

# 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

## **DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th July, 2017 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 17/84.1*

**Present:** (Cllrs) H Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Dashwood, de Lacey, Godby, Griffin, Kettle, Whittle.

1 member of the public (until end of 17/87.1)

**In attendance:** S Cumming (Clerk), M Murphy (Finance Contractor) (from item 17/87.5 onwards)

- 17/81 Welcome from the Chairman.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 17/82 Apologies and reasons for absence.** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Bygott, Taylor and L Williams, and from County Councillor Harford, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.
- 17/83 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda.** Cllr de Lacey declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 17/87.8 as his wife had sold Feast Week programmes. The Chairman explained that items 17/86.9, 17/88.5 and 17/88.6 will not be considered at this meeting.
- 17/84 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**
1. Members of the Public. The member of the public spoke about a proposed Speedwatch scheme in Girton. The southern part of the village is subject to rat-running and also at the Oakington end of the village. Five Girton residents had recently attended a training session at Cambourne Police Station and more villagers have expressed interest – volunteers would be in groups of 3-5 with a pool of 20 volunteers needed. The locations for speedwatch would be suggested through onsite consultation with Cambs Constabulary with training in use of the equipment to be given. Costs could perhaps be shared with other councils. The scheme has proven successful in other villages. The group is interested to see if the Parish Council would support this endeavour.
  2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) The County Council is currently looking at the disposal of county properties and the question of any proposals for County Farm was raised as it is not mentioned in the Local Plan. It was also questioned what can be done to support Girton Glebe School, perhaps asking the Headteacher to speak to the Council.
  3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Now that the NW Cambridge Development is beginning to be populated, Parish Councillors have been invited for a tour. Cllr de Lacey will ask for a formal invitation for the Council.
  4. Police Report (*Appendix C*) Received by the Council.
- 17/85 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 (previously circulated).** The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Whittle, and approved with one abstention. Congratulations and thanks were extended to Girton Village Celebrations for another successful Feast Week.
- 17/86 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**
- 17/75.2 The damaged horse chestnut has been felled on H&S recommendation.  
17/75.3 Girton Feast Week has been successfully completed, and the Parish Council extends thanks to Girton Village Celebrations for the Feast's organisation.

17/75.5 The applicant has been notified that re-siting the clothing collection bin at the Recreation Ground was not approved.  
Noted by the Council.

