

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 15th July, 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 15/99.1

Present: Cllrs: Williams (Chairman), Barnes, Buckler, de Lacey, Griffin, Kettle.
Cllr L Harford (Cambs County Council) (until end of item 15/99.2)
1 member of the public

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk)

15/96 Welcome from the Chairman The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

15/97 Apologies and reasons for absence Apologies had been received from Cllrs Cockley, Godby, Noble, Ranken, M Taylor and Whittle, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.

15/98 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda None.

15/99 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:

1. Members of the Public. The member of the public spoke about the meeting of the Solar Panels Task & Finish Group held on 14th July. The group is looking at the possibility of PV panels on the Pavilion roof facing Girton Glebe School. The roof faces South South West, which is ideal. 20 PV panels would give savings of up to £3,000 per annum, which would pay for winter heating, lighting and computer usage. The set-up costs would be approximately £23,000, and the feed-in tariff could pay for 50% of generated power, with a return of 15%.

The Chairman thanked the member of the public.

2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*). Cllr Harford spoke about the cycle network improvements regarding Northstowe, wherein a key corridor is Girton to Oakington with an amount designated for these improvement works. She is working with Cllr de Lacey regarding traffic issues on Huntingdon Road, where speeding and noisy lorries are problematic. The closure of the A14 leads to diversion through the village at night and it was questioned whether restricted speeds could be introduced to minimise noise. Cllr Harford has also been involved in setting up a speedwatch scheme elsewhere, and would be fully supportive should Girton wish to establish a speedwatch.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Harford, who left the meeting at this point.

3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*). Cllr de Lacey spoke about the work on boundary changes. The Boundary Commission sets the timetable for this, and the parish council needs to look at the options before us, and the implications of a 3-member ward or perhaps 1-member. The information is likely to be provided by mid-July. A consultation by the County Council has been undertaken recently, and there will also be a parliamentary review. Councillors expressed concerns regarding the County Council's land holdings and if these could be built upon, but these could become exception land. The government says that 1000 new homes are needed in South Cambridgeshire, which should be affordable housing for local people.

4. Police Report (*Appendix C*). The recent damage to the cricket cover and MUGA fencing is of concern. During Feast Week, youths had been on the Recreation Ground at 4am. Cllr Barnes has spoken with Cambridge Academy of English, who will explain to students that they need to be off the Recreation Ground by 12am and respect property.

- 15/100 To confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Friday 12th June, 2015** (previously circulated) The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved with one abstention.
- 15/101 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th June, 2015** (previously circulated) The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Buckler. Cllr de Lacey proposed an amendment, that the sentence “The application is for trading on the Recreation Ground seven nights a week” be removed from item 15/85.8, seconded by Cllr Williams, and the proposed amendment was approved. The amended Minutes were approved, with one abstention.
- 15/102 To confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 30th June, 2015** (previously circulated) The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, and approved with one abstention.
- 15/103 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**
15/85.7 The Council's response to the Flood Risk Management Strategy Consultation has been submitted.
15/95.1 The Annual Return and Annual Governance Statement have been sent to the External Auditors.
Noted by the Council.
- 15/104 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**
1. To agree to the street naming strategy proposed by Cambridge University for the North West Cambridge Development. Cllr Williams has looked again at the Parish Council's response and proposes that the Council welcomes the consultation but would like to make it more obvious who we are commemorating, possibly through the use of forenames eg as in Lawrence Weaver Road, and that the Council would like to agree to individual names for individual roads. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Griffin. There are three streams to naming, one of which is names suggested by the public. Cllr de Lacey has proposed 'Leakey', 'Hibbert Ware' and 'Jocelyn Bell', who had Girton connections. Approved unanimously.
 2. To authorise investigation into the cost of installing a more-sophisticated security system to cover a greater area of the Recreation Ground and sports facilities. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Barnes. Coverage of recent incidents around the sports fields has not been useful. The Council would need to authorise volunteers to look into what the installation and maintenance costs would be to install a more sophisticated system, and to devise a specification. It may be possible to work with Girton Glebe School who are also getting quotations. Approved unanimously.
 3. To appoint a task group to investigate the financial implications of Girton Parish Council becoming VAT registered. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Griffin. The turnover of the Parish Council is large enough to be VAT registered. A group of 2-3 people would be needed to get £200-£300 of advice on implications and possible savings, and the Chairman will try to take this forward. The accountant working with Histon & Impington Parish Council has been a great source of advice and some other parish councils are VAT registered. Approved unanimously.
 4. To authorise repairs to a maximum of £700 (plus VAT) for the Wellbrook Way play surface damage, dependent on whether or not an insurance claim can be made. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr de Lacey. The play surface was damaged 5-6 weeks before. Most of the £700 (plus VAT) cost is for materials. It was queried whether a claim could be made against the developers for a poorly-laid surface. Other minor play area repairs are required at Weavers Field, Wellbrook Way and the Recreation Ground. Approved unanimously.
 5. To decide a policy on the means of removing graffiti in the village. The probation service used to undertake these works on behalf of South Cambs District Council, but no longer do so since privatisation. Cllr de Lacey proposed that quotations be sought from companies who undertake graffiti removal, and Cllr Barnes proposed that Girton Youth Project could be approached with help to repaint the bus shelter. Seconded by Cllr Williams. Approved unanimously.

6. To approve the street lighting inventory and continuance of street lighting energy provision from Cambridgeshire County Council (see correspondence item 15/106.3) Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Barnes. The item is for street lighting owned by the parish council so the County Council has no duty to keep them going. The listing of specific lights will need to be checked with the archived listings. Approved unanimously.
7. To agree the purchase of a replacement printer/copier for the Parish Office at a cost not exceeding £200 (plus VAT) Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Barnes, and approved unanimously.

15/105 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve payments for the previous month (*Appendix D*) The payments had been checked by Cllr Williams before the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Barnes, and approved unanimously.

15/106 Correspondence (to be received)

1. 26 June 2015: Correspondence regarding graffiti and rubbish
2. 30 June 2015: Public Rights of Way Grass Cutting
3. 1 July 2015: Street Lighting inventory and agreement from Cambridgeshire County Council.
4. 8 July 2015: Correspondence regarding users of Girton Recreation Ground
5. 10 July 2015: Correspondence regarding registering local pubs as community assets.

Received by the Council. A response from the Cricket Club regarding item 15/106.4 has yet to be received.

15/107 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix E*) There has been no response as yet from Skanska or Costain regarding the car park works. Regarding the green area adjacent to the bowls green, the Chairman is meeting with Ray Gordon of Girton Town Charity on 20th July for a site visit.
2. Girton Town Charity. No report this month.
3. Girton Youth Project. No report this month.
4. Footpaths. No report this month.
5. Water Management. No report this month.

15/108 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes (to be circulated)

1. Planning Committee Meeting of 25th June, 2015
Received by the Council.

15/109 Matters raised by Members (for information only)

A dog owner was seen to bring a dog onto the Recreation Ground during the Feast Fun Day. Events organisers should be reminded that they are responsible for all observance of relevant by-laws.

Following interruption of the Pavilion power supply during the Feast, a fail-safe power supply for the Parish Office is needed.

The Minutes of Parish Council meetings were requested to be circulated to members at least a week in advance of the following meeting.

The Solar Power Task and Finish Group will meet again on 6th August.

The Office Working Group are looking at the ergonomics of the office space. Some reorganisation of file storage is proposed on the afternoon of 25th August. This is a short term solution and will not need desks and computer equipment to be moved, but will need additional access points on the other side of the room. The long term solution of utilising the loft space and installing a lift will be looked at at a later date.

Feedback from the IT System Review Group will be on the agenda for the next meeting but one.

Registering the village's public houses as community assets would not be a complicated process.

The County Council should be contacted regarding the state of the lane by the Recreation Ground.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

APPENDIX A

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report to Parish Councils June/July 2015

At a specially convened meeting Highways & Community Infrastructure Committee [H&CI] was asked to reconsider its recent decision in respect of the Central Library Enterprise Centre. The committee decided to rescind the decision on the partnership project with Kora. Work will now be carried out on identifying alternative options for increasing income at the central library and across the library service as a whole.

