

# Girton Parish Council

Susan Cumming  
Clerk to the Parish Council  
Telephone: (01223) 472181  
Email: clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk

The Pavilion  
Girton Recreation Ground  
Cambridge Road, Girton  
Cambridge CB3 0FH

## **Minutes of the meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 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 16/66.1*

**Present:** (Cllrs) H Williams (Chairman), Buckler, de Lacey, Godby, Griffin, Harrington, Whittle, L Williams (from item 16/69.1 onwards)

Cllr L Harford (Cambridgeshire County Council) (until end of item 16/67.7)

1 member of the public (until item 16/69.1)

**In attendance:** S Cumming (Clerk), M Mackay (RFO)

**16/63 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially County Councillor Harford and the member of the public.

**16/64 Apologies and reasons for absence** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Barnes, Bygott, Kettle and M Taylor and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.

**16/65 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** None.

The following item was moved forward :

**16/69** 1. To co-opt a member of Girton Parish Council (details previously circulated) Ms L Williams had expressed her wish to be a member of Girton Parish Council, and had previously submitted her application. She was co-opted as a member of the Council, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invited to join the table.

**16/66 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**

1. Members of the Public. There were no members of the public at the meeting, Cllr L Williams having been co-opted as a Councillor at item 16/69.1

2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) Cllr Harford spoke of the police's Operation Hunter, being held in local villages, offering advice on crime prevention. There is great need for police training on cybercrime. Cllr Harford reported that online requests will be needed if Speedwatch is needed. Regarding the issue of parking on Thornton Road, Cllr Harford seeks technical support and will get back to the Council. Proposed rises in Park and Ride bus fares proposed by Stagecoach were voted down. All members would like more control over our public transport systems and the City Deal is currently looking at proposals to help with this. Cllr Harford was congratulated on her appointment to the SCDC Cabinet for Housing. The efficiency of the mechanism for reporting street faults was questioned.

3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Cllr de Lacey reported that the Enforcement Department has forwarded the case of 156 Girton Road to the SCDC Legal Department, where the Officer initially dealing with this case has been replaced by a locum.

4. Police Report (*Appendix C*) There were no matters arising from the Police Report.

**16/67 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th May, 2016** (previously circulated) In item 16/54.2, 'adoption and' was deemed superfluous. In item 16/57.7 the addition of 'County Council' before 'Officers' was requested, plus "estimate" after "£14,000". With these amendments, the Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr H Williams, seconded by Cllr Whittle and approved with one abstention.

**16/68 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**

16/57.8 Histon Early Years Centre staff have been notified about the mobile toy library permission.

Regarding objections to the A14 upgrade, Cllr Harford and Cllr H Williams have had a meeting and Cllr Harford has contacted the Highways Agency regarding meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr H Williams reported that the press have reported that Highways England are to remove average speed cameras.

Noted by the Council.

**16/69 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To co-opt a member of Girton Parish Council (details previously circulated) This item had been brought forward (please see above).

2. To approve the siting of two new dog bins at Wellbrook Way. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman/Chairman of the Environment Committee had met with a resident of Wellbrook Way who pointed out the shortage of dog-bins. It was proposed by the Chairman that we approach South Cambs District Council to approve siting a new dog-bin at the top of Wellbrook Way and another by Abbeyfield. Approval for new dog-bins will be needed from SCDC, on GPC's recommendation. Seconded by Cllr Griffin and approved unanimously.

3. To approve a proposal not to cut back growth on Woody Green/Duck End 'island' (which is managed as part of the current Open Spaces Contract), and to allow more-natural growth (*Appendix D*)

Cllr Griffin had met with a Woody Green resident regarding the resident's proposal to undertake total maintenance of the island himself as a wild flower meadow. Cllr Griffin agreed to help him with one cut at the end of September. Grass should not be left on the island after cutting. This was what was originally envisaged for the area. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved unanimously.

4. To approve a payment from Girton Village Celebrations for use of the Pavilion and Recreation Ground for Girton Feast. In the past, the Parish Council has allowed the Feast Committee to hire the Pavilion and Recreation Ground for a nominal fee on the understanding that they would come the Parish Council for financial assistance if the need arose, ie if the Fun Day was rained off. Last year they had built up a fund and started making donations to local causes. The Chairman had consulted CAPALC to check if the Council is legally allowed to give a subsidy in this case, which was agreed. The Chairman proposed that the sum of £50 be charged for the use of the Pavilion and Recreation Ground, on the condition that the Parish Council receive a full financial report from Girton Village Celebrations on the Feast, in due course. Seconded by Cllr Godby. The Dog Show needs more careful management, particularly with regard to dogs not being allowed on the Recreation Ground. Approved with one abstention.

