

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 February, 2015 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 15/16.1

Present: Cllrs: de Lacey (Chairman), Williams, Barnes, Bygott (until the end of item 15/19), Godby, Harrington, Noble, L Taylor, M Taylor (until the end of item 15/19) and Whittle.
Cllr L Harford (Cambridgeshire County Council)

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

15/13 Welcome from the Chairman The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Cllr Harford who had been elected as our County Councillor last week. He also noted that since the last Parish Council Meeting, Cllr Simpson had resigned and the Chairman will write on behalf of the Council to thank him for his services as a Councillor.

15/14 Apologies and reasons for absence Apologies had been received from Cllrs Buckler, Cockley and Garner, and from PCSO Mani, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence. Cllr Bygott apologised that he would have to leave the meeting early to attend another meeting.

15/15 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda None.

15/16 Public Participation session on agenda items and 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. The Councillors introduced themselves to Cllr Harford, who thanked the Council for her welcome. Her pleasure at being a County Councillor is tempered by the circumstances, but she shares the strong work ethic of the late Cllr Reynolds and will do the best she can for Girton. She had been elected the Thursday before, then attended an internal meeting on Friday and a County Council Full Budget Meeting on Tuesday. The County Council is going to raise council tax by 1.99%.

Cllr Harford will take soundings from people about flooding, and agreed that the governance of new developments in and close to Girton will be an issue. She is not yet sure to which Committees she will be appointed.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Harford.

3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix A*) Cllr Bygott spoke about the issues at Oakington Road bridge, where the last of the pipes have been removed and the banks rehabilitated. Pat Matthews of SCDC is looking at dredging downstream of the bridge to make the water get away faster. Cllr Bygott also spoke about local public houses. SCDC is consulting on protecting pubs against being converted into shops without the need for planning permission.

4. Police Report (*Appendix B*) Concern was raised that the geographic areas which our PCSOs have to cover are increasing. Householders should be made aware that there have been a number of recent burglaries in South Cambridgeshire where entrance has been gained through patio doors.

15/17 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st January, 2015 (previously circulated) Cllr Williams proposed an amendment that in Appendix D, the third list should be removed. The amendment was approved

with three abstentions. Cllr Williams proposed that the Chairman sign an amended copy, seconded by Cllr L Taylor. Approved with one abstention.

15/18 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

14/145.1 The Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire has been submitted.

15/07.4 The nomination for former-Councillor Gordon in the South Cambridgeshire Community Awards 2015 has been submitted, and an invitation received for the Awards Ceremony on 5th March.

15/08.6 The Parish Council's precept request for 2015-16 has been forwarded to South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Noted by the Council.

15/19 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To approve the application from Circus Tyanna to use part of the Recreation Ground for the period 24th - 27th May 2015 (*Appendix C and correspondence item 15/21.3*) Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr M Taylor. The location should be at the discretion on the groundsman and dependent on weather. As with sports matches, we would say if the event had to be cancelled there would be no financial penalty to the Parish Council. A decision regarding cancellation would be made by the groundsman and three parish councillors. The RFO questioned if a full risk assessment should be done for Ten Acre Field - Girton Feast has comparable details which could be amended. Approved with one abstention.

2. To agree to modify the contract to Paul Laston for maintenance of open spaces to run to 31st December 2015, in order to bring this contract in line with our other maintenance contracts. Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr L Taylor. All other maintenance contracts start in a slack time of year e.g. December. A typo had made the current contract for a four year period, but Mr Laston had agreed this was not what had been intended and would like to rationalise this. The RFO would prefer contracts to be kept per financial year, but if a contractor knows in March if he is not having the contract renewed he may not do the work so well. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. To commission work to thin and coppice shrubs on our land at Weavers Field (*Appendix D*) Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Harrington. The works have not been undertaken for a couple of years, so this proposal is to keep Weavers Field vegetation in check. The quotation is for a low figure, so three tenders are not required. Approved unanimously.