At its scheduled meeting on 07 July H&CI it considered a proposal to review arrangements for household recycling centres [HRCs] for Cambridge and Northstowe. County Council waste planning policy had identified 4 new HRCs to serve the future growth generated in Cambridge and Northstowe. Each of the existing 9 HRCs costs approximately £200,000 pa to operate and maintain and the more modern facilities cost considerably more. With the cost savings that the council is required to make to the waste service a review was carried out to establish whether the number would have to be reduced and it is now proposed that one single facility capable of serving the whole area is a better option than the 4 that were originally planned. The committee approved this proposal.

There were two items that attracted my interest at Adults Committee. The first was further consideration of the Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme. In March this committee had agreed to ask General Purposes Committee for an increase in funding. It was now being asked to note that this request had been approved and to consider proposals for spending the money. Five proposals were discussed including one that will see this emergency assistance scheme provide applicants with re-cycled white goods instead of brand new ones. There was much discussion, too, about sustaining and building the capacity of food banks without comprising the integrity of those running them. The second item was the draft Recruitment & Retention Strategy for Social Care Services. It appears that Cambridgeshire pays its social workers less than other local authorities do and this strategy will start to address that and cut the cost of using agency workers.

Members were interested to note, though, that between the Head of Service and the Social Workers there are 5 layers of personnel only two of which are case holding. Agenda:
<http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Committee.aspx?committeeID=72>

The council submitted its written representations to the Planning Inspectorate on the A14 Improvement Scheme in time for the deadline of 15 June. It strongly supports the scheme overall but there are still areas where further information, analysis or mitigation is required and these have been set out in the detailed submissions. Hearings are due to start w/c 13 July. The most local which I shall attend is on Tuesday afternoon at Menzies Hotel, Bar Hill. This is described as an open floor hearing and will be an opportunity for the Inspectors to consider issues on which they require further clarity. The examination is expected to end mid November 2015 and a decision is expected by summer 2016.

Two items considered by The City Deal Executive Board are arousing/will arouse much local debate. The first is the A428/A1303 Road Corridor Scheme for which options were put forward. Agreement that consultation should take place specified that a question should be included asking for the public's view on the optimum location for a new park and ride site at Madingley Mulch. The other item relates to addressing congestion in Cambridge benignly entitled 'Proposal for consulting on Cambridge City Centre Access Measures'. The board approved the process for developing the strategy and approved development of plans for an initial engagement exercise follow by consultation. There was a welcome for the business case for the formation of the Housing Development Agency.

This will require approval of all 3 participating councils. It will be considered by General Purposes Committee on 28 July having been approved by South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet on 09 July. Agenda: <http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g6548/Public%20reports%20pack%20Thursday%2018-Jun-2015%2014.00%20Greater%20Cambridge%20City%20Deal%20Executive%20Board.pdf?T=10> The next meeting of the Joint Assembly is on 15 July followed by an Executive Board meeting on 04 August. Northstowe Joint Development Committee resolved to approve the grant of outline planning permission for Phase 2 of the development subject to agreement of the planning obligations under S106 and appropriate conditions, details of both of which will be considered by committee at its next meeting on 29 July. There will be varying opinions expressed about that decision but the application was policy compliant and, unless material planning considerations could be cited to support a refusal, it is likely that a subsequent appeal would not only have been successful but that the decision could have been considered unreasonable and, on that basis, significant costs awarded to the appellant. On a second application - for the southern access road members of the committee were much more in agreement and voted to grant full permission. Agenda: <http://bit.ly/1gfWmyB>

More locally: It would appear that work has started on installing the cabinet which will finally bring high speed broadband to Lolworth. After missing 3 published dates residents could be forgiven for cynically greeting the news I communicated a few days ago that work was about to start imminently but, almost immediately an Openreach van was spotted so hopefully the connection will soon be made.

Huntingdon Road continues to provoke concerns. Delays to delivery of the bus shelter for the new floating bus stop at Girton Corner mean that bus users are waiting on the pavement and have to cross the cycle lane when they see the bus approaching. This has already resulted in one incident in which fortunately nobody was seriously hurt. I have met with a County Highways safety engineer who carried out an assessment the day after our meeting. He will report to the project manager any recommendations for improving the situation. I have also asked that the supplier be chased for delivery of the shelter. I have also had complaints about speeding on Huntingdon Road and have investigated with County Highways the history of traffic incidents in the area. Although there is no doubt that there have been several incidents over the recent past speed has not been found to be a contributing cause. However, I appreciate the concerns that residents have and would like to suggest that consideration is given to setting up a Speed Watch group. I have experience of Speed Watch [I am a trained member of one such group] and I believe that the scheme offers the benefit of identifying patterns of speeding which the police can then follow up on in terms of enforcement. Please email me if you would be interested in helping to set up a group.

At last summer is here and I am having a great time joining you all at your local fetes, village days, etc. I am in awe of the hard work that so many people put in on behalf of their communities. I hope you all enjoy some well deserved rest and recuperation during the forthcoming holiday season.

Lynda

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APPENDIX B

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey, 9. 7. 2015

At a very difficult 7-hour meeting of the Northstowe JDCC we reluctantly approved the outline plan for Phase 2. The minutes of the previous meeting were astoundingly brief, and in what is apparently an unprecedented move several of us voted not to accept them as a true and

accurate representation. This meant that new members were denied important information in our decision-making; and although officers argued that the proposals were now policy-compliant it was with a caveat that 'it is a question of whether members are satisfied that the parameters of the development are acceptable in the context of the exemplar objectives of the proposed development' and on that basis I and one other Councillor voted No.

The Fringes JDCC met on 17 June to approve a bit more of the Glebe Farm development south of the City, and to approve the building of an ice rink by the Newmarket Road P&R. We also received a presentation on the proposed new railway station at Chesterton: this has now been taken over from the County by Network Rail, which has resulted in a potentially more sensible layout using other NR land, but also a delay. We await the full plans.

On 2 July the University hosted a 'transport forum' for the Western Quadrant (West Cambridge and NW Cambridge sites). We were given an introduction to the University's travel plans and invited to comment. The discussion was lively and informative, and it is clear the University is thinking hard about the issues. Plans include a cycle bank on site so that new residents can try-before-they-buy; we discussed the need to have a range of different styles available. It was good to see the organisers pedalling off at the end of the session: one to the station and the other to home.

We have had another meeting of Group Leaders with the Housing PFH and officers. Our main concern was to tease out the relationship between our Local Plan (under criticism for an inadequate supply of new homes in the first five years) and the Cambridge City Deal which adds a requirement of another thousand homes. These are supposed to be provided on Exception Sites, which are specifically designated as sites brought forward for development by the local community and to satisfy local need. But if these fail to appear the Council might have to take a hand; it might therefore be prudent for Girton to see if there are any such sites available within the village.

Today (9 July) I attended the Civic Affairs Committee as a substitute, for an important debate on the Boundary Review. The proposal is that we consult on a move to all-out elections once every 4 years which would allow us to keep our mix of 1- 2- and 3-member Wards; the alternative is only to have 3-member Wards with one of the 3 elected each year. There is also a desire (largely in the minds of the Boundary Commissioners) to reduce the number of Councillors significantly (perhaps by about 20%) so Ward boundaries will certainly have to change. In all of this the concept of maintaining local community identity could well be at risk. For Girton the choice is probably that we become a single-member ward (with all-out elections) or part of a larger grouping (with Bar Hill and several smaller neighbouring villages) with 3 members and annual elections. But the decision on number of members has to be made *first*, before we can be clear on the implications for our villages. We in SCDC shall develop our own plans a bit and then go out to consultation, but the timetable is very tight and August is not a very good time for a consultation! I hope the Parish Council will take this issue very seriously.

