

# 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 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 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 17/103.1*

**Present:** (Cllrs) H Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Bygott, Dashwood, de Lacey, Taylor (until end of item 17/107.2), L Williams.

Cllr L Harford (Cambridgeshire County Council) (until end of item 17/103.4)

4 members of the public (three until the end of item 17/103, one until end of item 17/103.4)

**In attendance:** S Cumming (Clerk)

**17/100 Welcome from the Chairman.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Cllr Harford and members of the public.

**17/101 Apologies and reasons for absence.** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Godby, Griffin, Kettle and Whittle, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.

**17/102 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda.** None.

**17/103 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**

1. Members of the Public. A resident spoke about her wedding at St Andrew's Church on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018, and their wish to hold a reception on land behind the church or recreation fields. It will be a family-oriented informal day and they would clear up afterwards and keep the field as found. They would have a marquee, toilets and furniture from a hire company. It was questioned about residual glass on the St John's Field site following its use as a dumping ground after the Second World War. Parents would need to take full responsibility for their children. They would need to set up on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July, the wedding on the Saturday and then clearing-up on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

Another resident spoke about the road surfacing of Girton Road/Cambridge Road. He praised the new surfacing of Girton Road but queried how to get this extended to the other end of the road. He also wondered about the potential resurfacing of the Girton to Histon footpath, and an improved cycle route.

A resident spoke about the Holm Oak's removal and wondered when this tree would be replaced. The Chairman will consult SCDC's Tree Officer to see what is to be done.

The members of the public were thanked and three of them left the meeting at this point.

2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) Cllr Harford explained that resurfacing of Girton Road/Cambridge Road is on the schedule but the type of resurfacing needed can only be done a certain number of months per year. Cllr Harford has pressed for the rest of the road to be done in the next year and is watching it carefully as it is deteriorating. The new Local Highways Officer will shortly come to look at speed tables in the village.

Cllrs Harford and de Lacey have walked out to look at the cycle path but would need to find S106 monies or apply for Local Highways Initiative by November, with a 10% contribution by the parish council. Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership is looking at ringways and Cllr Harford's making a plea for not just the spokes of the wheel but also joining up. Regarding the change of use of farmland, Cllr Harford is meeting with the relevant officer and there would need to be a change of use application. The A14 fund would be available but not such large amounts of money.

The upgrade to Girton Interchange would be announced at the time of the Chancellor's Autumn budget speech. Cllr Harford will add her plea to the parish council's for the A14 mobile show to come to Girton.

3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Cllr Bygott is very supportive of the cycle-path to Histon. The cycleway that goes along the busway is good and it would be great if Girton was better connected to this. The policy on building cycling lanes should be to build them away from road. The busway has a large number of people coming from the North and it would be good if we could use a bridge to connect to the NIAB site. Cllr Bygott is appalled that the Holm Oak was cut down and it is essential to keep trees at this location to maintain the character of the village. There is a business rate revaluation every five years and SCDC is supporting businesses experiencing hardship.

Cllr de Lacey's report had already been circulated. He reported that the missing boundary stone and sign are being chased.

4. Police Report (*Appendix C*) There were no additions to the report.

Cllr Harford and one member of the public left at this point.

**17/104 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 (previously circulated).** The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, and approved with one abstention.

**17/105 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 (previously circulated).** The Minutes were proposed as true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, and approved with one abstention.

**17/106 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**

17/87.1 Girton Speedwatch's new participants are to attend a training course at Cambourne Police Station this Autumn.

Noted by the Council.

**17/107 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To consider a request for use of St John's Field for a wedding celebration on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2018. Proposed by Cllr Bygott, seconded by Cllr Buckler. It was queried whether this would be setting a precedent. The Council would need to have a business plan regarding what to charge for rental. There would need to be a clause or sanction regarding noise and rubbish left. The Council could request a deposit. The Council is not in a position to give exclusive use of the ground and would need to consider the erection of a marquee. It may be possible to cordon off an area for their use. An amendment was proposed by the Chairman that 10-Acre Field be used and that an appropriate fee be investigated, this amendment being accepted by Cllr Bygott and approved unanimously.

2. To approve a \$137 payment of £50 to Girton Social Club for the Village Christmas Event on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 (*Appendix D*). The Council would support the event if it was making a loss, but would prefer to ask why a donation is being requested when the Social Club is making donations from the event. A decision was deferred pending clarification from the Social Club regarding whether or not the Girton Parish Council donation last year had been given to charities. Cllr Taylor left the meeting at this point.

3. To approve obtain new 'Danger deep water' sign for Town End Close Nature Reserve pond to replace one that was stolen.

The Chairman proposed that the sign be replaced, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved unanimously.

4. To approve a contractor to install and maintain a new IT system in the Parish Office (details circulated). The Chairman had sent out a summary of costs prior to the meeting. It will be around £2,000 for hardware (plus VAT) and an additional £600 or so for applications and Office 365. The choice will be governed by a seamless switchover and the contract for ongoing maintenance. The office would need two desktops and a laptop operating Office 365, with cloud storage and back-up for each. It was felt that the hardware selected should be the most recent up to

date specification. The Chairman proposed that the IT Group should meet to decide the best combination of hardware and software in the the cost range up to £2600, seconded by Cllr Dashwood. Approved unanimously.

**17/108 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*Appendix E*) The payments schedule was proposed by the Chairman and approved with two abstentions.

**17/109 Correspondence (to be received) None.**

**17/110 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix F*) Regarding the car park refurbishment, Girton Town Charity are keen for the Parish Council to meet with their project manager for the railings and footpath project.
2. Girton Town Charity . An open public meeting about the GTC almshouses on the site of the old WI Hall had been held, which was attended by the Clerk and two other councillors.
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix G*)
4. Footpaths. Mr G Thorpe has volunteered to set up a Green Team to keep footpaths clear. Dovehouse Close needs a thorough cut back to make it manageable for volunteers to maintain. Cllr de Lacey will get a quote for the work.
5. Water Management (*Appendix H*) Cllr Whittle was thanked for his report.
6. Human Resources. Cllr Buckler reported that an application for the Finance Officer post has been received. Mrs G Cockley has indicated her willingness to be seconded to the interview panel.

**17/111 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes**

1. Finance, Planning and Resources Committee Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2017
2. Environment Committee Meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.
3. Planning Committee Meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2017
4. Planning Committee Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.

**17/112 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.**

It was noted that many people are cycling through the village without lights, and this should be mentioned in Girton Parish News.

The cycle-lane on Huntingdon Road is clogged with broken bottles and leaves and the County Council are to be made aware.

Seats in the village need refurbishing and this will be raised with the Environment Committee.

The incidence of cold-calling in the village was noted.

The placement of the reallocated bus shelter from Huntingdon Road is to be reviewed and could be used to replace the Mayfield bus shelter if felt appropriate.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

## APPENDIX A

### Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report

#### August/September 2017

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer break and as September sees a return to the normal schedule, I can report on the first two meetings of the new committee whose creation was approved by Council in May: Communities & Partnerships Committee met for the first time in July. The minutes of this meeting and the details of the committee's scope and remit can be found at: <http://bit.ly/2wiha4W> as part of the agenda for the committee's August meeting. This also includes details of the refreshed 'Innovate and Cultivate Fund'. Following a motion to full Council in February 2016, the County Council launched the Cambridgeshire Communities Innovation Fund in November 2016. Initially

worth £1 million, the Fund is managed in partnership with Cambridgeshire Community Foundation to help community organisations that undertake transformative, preventative work. Applications were invited for funding for projects which demonstrably make an impact on County Council priority outcomes, particularly in relation to working with vulnerable people, thus diverting children and adults from needing high-cost Council services and helping people and communities to become more resilient. In the first round the Fund received 47 applications of which 5 projects were funded committing just £170,043 of the available funds. Hopefully the refresh will make the process simpler and there will be a larger number of organisations who benefit from either the small grants [£2K - £10K] or the large grant [up to £50K] opportunities.

The County Council has just begun a 6 month pilot project in partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council to offer specialist housing advice and support to older people. The HOOP [Housing Options for Older People] project aims to help older people consider housing options appropriate to their own circumstances at an early stage and put them in touch with the relevant providers. Until now HOOP has been a national tool to support older people in their wish to remain living independently in their own homes for as long as possible. The South Cambridgeshire pilot is only the second local scheme in the country. If it is successful it will be developed into a County wide scheme. HOOP is just one of the initiatives that the County Council is embarking on in its efforts to serve the needs of an increasing number of older residents. One of its biggest challenges is ensuring that those who experience hospital stays have appropriate and prompt support to return home at the earliest possible opportunity. Inability to provide this affects not just those individuals waiting to go home but others waiting to be admitted to hospital. A report on delayed transfers of care was one of the items considered by Adults Committee at its September meeting. Agenda pack: <http://bit.ly/2f2ceWY>

The need to provide appropriate housing for our younger residents is also a challenge in an area where property prices are extremely high. At this very early point in its existence the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority has already approved grant funding for 11 new affordable housing schemes across the authority's area. £4.56million of the £100million housing grant included in the devolution deal has been allocated to facilitate the building of 253 affordable new homes in schemes which are expected to start on site between the end of this year and the end of March 2018. Work continues to identify other sites where this new money can accelerate delivery of much needed housing. The Greater Cambridge Partnership is also working to support housing delivery and this month its Housing Development Agency made a successful application for 25 new homes on land owned by the County Council.

The County Council has recently embarked upon informal discussion with library users and other stakeholders on the future of Cambridgeshire Libraries in the form of a series of workshops. However, in acknowledgement that many will have missed the first round of events which were held over the summer, some additional events have been arranged. The most convenient of these for anyone from our villages who is interested in attending will be the one at Cambridge Central Library [Monday 02 October 18.30-21.00] and at The Blue School - Hardwick Community School, Cambourne [Tuesday 03 October

13.00-15.30]. Despite earlier scares that many of the County's libraries would close, this hasn't in fact been the case. This current project seeks to ensure that library services are fit for the future and meet the needs of the community. The workshops are an opportunity for local people to offer ideas and suggestions on how best to sustain, improve and develop the library service. For those interested in contributing to the discussion but unable to attend a workshop, questions or comments can be forwarded to [LibraryServices@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:LibraryServices@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

The County Council is currently consulting on its plans to redesign Children's Centres across Cambridgeshire. Children's Centres are intended to provide valuable support services to parents but feedback that the Council has received from parents shows they are not always located most conveniently. The welfare of families across Cambridgeshire has to be a top priority. The Council is therefore reviewing current provision and wants to ensure that the right services, support and opportunities are available for families if and when they need those services. I have already met with the lead Officer for this review to discuss what the proposals are for us locally but it is important that you also express your views. Local people are the experts about what their communities need and there is still time to comment before the consultation ends on 22 September 2017. You can respond via the Council's website: [residents/children and families/children's centres](#) or you can get a hard copy version of the consultation at Children's Centres and Libraries.

Again I have to urge you to be vigilant about possible scammers. Most recently residents have raised concerns about door to door salesmen. Alarming it seems that the many of the door to door pedlars are young people, duped into buying stock and then driven around by a gang master to sell their goods. It is illegal to sell door to door without a pedlars' licence and many of those engaged in this activity are unaware of this requirement. Police advice is not to buy or sell at your door. To do so only encourages continuation of the activity. The best thing to do is to politely decline their offers. There is some very helpful advice from the police about this subject at:

<https://southcambscops.org/2013/05/20/door-to-door-sales-what-you-should-know/>

I look forward to hearing your comments and questions about the items in this report or any other local matter either at September's Parish Council meetings or directly by email.

Lynda

[lyndaharford@icloud.com](mailto:lyndaharford@icloud.com);

01954 251775/07889 131022;

Follow me on Twitter: @2whit2whoo

## **APPENDIX B**

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

8. 09. 2017

I have raised the horror of the Washpit Lane trees with the Highways Agency (now Highways England) and they confirm this is part of the A14 programme. Unfortunately they are under no obligation to consult or gain approval even for trees under a Preservation Order. They have also closed The Avenue, making my ride to Cambourne significantly more difficult.