4. To approve the writing of a letter to the Manager of Stagecoach, expressing our deep concern and unhappiness with the current state of the Citi 6 service, and requesting a clear statement of intention on the reliability of the revised schedule (*see correspondence item 15/21.4*). Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Godby. Following an item in the Parish Council report in Girton Parish News, Cllr de Lacey had received 30 pages of emails. There is much unhappiness about the service in Girton and Oakington, and Cllr de Lacey proposes to liaise with the Chairman of Oakington Parish Council so a joint letter may be sent. The two issues are failure to comply with the timetable and that many buses do not trigger the Real Time Indicator. Until highway works on Huntingdon Road are completed it is hard to monitor the efficiency of the bus service. but Linton, Sawston, Shelford and Cambourne have also noted dissatisfaction with the service. The proposal to write to Stagecoach was approved with one abstention.

5. To approve a management plan for the public space between the Abbeyfield fence and the public path at Wellbrook Way (*Appendix F*). The strip, varying from 1m to 3m wide, has been left as a wild area. Cllr de Lacey read out a statement from Abbeyfield residents, and opened the issue for discussion. Residents are concerned about weeds and the management are concerned about intimidation from young people. The Council agreed a management proposal to be put to the management of Abbeyfield.

6. To approve replacement items on Trim Trail equipment (*Appendix E*) Cllr de Lacey proposed that Fenland Leisure should also replace the nets, seconded by Cllr

Bygott. The net climbing ropes on the Trim Trail are coming to the end of their useful life, and as there is lots of work involved it would be best for the contractors to undertake the replacement. Approved unanimously.

(Cllrs Bygott and M Taylor left at this point).

15/20 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve payments for the previous month (*Appendix G*). In accordance with the procedure agreed in January, Cllr Whittle had gone through the payments in detail with the RFO before the meeting, and all councillors had received a broad outline. Approved unanimously.

15/21 Correspondence (to be received)

1. 22 Jan 2015: Letter of resignation from Cllr Simpson.
2. 27 Jan 2015: Correspondence regarding Girton Precept Request 2015-16
3. 3 Feb 2015 : Correspondence regarding Circus Tyanna's request to use Recreation Ground
4. 5 Feb 2015: Correspondence regarding Citi 6 bus service
5. 9 Feb 2015: Invitation to Swavesey Village College Launch Event
6. 11 Feb 2015: Correspondence regarding waste land behind Abbeyfield
7. 16 Feb 2015: Traffic on Dodford Lane
8. 17 Feb 2015: Information on CCVS Funding Fair for voluntary groups Received by the Council.

15/22 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix H*) There has been a second incidence of the Pavilion being left unlocked or deliberately unlocked by someone with a key. A local resident alerted the Chairman, and the Council agreed that he should write on behalf of the Council to thank him. Regarding the Care Home at Wellbrook Way, legal problems over the S106 payments should now have been settled. The Council has received a draft Section 111 agreement in lieu of a S106 agreement. The Vice-Chairman noted a possible conflict in the conditions which needs to be resolved, ensuring the payment is made before the commencement of the development.
2. Girton Town Charity. (*Appendix I*).
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix J*).
4. Footpaths. No report this month.
5. Water Management. Residents had received a circular from the Environment Agency. They have not yet reinstated the bridleway, but have undertaken lots of bushing downstream.
6. Wellbrook Way Development Committee. No report this month. A new Chairman is needed for the Committee, following the resignation of Cllr Gordon.

15/23 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes

1. 10 February, 2015: Planning Committee Meeting Received by the Council.

15/24 Matters raised by Members (for information only)

The First Responders Course and handover ceremony for the defibrillator will be held on 28th February, and all are welcome to attend.

The offer of a speed monitor from the County Council will be considered at the next meeting.

The election of new councillors should take place at the April meeting.

The Council agreed that Cllr Whittle respond to a resident's letter about traffic in Dodford Lane.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm