDC Planning Department regarding the proposed car park at Wellbrook Way (see correspondence item 13/146.4)

13/132.7 The contractor will sand and reseal the Pavilion hall floor on 23rd and 24th December.

Noted by the Council.

**13/144 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council**

1.. To approve the 2014-15 budget and precept (*Appendix D*)

As the Council has yet to receive confirmation of the Band D household figures, Cllr de Lacey proposed that councillors have a general discussion regarding the budget at this meeting and then decide the budget in January 2014, seconded by Cllr Westley. The Finance Committee have suggested an overall increase of 2.5%. There are fewer Band D households in the village than last year. Cllr M Taylor proposed that the item be deferred until the January parish council meeting, seconded by Cllr Williams, agreed with 5 abstentions.

2. To approve an Equality Policy for Girton Parish Council (*Appendix E*) Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Cockley. Concerns were expressed regarding the paragraph on accessibility to the Parish Office. Cllr Williams proposed an amendment, to remove the word 'progression' from the paragraph about employees, agreed by Cllr de Lacey. With this amendment, the policy was approved unanimously.

3. To approve a Conflict of Interest Policy for Girton Parish Council (*Appendix F*)

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Garner and approved with one abstention.

4. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Bowling Green Committee, and on the basis of that to agree the following proposals(*Appendix G*):

(a) To rent the Bowling Green to Girton Community Bowling Club for a fee of £1 for the calendar year 2014. Proposed by Cllr Westley, seconded by Cllr de Lacey. : The Bowls Club will officially be formed in January 2014, and it is suggested that the club be given time to find its feet. The main costs will be maintenance, with the Girton Town Charity agreeing that this is part of the set-up costs. Approved unanimously.

(b) To permit individual players to play under the aegis of the Club for a fee to be determined by the Sport and Recreation Committee and paid to the Council.

Proposed by Cllr Westley, seconded by Cllr de Lacey. The Bowls Green is a village facility, and the Club would be happy to supervise this and to use their equipment. Approved unanimously.

(c) To pay for the one-year maintenance contract agreed with Two County.

Proposed by Cllr Westley, seconded by Cllr de Lacey. The first couple of years' maintenance are critical in getting the bowls green established. Two County have worked very well and to a high standard. Approved unanimously.

Cllr M Taylor left the meeting at this point.

5. To approve the submission of an application to Amey Cespa for a grant for the playground/Pavilion (see correspondence item 13/146.7).

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Gordon. The Council would like to make a grant application for the car park works, but if this is not acceptable would like to insulation and PV panels on the Pavilion roof. Approved unanimously.

**13/145 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve payments for the previous month. Proposed by Cllr Garner, seconded by Cllr Noble and approved unanimously.

2. To approve the balance sheet (*Appendix H*) Proposed by Cllr Garner, seconded by

Cllr Godby and approved unanimously.

3. To receive the Finance Report from 1st April, 2013 to date (*Appendix I*). Received by the Council.

4. To authorise the RFO to make short-term borrowings from reserve funds in order to pay bills relating to the bowling green at Wellbrook Way, on the understanding that robust procedures are put in place to repay the loan within six months.

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Godby. Approved unanimously.

**13/146 Correspondence (to be received)**

1. 23 Nov 2013: Concerns regarding street lighting in Thornton Close, Girton

2. 28 Nov 2013: Impington Village College magazine 'Etc'

3. 28 Nov 2013: Correspondence regarding severed conduit at Cockerton Road, Girton

4. 2 Dec 2013: Letter to GTC and SCDC regarding car park at Wellbrook Way

5. 2 Dec 2013: Correspondence regarding Girton Post Office's proposed move to the George Inn

6. 2 Dec 2013: CAMRA campaign to save Cambridgeshire public houses

7. 3 Dec 2013: Grants for playgrounds/insulating community facilities

8. 3 Dec 2013: Letter to Girton Glebe School regarding car parking

Received by the Council.

**13/147 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix J*)

2. Girton Town Charity. There was no report this month.

3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix K*)

4. Footpaths. There was no report this month.

5. Water Management. There will be a meeting with SCDC, CCC and Environment Agency representatives to discuss flooding measures, on 27th February, 2014.

6. Bowling Green Committee. Cllr Westley's report was given in Appendix G, referenced in item 13/144.4.

7. Wellbrook Way Development Committee. It is hoped that outline planning permission for the Community Hall will be granted in the very near future.

**13/148 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes**

1. Sports & Recreation Committee Meeting of 27th November, 2013 (previously circulated)

2. Planning Committee Meeting of 3rd December, 2013 (previously circulated)

Received by the Council.

**13/149 Matters raised by Members (for information only)**

The work of the Probation Service team in removing graffiti was commended.

It was suggested that the Parish Office keep an order book for consumables.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm