

# Girton Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Girton, at 7.30 p.m.

*Residents in the Parish were invited to attend this meeting and to speak at Item 14/104.2*

**Present:** Cllrs: de Lacey (Chairman), Williams, Barnes, Buckler, Cockley, Godby, Harrington (from item 14/109.1), Noble, Simpson, L Taylor, M Taylor (until end of item 14/110.3).

T Mann (South Cambridgeshire District Council) (until end of item 14/104.1)

PCSOs B Mani and T Baugh (until end of item 14/104.5)

12 members of the public

**In attendance:** S Cumming (Clerk), C Pollock (RFO)

**14/101 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Tracy Mann of South Cambridgeshire District Council and the members of the public.

**14/102 Apologies and reasons for absence** Apologies had been received from County Councillor J Reynolds, Cllrs Bygott, Gordon and Whittle, and Mrs J Garner, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.

**14/103 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** Cllr M Taylor declared an interest in item 14/104.1 as an employee of Cambridge City Council, and Cllr L Taylor declared an interest in item 14/109.6 as Treasurer of Girton Social Club.

**14/109 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To appoint two new members of Girton Parish Council (details previously circulated).

This item was brought forward to allow the newly-elected Councillors to join the meeting. There were three candidates, and an election took place for the two places available. After a very close result, Joanne Garner and Elizabeth Harrington were elected to the Parish Council. Cllr Harrington was welcomed and joined the meeting at this point. Cllr Garner had sent apologies for absence.

**14/104 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**

5. Police Report (*Appendix D*) This item was brought forward to allow PCSOs Mani and Baugh to return to their policing duties. PCSO Mani reported that Girton is a low-crime village.

1. Presentation on governance issues, by Tracy Mann of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Ms Mann gave a broad overview around governance arrangements where there are big new developments in areas where there are small Parish Councils. Parish Councils sometimes don't want responsibility of governance and would prefer that the developments have their own arrangements, eg Orchard Park, and Trumpington Meadows which is part of Haslingfield at the moment. Ms Mann's map gave indication of the amount of the Darwin Green development which will be in Girton Parish.

Impington and Girton Parish are included on the map. As it is one development by the same developer, Darwin Green One and two will feel like the same place, which will not be a village but urban. The parts of Darwin Green Two which are in Girton Parish include the school playing fields and open space. Housing and the country centre will be in Histon and Impington Parish. Histon and Impington Parish Council have set up a task and finish group to look into the new development being self-governing. The ownership of the open space and maintenance of such will be the responsibility of the Parish it is in. However, Girton would not receive any precept as there is no housing in the Parish. It is a long-term responsibility. The feel of the development and how the residents there feel about their own governance will also be important. Concerns were raised over the need to keep green space between Girton and the city, and whether the greenbelt was threatened. Questions were raised regarding whether children from Girton would be allowed to go to the senior school on the Darwin Green site. Catchment area has not been looked at, and the issue is now of parental choice rather than catchment. It was suggested that Girton Parish Council could meet with the Histon and Impington task and finish group. Ms Mann is undertaking public meetings in Histon and Impington and could also do so in Girton. Ms Mann was asked about the Trumpington Meadows model, where the new Parish is not yet established. Orchard Park seems to be going well, with the community having control over its own S106 monies etc. Ms Mann offered to meet Girton Parish Council again in six months time. It takes about 12 months to establish a new Parish, with Parish elections etc. Girton Parish Council will invite Ms Mann back to speak in the New Year. The Chairman thanked Ms Mann, who left the meeting at this point.

## 2. Members of the Public.

Mr S Clift spoke about the Access Internet Point at St Vincent's Close Community Centre. This was established prior to 2008 and is open to over-55 year olds every Monday morning. He has received a letter from SCDC asking for payment of an hourly rate for room hire. The access point belongs to the group, with the line belonging to Virgin Media and paid for by Cambridgeshire County Council. The people running the club will have to collect monies for SCDC, and at the moment it is a drop-in group. 34 members of the European Community were shown the group as a good example. The Chairman thanked Mr Clift, and will ask the District Council for an exemption. Mr Clift left the meeting at this point.

Mr B Bromwich gave the first of two representations about flooding issues. He stated that the Environment Agency's computer modelling has underestimated flood levels; the EA's April 2014 model is not a good model to use for Girton. He cited the case of Bybrook Barn Garden Centre v. Kent County Council (1996), and queried whether legal advice should be sought.

Mr B Hunter stated that the floods have caused great distress and trauma, with feelings of hopelessness and despair as the water level rises. This has happened three times in recent memory. When Mr Hunter bought his house in 1970 no warnings were given. In 1978 the house was flooded and it was deemed a once in a hundred years event. However, it happened again in 2001, and once again in 2012. Residents' property prices have gone down and they have to pay insurance excesses. The flooding affects drainage. Modelling has shown the Oakington Road bridge to be inadequate. Girton Parish Council help is requested. Funding would make a difference for the future. The Chairman thanked the speakers.

3. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) As Cllr Reynolds was absent, any questions arising from his report will be passed on by the Clerk.

4. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendices B & C*) There were no questions arising from Cllr de Lacey and Cllr Bygott's reports.

**14/105 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2014** (previously circulated). The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Godby, seconded by Cllr Williams, and approved with two abstentions.