The `Consortium of Greater Cambridge Community Groups' held a meeting, addressed by the Mayor,

on 5 September focused on sustainable transport, at the Cambridge rugby ground on Grantchester Road. Ironically, this must be one of the most difficult venues in Cambridge to access by sustainable public transport.

I have submitted my response to the PCC's consultation on his power-grab for the CFRS. He won't like it, but whether any amount of objection will change his mind is doubtful. I have yet to find anyone (other than the PCC) who thinks it a good idea.

It was a delight to attend the formal opening of Girton's Sensory Garden at the Wellbrook Way corner, on the bright afternoon of 4 September. The Town Charity Trustees see it as part of their Public Art remit, but it also provides a little haven of rest and beauty.

Then I attended two events to mark the opening of Sainsbury's in NW Cambridge. There were champagne and a huge cake which would have represented the quintessentially Cambridge nature of the store were it not that Sainsbury's do not appear to understand the difference between the 'Oxford end' and the 'Cambridge end' of a punt. It will no doubt be very convenient for Girton residents, but we should encourage them not to abandon our local shops. The garish sign on Huntingdon Road could have been a lot worse (the JDCC turned down the original design, and I have yet to check that this one conforms to our decision) and must be removed within three years. The University authorities have so far failed to shed any light on the Girton sign or the boundary stone.

In my July report I noted that the market housing on NW Cambridge was expected to use the 'extensive' parking underneath Sainsbury's, which would be administered by the University, while noting that free parking there is restricted to a maximum of 90 minutes. This, however, is not how Sainsbury's understands the situation: I was told that they would manage the parking and that the charges after the free period were intended to be 'punitive'. I have asked for urgent clarification.

The Cabinet is set to approve for the whole of South Cambs the waste regime we have become used to in Girton, with paper being added to the rest of the contents of the blue bin. The economic case is apparently unanswerable, but I wonder what message about the value of recycling this sends out to our residents.

Douglas de Lacey

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Police Report for August/September 2017**

CF0469440817

OTHER THEFT (Thornton Close, Girton)

15/08/2017 22:00 - 16/08/2017 07:00

STHIL Petrol Strimmer was loaded on back of covered trailer Suspect(s) have cut holding ropes removed strimmer.

CF0469540817

Theft from a motor vehicle (Thornton Road, Girton)

15/08/2017 19:00 - 16/08/2017 08:00

Unknown offender has entered work van, causing no damage, & stolen power tools from within. Van was parked in road in front of home address - white Ford Transit.

Date Occurred: 16/08/2017 20:55 - 16/08/2017 20:55

Location: Dodford Lane, Girton

Description: 2 unknown suspect(s) have entered a shed by breaking the padlock which was securing it. Once inside they have stolen 2 21 drums of hydraulic oil.

Between 00:00 hrs and 06:00 hrs on 02/09/2017.

Thornton Road, Girton.

Unknown offender has smashed the rear window and taken bags which were left on display.

CF0502560917.

## **APPENDIX D**

### **Letter from Girton Social Club regarding Village Christmas Event**

Dear Mr Chairman and Members of the Parish Council

The Social Club are intending to hold a Christmas Village Evening again this year on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at the Village Institute.

I have been asked by the club social committee to write a courtesy letter and ask if the Parish Council would be prepared to sponsor the evening and make a donation of £50 to this annual event which is enjoyed by many residents of Girton, young and old alike.

As per last year the Social Club have a number of the necessary resources in place to hold an evening as per the past six years; however once again we are unable to obtain a Christmas tree fund free of charge and will have to pay in the region of £60+ which may leave us short of funds to maintain the standard that we have provided in the past. Although we anticipate making a profit, it is all ploughed back into the Christmas fund to be used the following year to provide a special evening for the residents of Girton.

Although we hold a collection on the evening, all that money is donated to a local charitable cause.

I enclose a copy of the accounts from December 2016.

Please could you let me know your position on this matter at your earliest convenience?

Thanking you in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Ripley

Secretary, Girton Social Club.