5. To agree a plan to provide a Parish Council stall at the Feast Day in order to answer enquiries and establish lists of volunteers for working groups and specific functions. Cllr Harrington agreed to look in to this. Cllr de Lacey offered use of a gazebo. Cllr de Lacey has written to Mr M McCormack regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, and awaits a reply.

6. To approve a request for financial help with publicity for voluntary car scheme in Girton (*Appendix E*) Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Buckler. The resident doesn't say if he has discussed the car-scheme proposal with local taxi services. If the request is approved, funds would be a \$137 grant. It was agreed to defer the item to the July meeting, the Clerk to contact two Girton taxi firms.

7. To approve a response to the Cambridgeshire County Council public consultation on Huntingdon Road Cycleways Phase 2. The Council agreed to complete responses as individuals rather than submitting a Parish Council response.

Cllr Harford left the meeting at this point.

**16/70 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve payments for the previous month. Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by the Chairman. Questions regarding payments for tennis court lights, pond payments and locks at Town End Close were answered satisfactorily. Approved unanimously.

2. To receive a financial report for the end of the financial year 2015-16 prior to submission to the internal and external auditors. Profit and Loss Statements and Balance Sheets were circulated. The RFO was still working on the Annual Return submission, and therefore an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 6.30pm at Girton Pavilion to approve the Annual Return.

**16/71 Correspondence (to be received)**

1. Annual Public Health Report 2015-2016 from Cambs County Council
2. 'Cambridgeshire Voice' publication from Cambs & Peterborough CPRE
3. Letter of resignation from Cllr John Ranken.
4. Letters of thanks to John Ranken and Graham Clare, for their service to GPC. Received by the Council.

**16/72 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix F*) The Chairman had attended the Local Liaison Forum on the A428 Western Orbital Route on 14<sup>th</sup> June. It was suggested that at next year's Annual Parish Meeting, we could invite a speaker on Cyber Crime. We need to think about the the Annual Parish Meeting at the start of next year.
2. Girton Town Charity. No report this month.
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix G*)
4. Footpaths. There is currently a vacancy for a Footpaths Officer, so no report this month.
5. Water Management. No report this month.

**16/73 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes**

1. Planning Committee Meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2016  
Received by the Council.

**16/74 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting**

The Chairman reported that the phone kiosk at the junction of Girton Road/Pepys Way is to be restored within the next couple of days, prior to use as a book exchange.

Following a query from Neighbourhood Watch regarding being charged for signs on lamp-posts, Cllr L Williams agreed to investigate.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm

**APPENDIX A**  
**Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report to Parish Councils**  
**May/June 2016**

There has been no meeting of full Council since my last report. The next one, a special meeting to consider the devolution deal that is proposed for East Anglia, is scheduled for 28 June. Following Cambridgeshire County Council's rejection of the Government's proposed devolution deal for East Anglia in its current form [a Combined Authority for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Norfolk and Suffolk] the County Council has continued its discussions with partners and Ministers about a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough deal. The East Anglian deal is the first one nationally to include provision for housing and negotiations on this aspect have raised particular challenges. Whilst the government's stance on the requirement for an elected mayor as part of any deal remains non-negotiable, changes have been incorporated in the proposal being put forward by

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which would see less authority being vested in the role. Should all the constituent councils agree to progress a devolution deal, a full consultation process would follow before any final agreement between them and Government.

There have been meetings in June of both the Greater Cambridge City Deal [GCCD] Assembly and Board. Both considered plans to improve public transport, cycling and walking in Cambridge by tackling congestion 'swiftly and effectively'. The aim is to leave the busiest roads free for buses, cycles and pedestrians at rush hour and speed up the commute for people who don't travel by car. The proposal recommends: peak time congestion control points, better public transport, a workplace parking levy, on street

parking controls such as residents parking zones [to discourage commuter parking], better cycling infrastructure, smart transport technology [such as 'digital way finding' and real-time traffic alerts], travel planning, and improving the look, feel and experience of public space. The Board also considered the preferred options for bus priority measures and cycling improvements on Histon Road and Milton Road, and a package of 5 schemes to improve cross city cycling. The proposals for Histon and Milton Roads have attracted a lot of criticism from local residents; the proposal that 100+ trees will be lost to accommodate the changes on Milton Road being particularly contentious.

Assembly agenda pack: <http://tinyurl.com/j5zqqkh> draft minutes: <http://tinyurl.com/j9vo9kj>

Board agenda pack and decisions: <http://tinyurl.com/jkynk3d>

At its May meeting, the Highways & Community Infrastructure Committee considered the Integrated Transport Block Funding Allocation funding proposals. Funding for the Local Highways Improvements initiative has been increased by £200K to £601K for 2016/17.

This follows a member working group that looked at the County Council's approach to highway maintenance and how local communities are involved in this. The findings of the working group were also presented to committee. Agenda pack: <http://tinyurl.com/guxd5ef>

The new and improved system for reporting highways issues was officially launched on 5 May 2016. Based on a tried and tested site currently being used by Suffolk County and other councils, feedback from residents has been very positive. It allows residents to report new highways faults and monitor the status of existing reports. It fits within the Digital First Agenda which aims to reduce costs by encouraging people to use online local government services. As well as helping to reduce costs it also aims to make it easier for people to report highway issues online rather than having to use the County Council's contact centre. Since its launch the new reporting tool has seen nearly 700 faults reported and logged. On average the County Council receives approximately 13,000 highway faults every year from the public. The new 'Report It' system can be found at: [http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20081/roads\\_and\\_pathways/10/roadworks\\_and\\_faults](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20081/roads_and_pathways/10/roadworks_and_faults)

The agenda for Adults Committee included a proposal for an alternative approach to the provision of the Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme [CLAS]. This scheme was set up in 2012 when Central Government devolved to local authorities funding for local schemes to replace the national Social Fund/Crisis Loan/Community Grant arrangements. The scheme provides grants of up to £350 to vulnerable families and individuals in exceptional circumstances that have led to a need for food, white goods, furniture,

bedding, clothing or utilities. However, a weakness of the scheme is its failure to provide information and advice about money matters to those it serves. Its benefits are short term practical provision of goods or resources without any focus on longer term prevention of the circumstances that led to the emergency need. Members agreed that a new approach to providing a CLAS should be considered. The committee also approved a reduction in the standard rate of Disability Related Expenditure [DRE] from £26 to £20 per week. People who are allocated a Council funded personal budget for care and support are assessed to see how much they should personally contribute. The assessment takes into account capital and income and makes allowances for certain expenditure including

housing related costs and DRE [defined by the Department of Health as any reasonable cost that is incurred as a result of a disability]. Councils may choose to set a standard allowance for DRE rather than require individuals to provide evidence of qualifying expenditure. Individuals can opt for the standard rate or to provide details of their actual expenditure. Adopting the use of a standard rate avoids the administration involved in checking individual claims but the £26 standard rate adopted by the Council to date is higher than the £18-20 charged by other local authorities who choose to set a standard rate. Will the reduction be offset by an increase in admin costs with more people opting to have their actual expenditure considered? Time will tell. Not all members were convinced by the proposal but the reduction was narrowly approved.

Agenda pack: <http://tinyurl.com/hjyuusw>

In contrast Environment & Economy Committee voted unanimously at its May meeting to recommend the use of reserves to defer the removal of the discretionary 50% concession on community transport Dial-a-Ride services. This will allow more time for the Council to work with community transport operators on the implications of the proposed withdrawal and to identify alternative means of funding and providing community transport services. Agenda pack: <http://tinyurl.com/hlxlby5>

At its June meeting the committee rejected an alternative funding proposal by Stagecoach for 5 of the 7 Park and Ride [P&R] sites. The proposal was that the parking charge should be removed and increased bus ticket prices substituted. The suggestion was an increase to £3.50 for standard fares and the introduction of a £2.50 charge for concession holders. Members requested that further work be undertaken on alternative funding arrangements which would include a joined up approach with the GCCD. The ideal aim should be free parking at P&R sites and consideration should be given to using money available in the on-street parking fund to subsidise P&R costs. Agenda pack: <http://tinyurl.com/goknqly>

The Joint Development Control Committee [Cambridge Fringes Sites] gave permission for 2 reserved matters applications for Darwin Green on land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road. The first was for 114 residential units and local centre including library, community rooms, health centre and retail units and included 40.35% affordable housing. The second was for 173 market and affordable dwellings with associated internal roads, car parking, landscaping, amenity and public open space. The affordable allocation here was 39.9% of the total. Agenda pack: <http://tinyurl.com/gmzzvo2>

Lynda

lyndaharford@icloud.com;  
01954 251775/07889 131022;  
Follow me on Twitter: @2whit2whoo

## APPENDIX B

### **Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey**

8. 6. 2016

In the 18 May JDCC agenda were a proposal that the JDCC should be the planning authority for City Deal schemes, and various aspects of Darwin Green 1 (all within the City). The former is I believe a key issue. On the latter we noted the poor parking provision with only 26 visitor spaces for the 287 dwellings; that's 1 for every 11 dwellings. However the general sense was one of relief that the scheme is at last under way, with a full quota of 40% affordable homes.