**17/87 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To agree a proposal that council backing be given for Girton Speedwatch to be set up, dependent on sufficient volunteer recruitment and funding (*Appendix D*)  
The Chairman proposed that the parish council offer our support to the scheme, seconded by Cllr Buckler. Approved unanimously.  
The member of the public left the meeting at this point.
2. To approve the adoption of BT kiosks at Cambridge Road and Girton Road for use by community projects (*Appendix E*) Requests for an art display facility and horticultural display had been received for the same kiosk. The Chairman had spoken with the Headteacher of Girton Glebe School about the request, and because of staff changes he is happy for the Open Gardens request to go ahead. If both kiosks are adopted the one at Girton Corner would need to be moved. The Chairman proposed that the Cambridge Road kiosk be adopted and not the Girton Road one, seconded by Cllr Godby. Approved unanimously. A contract will need to be drawn up with the Open Gardens group.
3. To approve the replacement of the bus shelter at the junction of Mayfield Road and Girton Road (details to be circulated). The item was not considered as it had been submitted in error.
4. To approve temporary permission for use of land at Wellbrook Way for contractor parking subject to GTC approval. Contractors building the Care Home have spoken to the Bowls Club regarding using the car park. A clause would be needed that they would vacate at a week's notice. Payment in kind may be useful, for example filling pot-holes. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Whittle and approved unanimously.  
M Murphy joined the meeting at this point.
5. To approve a request for two dog waste bins at the Sensory Garden at the junction of Wellbrook Way and Girton Road (*Appendix F*) South Cambs District Council has no objection in principal and are prepared to empty these bins. SCDC would charge for installation and would like to be involved in siting the bins. The request should be made by the contractors to SCDC.
6. To approve that a second dog waste bin be sited by the Recreation Ground tennis courts. The Chairman proposed that if the existing bin could be replaced with a larger one the existing bin could be resited at the back of Abbeyfield, Wellbrook Way. There could be a double bin with recycling bin next to the Pavilion. A double bin would cost £606.15 plus VAT and installation cost. Approved unanimously.
7. To approve support for a joint letter to the Greater Cambridge Partnership from parish councils and community groups (*Appendix G*) It was noted that few parish councils are signing the letter. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved unanimously.
8. To approve that Girton Village Celebrations make a contribution of £50 for Feast usage of parish council facilities, dependent on surplus monies from the Feast being allocated towards maintenance of village footpaths and hedges. The Chairman has been in correspondence with the Feast Committee who've proposed that they compensate the village by clearance of footpaths or similar. To formalise an agreement, the Parish Council will charge £50 for use of the Pavilion and grounds and the Feast Committee will provide funds of £250 for maintenance of Footpath 4. If the situation arises in future years when the Feast did not make a profit, the agreement could be reconsidered. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Griffin and approved unanimously.
9. To approve the introduction of online banking for Girton Parish Council.
10. To approve that direct debit mandates be permitted for utilities and pensions providers. A direct debit is the only way making the pensions contributions. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Whittle, and approved unanimously.
11. To approve changes to signatories for bank and building society accounts. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved unanimously.
12. To approve a training schedule for parish council staff towards the CiLCA

qualification. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved unanimously.

**17/88 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month. The payments schedule was circulated at the meeting and had been checked by Cllr Whittle. Standing Orders were suspended to allow M Murphy to address the meeting. Mr Murphy explained that there are two payments schedules as payments made to employees need a confidential session. The wages figure on the payments schedule is a single line item so it cannot be determined what individuals earn. Approval of the payments was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved unanimously.
2. To receive a presentation on quarterly financial results. The bank reconciliation has been provided for the quarter up to 30<sup>th</sup> June. There have been a number of adjustments in this quarter. The bank reconciliation was wrongly constructed in 2015-16. Mr Murphy wants to give a profit and loss statement but is hampered by the way in which the system is set up. His proposed engagement letter is to be looked at by the HR Committee. Payments in lieu of stale cheques and invoices are to be settled by the Clerk and costs of cutting the new churchyard reclaimed from the church. Mr Murphy was thanked and standing orders were reintroduced.
3. To receive an update on pension scheme operation for council staff
4. To agree to undertake a bank investments review in the light of reduced interest rates.
5. To review the invoicing and credit policy and bad debt write-offs.
6. To review the parish office IT system, particularly regarding financial systems.

**17/89 Correspondence (to be received)**

**17/90 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix H*) Received by the Council.
2. Girton Town Charity (*Appendix I*) Received by the Council.
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix J*) Received by the Council.
4. Footpaths. No report this month. Footpath 4 is very overgrown.
5. Water Management. Minutes of the Environment Agency meeting have yet to be produced by them. No progress was made at the meeting.

**17/91 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes** None.

**17/92 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.**

A progress report on fencing at Mayfield Triangle was given. The materials needed to finish the job have been purchased, and the contractor has promised to complete by 21<sup>st</sup> July.

A meeting of the Human Resources Committee is needed.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

## APPENDIX A

### Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report - July 2017

The County Council will meet on 18 July. The agenda is available at: <http://bit.ly/2tZY54I> I will be able to answer any questions relating to this at your own meetings by which time the County Council meeting will have taken place.

This month the Greater Cambridge Partnership [GCP] [previously the Greater Cambridge City Deal] announced a refreshed vision for how the GCP will accelerate the provision of thousands of

new homes and jobs and create a fit-for-the-future transport network. The change of name is accompanied by the strap line 'Growing & Sharing Prosperity' to reflect a strong collaboration and partnership approach. The refreshed vision and its ambitions include: working together to grow and share prosperity and improve quality of life, both now and in the future; creating better and greener transport networks, connecting people to homes, jobs, study and opportunity; accelerating housing delivery and homes for all; inspiring and developing our future workforce so that businesses can grow; inventing and developing smart technology to support transport, housing and skills. The GCP has a very good new website: [www.greatercambridge.org.uk](http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk) providing details of all its projects. Agenda for the next meeting of the GCP Assembly: <http://bit.ly/2uA18Ph>

and GCP Board: <http://bit.ly/2v8Lyum>

The GCP's 'smart' work stream is a forward looking area trying to investigate and then harness modern and even not-yet-invented technology. Since the middle of June Google Transit has been using real-time data from the intelligent City Platform funded by the GCP. Almost all buses in Cambridge carry GPS sensors which beam their location to a central hub where, through the algorithms that have been devised, analysis of the location and bus speed data can be compared to known trends and predicted arrival times for buses at each stop can be calculated. The objective is to 'help users get around the real world' and 'help passengers avoid waiting for buses that are never coming'. Regrettably this is all happening at a time when the County Council has been advised of further bus de-registrations from 03 September which include routes that will impact our villages [1A, 2 and 8]. I am following up with County Council Officers their statement that they are considering options for providing alternative services.

The agenda for the meeting of the Commercial & Investment Committee included consideration of an outline disposal process for selling land and property to the Council's wholly owned development company, the Cambridgeshire Housing and Investment Company [CHIC]. County Council core policy is that all surplus property should be disposed of and that disposals should be at 'best consideration' [to meet the requirements of s.123 of the Local Government Act 1972] unless Members approve otherwise. Best consideration is commonly accepted to be the best price which is normally determined by an open marketing process or a certified, formal valuation by a Chartered Surveyor. Best consideration could though be represented by the equivalent financial value of a service or other value 'in kind' and there are instances where the Council might want to consider a disposal at less than best consideration, eg a sale or lease to a community group.

Previously such disposals generally required the consent of the Secretary of State [SoS]. However a General Disposal Consent granted by the SoS gives the Council the ability to forego up to £2m of value, if it can be demonstrated that the disposals meet certain economic, social or environmental objectives. The County's policy has been that all sites will be offered at market value to District and Parish Councils in advance of marketing [with some exceptions]. Members were advised that this may no longer be appropriate although all freehold disposals will take account of the Community Right to Bid process where the asset has been appropriately registered with the responsible Local Authority. Members resolved to agree to declare surplus land and property on a case by case basis to achieve best consideration and not to offer land and property to District and Parish Councils in advance of offering them to CHIC. Agenda pack: <http://bit.ly/2vt3dwl>

Commercial & Investment is one of two new committees to be given full service committee status this year. The second is Communities and Partnerships [C&P]. At its first meeting its Terms of Reference were agreed and it considered too a report on recent Town and Parish Council Surveys and development of an Improvement Plan. The report acknowledged the importance of meaningful

and successful working with Parish Councils as they have some of the closest relationships with local communities. The County Council realises that these relationships are key to supporting efforts particularly to helping people stay independent and healthy for longer. The Localism Act 2011 and the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 give Town and Parish Councils new opportunities. The first countywide Parish Council Conference, led by Cambridgeshire Acre, was held in November 2016 to explore how all tiers of government and the voluntary sector could work better together for the good of Cambridgeshire residents. The event was seen to establish the concept of a Stakeholder Partnership. Nine projects were showcased by Parish Councils in the workshops and eighty-five ideas were shared between participants. The conference was well

attended and most said they would attend future events. Subsequent surveys of both Parish Clerks and Councillors were carried out, the full results of which, along with district-based reports, are available on the Cambridgeshire Town and Parish Council website:

<http://www.cambsparishes.wordpress.com> In order to address the findings from the surveys, the Stakeholder Partnership is drafting an improvement plan, the first of its kind in Cambridgeshire that sets out collective aspirations for Cambridgeshire's Town and Parish Council Sector. C&P committee members resolved key actions for the improvement plan to include: improving training for parish councillors in respect of their powers and duties; reviewing job descriptions of parish clerks to ensure their relevance with current requirements/expectations of the role and improving training provided for them in this respect; considering how support can be provided to younger parish councillors to retain their enthusiasm and commitment; encouraging parishes to become involved with volunteer and service provider locality networks. Agenda pack: <http://bit.ly/2v9ePFj>

Locally we have the good news that the first new residents are moving into the North West Cambridge Development [NWCD]. The first building being made available comprises 73 x one and two bed apartments and the first occupants are University key workers. These key workers will be eligible for an affordable rent capped on average at a third of their income. Whilst I am still disappointed that this £350m investment by the University of Cambridge includes no general needs affordable housing, I am impressed by the concept of an organisation funding such provision for its own key workers. I think that this is something that we should seek to learn from and I have suggested to the County Council that it considers a similar approach when considering its own investment plans. As the Cabinet member for Housing at South Cambridgeshire District Council, I am also discussing with officers how similar schemes might be funded by other organisations to the benefit of local people within their employment.

School funding continues to be a huge challenge and once more I am working with Girton Glebe to address their unique challenge of a drastic reduction in the number of pupils choosing the school. Despite all its hard work both academically to achieve an Ofsted 'Good' rating and to promote itself, forecasts indicate that the situation is not going to improve in the short/medium term. However, the school benefits from both an excellent Headteacher and an ambitious and hardworking Chair of Governors both of whom are committed, as am I, to establishing greater financial security for Girton Glebe.

I have again been enjoying the pleasure of summer events in our villages. Thank you to all those who work so hard to ensure their continuing success and the community benefits that they provide. The diversity of events on offer never fails to amaze me. I hope the good weather will continue and that you will all have an opportunity to enjoy some R&R over the coming weeks.

Lynda

**APPENDIX B**  
**Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey**  
**14. 7. 2017**

Group Leaders have met senior planning officers. We were concerned at the growing backlog of planning applications, though it is still nowhere near the peak earlier in the year. The Combined Planning project (Hunts, City and SCDC) is moving on and is intended to improve our throughput and efficiency. On Northstowe we were told that although the developers are not adhering to the agreed design code we have to be pragmatic. On Neighbourhood Plans, we were told that the team had suffered some illness, and members were also very busy with the Local Plan, so little has taken place. However the Council is thinking more and more of using Neighbourhood Plans as a major planning tool.

With residents now moving in to homes on the NW Cambridge site there is a flurry of activity. I am pleased that in the sliding scale of fees for the Community Centre (located south of the boundary, so in the City) all Girton residents are to be given preferential rates. The facility's Manager would be happy to attend a Parish Council meeting. Sainsburys should open early in September and there will be a formal 'opening' of the site on (I think) 9 September. I also had a meeting with the University's project director, largely to try to trace the villae sign and boundary stone both of which have disappeared in the course of installing the Eddington entrance. The University claims no knowledge of either, and my investigations continue.

After the formal business of the JDCC (approving the first major private residential site, for market housing) we had a presentation by the same developer on its future plans for NW Cambridge. It was clear they had heard criticisms we had made in the debate, so maybe things will improve by the time the market housing comes to Girton.

We were then taken on a tour of the salient parts of the Chisholm Trail to prepare us for July's meeting. The Trail is intended as a high-quality cycle route effectively linking the new Cambridge North Station to Cambridge Station. In doing so it cuts through some sensitive Green Belt and conservation areas. I'll say more about this after we have considered and voted on the scheme.

I am pleased to see that Girton Road has now been marked up and the cycle lane I mentioned last month will come into existence when the lines are re-painted.