**14/106 To confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2014** (previously circulated). The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr L Taylor, seconded by Cllr Williams, and approved with four abstentions.

**14/107 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2014** (previously circulated). The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr M Taylor, seconded by Cllr Williams, and approved with two abstentions.

**14/108 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**

14/86.1 The case for the defibrillator has been delivered. We have asked Cotton Hall Trustees if they might be interested in hosting it.

14/86.3 The office IT system has been upgraded.

14/86.4 The Parish Council's concerns regarding the naming of 'Ridgeway Village' have been forwarded to Cambridge University.

14/96.1 The Parish Council's response to the dispensary consultation has been forwarded.

Noted by the Council.

**14/109 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To appoint two new members of Girton Parish Council (details previously circulated). This item was moved forward to the start of the meeting.
2. To agree in principle a financial contribution towards flood defences in Girton (*Appendix E*) The Chairman noted that Cllrs Bygott and Whittle were unable to attend the meeting, and proposed the issue be deferred. The motion to defer this item was unanimously approved. All remaining members of the public left at this point.
3. To approve the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to sign indemnity forms for S106 agreements for properties at 25 Hicks Lane, Girton; at 24 Bandon Road, Girton; and at 17-19 Bandon Road, Girton. Proposed by Cllr L Taylor, seconded by Cllr Simpson, and approved with one abstention.
4. To agree a response to Cambridgeshire County Council's Household Waste Public Consultation (*Appendix F*). The suggested response was proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Barnes, and approved with one abstention.
5. To agree to allow Girton Bowls Club to attach a noticeboard to the fence of Girton Bowls Green (*Appendix G*) The fence is Girton Parish Council's property, so the Bowls Club need the Council's permission to proceed. Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Godby, and approved unanimously.
6. To support the village Christmas event at Girton Social Club through a donation of £50.00 (*Appendix H*) The Social Club have requested the Council's support for a village Christmas event. Over the past years this has been enjoyed by a significant proportion of residents. Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr M Taylor. Cllr L Taylor proposed an amended motion that the Girton Parish Council supports the event, but without making a financial donation, and this was agreed by Cllr de Lacey. The amended motion was approved with one abstention.
7. To agree to illuminate the Pavilion and surrounds with our own Christmas lights during the Christmas season. Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr L Taylor and approved unanimously.

#### **14/110 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve payments for the previous month. Proposed by Cllr Barnes, seconded by Cllr Simpson, and approved unanimously.
2. To approve the balance sheet (circulated at the meeting) Proposed by Cllr Noble, seconded by Cllr Barnes, and approved unanimously.
3. To receive the Finance Report from 1st April, 2014 to date (circulated at the meeting). The RFO reported that the figures from QuickBooks are based on a cash basis from the end of August, giving a snapshot in time. In the future, the RFO would like to produce project reports eg for Wellbrook Way. A ruling from HMRC is needed on VAT. The VAT form needs to be completed when these decisions are made. Future reports will be available with the agenda. It is hoped that at the start of the new financial year, the RFO will undertake payroll provision internally. The RFO also aims to give costings for cost centres. Received by the Council, with thanks. Cllr M Taylor left the meeting at this point.

#### **14/111 Correspondence (to be received)**

1. 7 Aug 2014: Letter of thanks from retiring RFO.
  2. 12 Aug 2014: Cambridgeshire County Council budget consultation notification.
  3. 21 Aug 2014: Notice of AGM of Society of Local Council Clerks.
  4. 7 Sept 2014: Correspondence about traffic in Thornton Way.
  5. 12 Sept 2014: Correspondence regarding flooding issues in Girton.
  6. 13 Sept 2014: Correspondence regarding flooding issues in Girton.
- Received by the Council. Extra items of correspondence had been received since the agenda was published and these were noted by the Council.

#### **14/112 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix I*). There were no questions arising from Cllr de Lacey's report.
2. Girton Town Charity. There was no report this month.
3. Girton Youth Project. There was no report this month.
4. Footpaths. The Council is looking to appoint a new Footpaths Officer.
5. Water Management. Please see *Appendix E*.
6. Wellbrook Way Development Committee. There are ongoing issues with the developers regarding the road coming into Wellbrook Way.

#### **14/113 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes**

1. Planning Committee Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 (previously circulated).
  2. Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 (previously circulated).
  3. Planning Committee Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 (previously circulated).
  4. Planning Committee Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 (previously circulated).
- Received by the Council.

#### **14/114 Matters raised by Members (for information only)**

Residents have expressed concern that the football goal-posts are in front of the children's play area.

Footpaths are getting overgrown and lots of work is needed.

A replacement bus stop by the Recreation Ground was suggested/

It was suggested that Darwin Green governance could be discussed by email.

The headteacher for the NW Cambridge development's primary school has been announced. Parents are being invited to nominate children. A working group has been set up with other schools.

It is hoped to offer a weekend of First Aid training when the defibrillator's location is decided.

Girton's concerns regarding the naming of 'Ridgeway Village' have been spelt out to the Joint Development Control Committee.

Girton Road pavement is finally due to be improved for part of its length.  
NIAB junction works should have started.  
BT are consulting over disused phoneboxes including the one at the Girton Road/Pepys Way junction. Should the Council consider adopting this phonebox? In a straw poll, the Council voted not to put this on a future agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.07pm