At the Council Annual Meeting on 19 May we duly voted in the new Leader of the Conservative Group as Leader of the Council, and were introduced to the new Cabinet which is little changed from its predecessor. We now have a Portfolio Holder (PFH) for the City Deal, who announced that he was not intending to hold any PFH meetings. Our own County Councillor Lynda Harford, who is also District Councillor for Cottenham, is PFH for Housing. We did the normal AGM stuff of populating committees and rubber-stamping the Conservative Group's choice of chairs. I remain on the JDCC which in my view is the most important Committee we have.

The following day there was a training course on Planning which officers marked as compulsory for all members and substitutes of the Planning Committee; so I attended although my current level of training is way above the minimum required. Our officers did a good job of introducing some pertinent issues including a session on enforcement which is particularly relevant for Girton at present. I am currently in close touch with the legal officers handling the planning breach at 156 Girton Road.

On 1 June the leaders of all the groups met with the CEO. Since we agreed confidentiality so that we could have a robust conversation I cannot say much, but he described the devolution issue as 'fluid' (and had said at Council that he will be bound by our decision at the extraordinary meeting later this month) and is keen to retain our work on sustainability.

Lynda Harford and I continue occasional meetings and it is a pleasure to report that we continue to be able to work together (and, I may say, apparently effectively) on a number of issues.

The big issues of the moment remain the City Deal, our Local Plan, and Devolution. I am not alone in being concerned that the Deal is losing its way. The funding model means that only short-term, quick-return schemes can be countenanced, and consultees -- including the advisory City Deal Assembly -- feel that they are being driven over roughshod. Unfortunately all the power resides in the tiny Board and the small number of officers who advise them. The Government inspectors are again at work on the Local Plans (ours and the City's) but it remains a long-drawn-out process which leaves us largely helpless in the face of developers. Everyone now seems to accept that the Chancellor's dream of a 3-County devolved East Anglia is now dead, and Cambridgeshire-plus-Peterborough is now being touted as an alternative. It does not appear to be much more popular here.

The agreement for the new Wellbrook Way Care Home is almost complete but the reorganisation of our legal team has caused delays which I am trying hard to overcome.

Douglas de Lacey

**APPENDIX C**  
**Police Report for May/June 2016**

On 25/05/16 at approximately 10:30hrs, unknown offender(s) have broken into a garage in St Vincent's Close, Girton. A pedal cycle has been stolen from within. CF0218520516 refers.

Between 11/06/2016 and 12/06/2016 unknown offenders have forced entry into a black Renault Clio whilst parked on Redgate Road, Girton. Offenders have stolen a bag from within.

**APPENDIX D**  
**Proposal for Duck End/Woody Green open space**

I live at the end of Woody Green, on the corner with Duck End and overlook the green 'island' where once lived the huge willow, but now is home to: a young oak, three silver birch and three other trees I cannot remember the names of.

To get straight to the point, I would like to maintain this green 'island' area rather than the Parish Council have to pay a contractor to do the two/three cuts per year. The reason being, that I can make the area more attractive and enable it to become a usable space for local residents.

I was heavily involved with the replanting of the area after the willow was removed and donated £50 to the Council for the replanting. Along with a good number of local children and other residents we planted the trees and 100+ miniature daffodils and crocuses. I've also been feeding and watering the trees since they were planted.

Unfortunately, with the current maintenance of the area the first cut of the year is before the bulbs have flowered. Thereafter is a cycle of the wild plants growing to a height that looks nice, but does not allow easy access onto the island and then everything is cut to the ground (which looks an utter mess) before re-growing, and then cut down again.

What I have been doing over the past six weeks (as a kind of test) is to cut and maintain a path across the island along with little tracks to allow people to walk around and see the plants and trees that are there. Since I started doing it I have seen a number of kids playing again on the island and people using it as a safe shortcut from Duck End to the Woody Green path (I've also removed a large number of the stinging nettles that were beginning to dominate the area)

All I'm asking for is the Parish Council to stop the contractor cutting the island.

What I'll keep doing:

- \* Regular cuts of the pathways and tracks but keep the area in a relatively wild state
- \* Undertake general maintenance of the area (i.e. not let one wild plant dominate and feed and water the still young trees as necessary)

What I'll also do:

- \* In late autumn I'll cut the area back ready for the spring bulbs to flower.
- \* Keep the area relatively tidy over winter.
- \* I'll start cutting the main path across the island in the spring (avoiding the bulbs).
- \* Once the bulbs have finished, I'll then start the cutting of tracks around the island.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. If you want to see how much nicer it looks now I've started cutting it then come and have a look.