The Greater Cambridge City Deal has become aware that it is becoming a poisonous brand, so it has re-launched itself as the Greater Cambridge Partnership, absorbing the mayor as it does so. The re-launch provided plenty of verbal aspiration with a vision of 'Working together to grow and share prosperity and improve quality of life now and in the future'.

We seem still to be having problems with bin collections. You can report problems in 3 ways: via [www.scams.gov.uk](http://www.scams.gov.uk) ('report it' on the front page, then 'contact us'); by emailing [refuse@scams.gov.uk](mailto:refuse@scams.gov.uk) or by calling 03450 450 063. Please also report any problems to me so I can ensure action is taken.

The Police and Crime Commissioner is making a power grab: he wishes to take over the Fire service. Details of a consultation are at [www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/fire-governance-consultation/](http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/fire-governance-consultation/) but the fire service is not happy: they think it will cost more and that no case has been made for effectiveness or efficiency. Everyone is invited to comment, and the consultation is open until 4 September. May I remind Councillors that anyone could submit a proposal to the Parish Council for us to consider as a joint response.

Douglas de Lacey

**APPENDIX C**  
**Police Report for June/July 2017**

CF0354100617

THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE (A14, Girton)

23/06/2017 01:00 - 23/06/2017 06:00

An unknown offender has cut a hole in the side of a lorry curtain and is believed to have stolen items from inside whilst parked in a lay-by on the A14.

## **APPENDIX D**

### **Proposal for establishment of a Girton Speedwatch Group**

We are planning to set up a Speedwatch group in the village and seek support from the Parish Council for running this initiative. In preparation, we propose to submit an article to the GPN to explain the scheme and its aims. The plan is to get the community behind this project and we hope to excite a wide range of residents in the village to support and join the scheme.

All recruits will be trained by SPI Jenkins at Cambourne Police Station as part of the wider Speedwatch initiative in the county. The training is compulsory and ensures clear understanding of the remit of the scheme as well as safe operation of the campaigns.

There are some modest financial implications associated with introducing the system, in the order of a few hundred pounds, and we would hope for support from the Parish Council to help with this initiative and in order to make our village safer.

Girton Speedwatch

## **APPENDIX E**

### **Proposal for adoption of village phone box, by the Girton Open Gardens Community, and to fill it with plants and flowers**

#### **Introduction**

Girton Open Gardens is an annual event, which takes place as part of Feast Week. A significant amount of money is raised, and in accordance with the ethos of Feast Week, half of this is donated to St Andrews Church. Participants have expressed a wish that the remaining money should be used to enhance the village in an appropriately floral manner.

It has come to our notice that the Parish Council is offering village groups the chance to adopt a decommissioned phone box. The Open Gardens Community would like to adopt the phone box closest to the Church, with a view to filling it with flowering plants, and possibly vegetables and herbs, thus enhancing and beautifying that area for the benefit of all. The box may also be specially decorated for festivals such as Easter and Christmas.

Our wish is to give pleasure and delight to the villagers of Girton, including the many foreign students attending the nearby language school, who enjoy having their photographs taken beside this British icon. In its current shameful state the image of Girton that they take home is not a good one!

#### **Outline plan**

The telephone box is in reasonable structural condition but needs a thorough refurbishment to bring it back to the standard of the original K6. The Open Gardeners plan to carry out the refurbishment themselves, and with professionals where appropriate.

We understand that BT will arrange to clear the fittings out of the box, leaving an empty shell. We also understand that they are likely to be willing to leave the light fitting.

The initial steps would be to re-paint inside and out within the first few months of taking over responsibility for the box. The glass would be removed, though some lower panes may be replaced with new toughened glass. Plans would include provision of some shelving, and brackets to hang baskets. We would replace and retain the top pane of glass which says 'Telephone'.

The structure of the box would be repainted in the approved red, in order to maintain the integrity of the 1935 Giles Gilbert Scott design. We are sensitive to the fact that such phone boxes are part of our heritage, and thus should be preserved in essence. Also that this particular box lies within a conservation area of the village.