Last weekend (4 July) there was an accident at the unfinished works at Girton Corner. A passenger waiting at the shelter stepped out as the bus arrived into the path of a cyclist who swerved to avoid him but hit the kerb and came off her bike. Apparently there is a delay in delivery of the new shelter which has held the works up, but I have discussed the unsatisfactory situation with Cllr Harford and with officers, and a new safety audit on the current situation is being carried out.

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX C

Police Report: June/July 2015

22nd June, 2015: At the Panel meeting in Swavesey last week, a question was raised by residents

in relation to a Police incident in Girton on 6th June. The audience asked for an update following this incident which required large numbers of specialist resources. The incident related to a concern for the welfare of a man who had been living in the village. The level of response was related directly to concern for his welfare and not because of concerns for the safety of other residents. This man has been reported as missing however, we have received a number of sightings and consequently the initial high levels of concern have been reduced. We are continuing our efforts to locate and speak to him.

CF0255380615

On 26th June between 15:10 and 15:30 hours, a theft from a person took place on the bus in Cambridge Road, Girton. Perpetrator(s) have stolen a purse from a person whilst travelling on the bus.

CF0270480715

Between 3rd July and 6th July, 2015, unknown offenders have stolen a large amount of money from a school in Girton.

CF0270450715

Between 5th July and 6th July, 2015, unknown offenders have caused damage to the rolling cricket covers on Girton Recreation Ground.

CF0273540715

During the night of 8th - 9th July, a shed was broken into in St Vincent's Close, Girton. Perpetrator(s) have cut off the lock to gain entry, unknown if anything has been taken.

CF0273520715

During the night of 8th - 9th July, a garage was broken into in Woody Green, Girton. Perpetrator(s) have cut off the lock to gain entry to the garage, unknown if anything was taken.

If you have any information which may assist with the investigation into these crimes please call 101, or call crime stoppers anonymously 0800 555 111.

APPENDIX D

Payments Schedule for July 2015 (Tabled)

APPENDIX E

Chairman's Report

8th July 2015

A meeting with the contractor established that both sides of the footpath behind Abbeyfield are not currently in the mowing contract and a favourable price was agreed to have them cut and included in the existing schedule. The area has now been cut, hopefully to the satisfaction of all.

The concerns of our GP surgery about the new Care Home in Wellbrook Way were relayed to Hallmark who have agreed to a meeting to provide some reassurance about the level of additional work the facility will impose.

Discussions have taken place with GTC who have expressed some reservations about the provision of a green surface for ball games, adjacent to the Bowls Green. This has been passed back to the WW Residents Association with a request that they confirm the breadth of opinion they have received.

Concerns about the safety of the new cycle lane/floating bus stops and speeding vehicles at night along Huntingdon Road have been received. Lynda Harford has taken up these issues on our behalf and is instigating some changes to relieve the situation.

The Safety Officer and I inspected the pot holes on the recreation ground car park and concluded that a significant section of some 10 by 50 feet needs to be dug out and replaced.

Given that the major car park redesign is not likely to happen in the short term this is something we need to progress fairly urgently. I will initially return to Costain and Skanska to see if they are prepared to help.

Sunday 5th of July saw another serious outbreak of vandalism on the recreation ground. One of the Cricket Club's wicket covers was extensively damaged along with a section of wooden fencing to the MUGA. It appears that the aluminium framed cover had been climbed on and used as a battering ram against the fence, severely buckling the former and breaking several boards in the latter. The matter has been reported to the police and a crime number issued. On the evening of Monday the 6th a less serious outbreak of littering was evident on the recreation ground where a large quantity of empty drink containers and food wrappings were strewn around the area near the pavilion. CCTV footage is being monitored for activity at the relevant periods.

Our year end accounts were received back from the internal auditor with a clean bill of health and required an extraordinary PC meeting to provide approval before the end of June. These have now been submitted to the external auditors by the due date. Particular thanks are due to Natalie Stone our previous Finance Officer and Susie Cumming, our Parish Clerk for their sterling efforts in completing this task to the necessary deadline.

Haydn Williams