Kind regards,

Richard Westley

**APPENDIX E**  
**Publicity for Voluntary Car Scheme in Girton**

Hi Susie

I wonder if you could help me please. It looks like we will be getting the voluntary car scheme off the ground soon. We had a meeting today and Girton has amalgamated with the Histon and Impington scheme which has been running for a short while. It has been difficult to get volunteers but we now have some drivers, coordinator etc and are virtually ready to go. We do however need to circulate the fact that the scheme will be available in Girton and to that effect we need some leaflets printed to be handed out and placed in the Doctors surgery etc etc. The cost of the printing will be around £60 and Club 55 is happy to help finance these leaflets but we are not a wealthy organisation and I wonder if the Parish Council would go some way to helping us with the cost. The scheme will be open to the whole area and people could use it for social purposes as well as a visit to the surgery etc. It will be much cheaper than a taxi and can be used for very short distances as well as longer ones. It will not replace the Girton Town Charity Hospital scheme but should complement it. Girton Town Charity already run the Hospital car scheme and have helped Club 55 to get established - hence this request to the PC and not GTC.

What do you think is the best way for me to approach the Parish Council and do you think they would be sympathetic to our cause. I realise that Histon and Impington are involved but it is because Girton is about to join them that the new leaflets are required. The scheme will be known as the HIG's voluntary car scheme (or something very similar) - Histon Impington and Girton.

We feel that once the scheme is up and running successfully and people see just how useful it can be more volunteers may come forward to help.

My best wishes,  
Sam Clift

**APPENDIX F**  
**Chairman's Report**  
**8<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

The annual Parish Meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> was rather poorly attended. The needs for volunteers to develop a neighbourhood plan, for a footpaths officer and a safety officer have still to be met. Gratifyingly we have received a number of positive comments from attendees at the meeting and one suggestion that we should have a PC stall at the Feast to answer questions and collect volunteers for various working party activities. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

The concerns expressed by attendees about unsociable parking in Thornton Road and Hicks Lane have been followed up with County Councillor Harford. Our conclusion is that the Thornton Road problem is fairly constant and does present a significant hazard. The level of parking in Hicks Lane is more variable and maybe can be alleviated by a plea in the Parish News.

Following the comments I made about the PC's feelings of irrelevance in planning matters Councillor Harford and I have met to discuss the issues relating to the A14 upgrade and planning developments in general. She has agreed to pick up the cudgels for us on the A14 and Wellbrook Way developments in particular. I have also been invited to a meeting of the 'Local Liaison Forum' on the City Deal Highways matters at Coton on the 14<sup>th</sup> June which I propose to attend. Details are to be circulated and anyone else wishing to come along should let me know.

The vice-chairman, (who is chairman of the Environment Committee), and I met with a Wellbrook Way resident to discuss environmental issues which should be addressed. These will be brought to the Environment Committee in due course and the dog bin issue is addressed at our next PC meeting.

Reports of unsociable late night driving in Pepys Way and a planned, IVC students late night party at the recreation ground were reported to PCSO Mani. The former is being investigated and the latter appears to have dissipated to a small gathering at the far end of the recreation ground with no disturbance reported.

Haydn Williams



## APPENDIX G|

### **Summary of Girton Youth Project Report – May 2016**

Our concerted efforts to encourage girls into the group has had mixed results. Following our new outreach programme at the Glebe there is certainly much more interest in the Monday group and girls certainly have been part of that. Our secondary school outreach work is much slower to show results and the few new faces we have seen has been mainly connected to people already attending. However, it's certainly helping our status.

A full two week programme of activities has now been planned for the beginning of the summer holidays. We have also made all the arrangements for the sailing residential, and everyone has signed up to the trip and given in their deposits. The next step is to begin to make preparations for what we are going to do on the trip and what we are going to eat! The artist in residence programme has settled well, with 4 main participants each working on printmaking, photography, spray painting and sculpture for the show in June. A two day workshop was held for three 13 year old girls to develop their Arts Award. The group worked with artist Sarah Evans on photography, drawing, painting and collage as well as interviewing Sarah and meeting other well-known artists.

Our initial work with IVC has gone really well, with Images of each above.

Ryan is doing extremely well, both at the clubs and reinstating the relationship with Girton Glebe school, having gone in each week to deliver a broad array of workshops, games and activities.

Following my attendance of the Parish Council's annual meeting, I had a very productive conversation with Cllr Mark Taylor about the possibility of a permission (Graffiti) wall in Girton. He said he is very happy to put it in the July agenda and we have taken some pictures for suggested places near the recreation ground.

Tim Shuker-Yates