Those people living in nearby houses would be notified and given the opportunity for input into the plan should they wish.

#### **Funding**

Funding for the refurbishment will come from existing funds arising from the 2016 Open Gardens, and additional funding and donations will be sought from local businesses, private donations and the Town Charity.

The on-going costs will be met from a proportion of money raised from future Open Gardens. The Parish Council will incur no financial responsibility beyond the £1 initial outlay.

### **Health and Safety**

We believe that the Book Exchange telephone box is covered by the Public Liability Insurance of the Parish Council, and it is hoped that the Open Gardens box, should it be approved, may also be covered in this way. We understand that this may involve a Health and Safety check, and are prepared for this to be done.

### **Future maintenance**

There have already been many offers of help from within the Open Gardens Community, and we are confident that once up and running, the box will be well maintained, plants will be watered, and it will continue to enhance this area of the village for many years to come.

### **Security**

If it is felt necessary unobtrusive locks may be fitted. It is hoped that the risk of vandalism will be significantly reduced once the box looks well cared for, with people regularly checking it.

### **Conclusion**

Below is a photograph of the phone box as it is at present, beside one which has been set up by another group, as an example of what we hope to achieve. Over 3500 boxes have been adopted by other villages in the UK for a wide variety of purposes, some of which include small gardens. The gardeners of Girton sincerely hope that the Parish Council will approve their bid to become part of this elite community.



## **APPENDIX F**

### **Request for dog waste bin at the Sensory Garden, Wellbrook Way/Girton Road**

#### **junction**

I would like to put in a request for 2 Dog waste bins to be installed at our new sensory garden in Wellbrook Way Girton .

I believe the next council meeting is held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, where there will be a discussion as to whether South Cambridgeshire District Council would empty the waste.

## APPENDIX G

Dear all,

So far our joint statement has been signed by over 47 community groups - city and village. We think there will be more, the number is rising every day. Please encourage other groups to sign. Tell all your friends. We have heard today that the Mayor, James Palmer wants to come and speak at a big meeting for the Cambridgeshire Consortium. We shall be in touch about that later!

Best wishes,  
Wendy

Wendy Blythe  
Chair, FeCRA

### **Joint letter to Greater Cambridge Partnership**

Residents and businesses in Cambridge and the surrounding villages are concerned that the City Deal is rushing through plans for major development and transport schemes that lack a clear overall vision, are not evidence-based and have been progressed using a flawed model of top-down 'consultation'.

The need to spend the first tranche of funding quickly has meant that so far this has not been a holistic programme to successfully manage rapid growth in a way that is sustainable and not environmentally damaging.

We call upon the City Deal to re-engineer the process to facilitate more effective partnership and collaboration so that the skills and talents of Cambridgeshire residents and businesses can also be engaged in proper research and evaluation of new infrastructure projects, in order to deliver a long-term vision for our region that is about health, well-being and community as well as economic success.

## APPENDIX H

### **Chairman's Report**

**12<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Resurfacing of the road from Girton Corner to Wellbrook Way was at last completed and disruption appears to have been minimised. We now await completion of the reinstatement of road markings. It is a shame that the length from Wellbrook to the High Street is not yet scheduled to be similarly renewed, but I shall continue to press for it to be done.

Progress towards the car park refurbishment is as slow as ever. Our invitations to tender have as yet only received one response out of the six approached! Meanwhile the car park continues to flood after heavy rainfall. When this occurred early in the month we decided, on safety grounds, to get a contractor to clear the resulting lake and this incurred a considerable cost. When it occurred again on the Thursday of Feast Week we felt obliged to try to clear it without more expense. This was achieved using a pump, a good deal of 'Heath Robinson' invention and a true 'Last of the Summer Wine' attitude. Thanks are due to Douglas and Andy for giving up their afternoon to help with this.

Discussions with representatives of the Feast Committee have, I believe, reached a satisfactory resolution to the problems the PC has with subsidising an event which then seeks to grant funds to third parties. It is proposed that some of the Feast surplus funds will be donated towards the costs of footpath clearance and similar expenditure which will benefit the whole village. We shall vote on this at our Tuesday meeting.

Our Annual Return was passed by the Internal Auditor but we were warned that we need to keep a better record of our regular review of finances to ensure that spending is within budget. Lack of a Finance Officer has contributed greatly to this shortcoming which we will have to be sure we rectify this year. The Auditor has requested that she carry out a mid-year audit to check on this. Our contracted

accountant has continued to bring our accounts up to date for the current year and has progressed the registration of eligible staff for the statutory pension scheme. This has been back dated to June 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 and will require the Council to make good the 1% employer and 1% employee contributions which should have been paid in. He has also made other recommendations which are to be considered by the Finance Committee and the Council at our next meetings.  
Haydn Williams

## **APPENDIX I**

### **Girton Town Charity Report – July 2017**

#### Mole Architects appointed for High Street development

Girton Town Charity has made a major step forward in its plans to redevelop the High Street site to futureproof its housing provision in the Village with the appointment of Mole Architects as part of the project team. At the end of last year GTC announced that it had appointed Northmores as project managers for this £6.5 million investment which will expand our housing portfolio. Although the exact type of living accommodation on the High Street site is yet to be decided, it is likely to be in the region of 12-15 units.

During recent months, Northmores organised an inclusive Architectural Competition which was won by Mole Architects, an award-winning practice based in Cambridge and founded by Meredith Bowles in 1997. Over the years Mole has won many prestigious accolades including 17 RIBA Awards for Design and Sustainability.

#### Local context

Mole produces modern designs that are appropriate to their local context, combining traditional materials and techniques with environmental strategies and a more contemporary attitude to design and building. The practice is a leader in sustainable design, producing well-insulated buildings which have been monitored post-occupation and proven to meet exacting Passivhaus standards.

It is currently working on two significant housing projects currently on site in the local area: Cambridge's council-led co-housing scheme, K1 Co-housing in Orchard Park, and as one of the ten architectural practices designing Phase 1 of the £1 billion North West Cambridge Development, which is due to complete later this year.

#### National acclaim

Meredith Bowles, Founding Director of Mole said: "We are really delighted to have won the competition for Girton Town Charity's Almshouses. In the housing sector our projects have received national acclaim for their distinctiveness, originality and personality and it will be hugely gratifying to bring our experience to such an important project in the Cambridge area. Meredith Bowles, Founding Director of Mole "Our aim is to design a building that will enable people to live well together, as well as providing homes that are full of light, with a feeling of space and calm and can be adapted to meet changing needs. The design will celebrate Girton's very green rural character: the almshouses will be integrated within a lush landscape designed by Jamie Buchanan, so that residents have a connection to the gardens and to one another."

#### Landmark development

Dr Robin Hiley, Chairman of GTC added: "The appointment of Mole Architects is a significant move forward in our High Street Development and we are looking forward to working with this exciting practice to bring our plans for modern and practicable housing in the heart of the Village to fruition. "The next stage is to refine the brief for the design and proposals, for review by the Trustees in the autumn, with a planning application being made by the end of the year."

## **GIRTON TOWN CHARITY REPORT – AUGUST 2017**

### **Village Projects Are Progressing Well**

A number of Girton Town Charity initiatives are making good progress.

#### **GTC Sensory Garden**

Over recent weeks, many of you will have seen activity on the site of the new Sensory Garden at Wellbrook Way as Sylvia Newman and her team have brought their design to life.

The garden is now completed and will add an attractive focus to this area of the Village for everyone to enjoy. We are leaving the fencing in place until mid-August to allow the planting and turf to settle in. GTC will remain owners of the garden and it will be maintained to ensure it looks at its best all year round and monitored to ensure users respect the space and facilities it provides.

We hope all Village residents will enjoy this rejuvenated space when it is opened in the late summer.

### **High Street Development**

The appointment of Mole Architects as part of the project team to redevelop the High Street site to future-proof housing provision in the Village was announced recently in the *GPN*. Already GTC Trustees together with our Project Managers, have sought early advice South Cambridgeshire District Council and met with a positive response.

The next stage is for Mole to work on designs which will be presented to the Village at a public meeting in the autumn, as they are submitted for planning – a date will be announced in due course.

### **Community Centre**

Last October villagers were shown the facilities that will be on offer in the new Community Centre and since then the project has reached the point at which we should be shortly able to name the chosen construction company. If all goes well, works should start late this year and the work is expected to take around 12 months.

At the public meeting, architect Nick Twitchett gave residents details of the different spaces within the Centre, enabling them to ‘walk’ through the building with the help of 3D graphics.

In response to questions about the final layout of the building and the range of uses for which it is suitable, GTC Chairman Dr Robin Hiley outlined the extensive research GTC Trustees and their advisors had undertaken to maximise the ways it could be used by community groups within the Village in a cost-effective manner. We are now working on plans for its management and policies for its use.

### **Artistic Railings and Bus Shelter**

GTC has been planning, in partnership with St Andrew’s Church and the Parish Council, to complete the boundary between the churchyard and the recreation ground car park, with some bespoke artistic railings that will enhance the appearance of the area.

Following the production of an artist’s brief, sculptor Matthew Lane Sanderson ([www.sanderson-sculpture.com](http://www.sanderson-sculpture.com)) was awarded the project and commissioned to design and install the original artwork for the site.

The final design is currently in planning with SCDC and a decision is hoped for shortly. Outline drawings for the railings were on show at the Annual Parish Meeting and they incorporate a tree of life, along with the geese and quills that are historically associated with Girton.

As part of the project, GTC will be covering the cost of a lit footpath between the railings and the car park to ensure a finish that shows off the railings sculpture to its best advantage. The existing bus shelter will also be replaced by something in keeping with the railings sculpture and the historic heart of the Village. GTC is working with a Heritage Consultant to ensure the whole area is treated in a cohesive way so that enhances this attractive area of the Village.

## **APPENDIX J Summary of Girton Youth Project Report: June 2017**

<p>We started off this month by hosting a graffiti workshop at Bar Hill primary school, a fantastic day ran by a group from the club. The event had a great attendance and a lot of young members of the local community had the chance to take part in spray painting a temporary wall and their own wooden boards, with some lunch during the day. The day gave the attendees an opportunity to try an activity they had never done before, and raise a lot of questions and awareness about the project and what we do. We also completed a mural on the site and with another mural planned elsewhere next month we hope that we will continue to visit different areas as we head towards the next academic year.</p>
--

<p><b>Develop a pool of sessional and voluntary workers for the project</b></p>
---

<p>We have a young man that attends both the Monday sessions and the Thursday sessions regardless of his age. He is on the ASC spectrum and in the past has displayed some unwanted behaviours such as swearing and taking property that belongs to GYP without staff permission. I have spoken to the young man about the possibility of becoming a recognised volunteer for the youth project at the start of the new school year. The theory behind this decision is to help support a young man that has found himself in the past to be socially isolated in learning key engagement skills. Providing him responsibility and ownership over some aspects of the youth club we hope will decrease the unwanted behaviour.</p>
--

**Additional**

Unfortunately this month GYP has to take responsibility for some damage to Cotton Hall, small plastic ball pit balls were inserted in sleeves that protect the door hinges forcing them to crack slightly at the bottom. This was reported in the weekly check list Cotton Hall received from the GYP and the trustees are currently in discussion as to the cost of the damage.

Staff have spoken to the young people about the damage caused and as a result have cancelled a pizza evening at the end of next month to cover the cost of the damage accrued.