### **APPENDIX E**

#### **Payments Schedule for Girton Parish Council – September 2017**

(please see separate document)

### **APPENDIX F**

#### **Chairman's Report**

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Matters on the Finance Officer front continue to be problematic. Contact with our contracted accountant, Matthew Murphy, was eventually re-established and an explanation provided for the discrepancy in the size of the bill presented for preparing the Annual Return. It was agreed that this would be put into writing but this has yet to be received. An issue has also arisen with the annual Return in that the External Auditors have requested additional information. It appears that not all the required documentation was submitted and this has revealed that there was probably an error in the previous year's return which went un-noticed. This relates to a failure to consolidate previously accrued sums into the opening balance. Matthew is to contact the auditor to explain this.

Progress towards updating the IT system is underway and three quotations should be available by our meeting in order that a decision can be made on implementation. The total cost is likely to be in excess of £2500. The bulk of the cost is in new hardware, but given the age of two of our computers and both printers, these are seriously overdue for replacement anyway. The new system will be robust, more easily manageable and will allow for more flexible working.

GTC now has planning permission for the new fence and bus shelter and are keen to progress the work using their appointed project manager to oversee the tender process and the construction. They have invited the PC to follow the same process for the car park refurbishment but this will come at an additional charge of about 10% of the project cost. The project manager's estimate of the total cost of the work is considerably higher than the one quotation we have so far received so it is unlikely that we can accept this approach and that we will need to divide the work into separate contracts. We await further tenders.

**Haydn Williams**

### **APPENDIX G**

#### **Girton Youth Project Report – August 2016**

- |  |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Plan and deliver core activities throughout the year, including summer and Easter school holidays, and a residential</b></li></ol> |
|--|

August this year has hosted all of our summer events except for the bouncy castle day at the end of July, we've had two fantastic weeks with a wide variety of different activities for all ages to engage in.

In order of events we've had...

- Bouncy castle day – written in July's report, a very busy day on the rec with a lot of community interest and engagement with hours of fun for all involved.
- LaserForce – Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> Saw us head to Peterborough for an afternoon of laser tag at the purpose built venue at laser force. We had members of all ages visit and played plenty of different team and individual games in the dark mazes of the site, playing games like king of the hill, free for all and team deathmatch. The day was adrenaline packed and the group really got stuck in with a competitive and fun spirit to make for a potential new favourite trip.
- Thorpe Park – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Hosted our trip to Thorpe park for a day of thrills and scares on the roller coasters and amusements. We headed down to surrey and went straight into the park headed for the tallest coaster. The wait times were considerably low for the time of year and so many of the members got to try out nearly all of the best rides on offer, with some being Yr 6s who hadn't been before. The weather held out until the afternoon before dropping the rain, which didn't stop us as the park became quieter towards the end of the day.
- Paintballing – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> We travelled to combat paintball in Thetford with a great group of the older members for a days paintballing. The youth club was held to its own team and we were up against another group that we didn't know, so the motivation was high to bring home a youth club victory. Team spirits were strong and we battled several fantastic games to secure a 5-1 win over the opposition. This made for a brilliant day and everyone got stuck and thoroughly enjoyed the trip, with a few members trying it for the first time.
- Bounce – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> We headed back to Peterborough for another visit to the Bounce trampoline park after the popularity of the trip in Easter. We took a large group of members for a 2 hour session at the park, with many trying out crazy somersaults and some competitive games such as dodgeball and the speed lights on the trampolines. The trip was another success and we're sure it will continue as a favourite.
- Krashball – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> We held a 2 session of Zorb football on the recreation ground hosted by krashball games again after a success during Easter. There were a lot of impacts and big contact games with a group of 12 members. The sport is a fantastic laugh and is very exhausting, holding a competitive element.
- Spray Painting Day – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> We had a number of members visit to take part in a small graffiti workshop in the style we often take to other events. We built a makeshift wall to practice painting on and the members made their own stencils to make patterns on their own boards to take home with them, which provided them with a good opportunity to try something new.
- Milton Country Park – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> we had a planned a day trip to the Milton country park for Wednesday but unfortunately we haven't had bookings from members and so have not gone through with the trip.
- Escape rooms – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> This trip was organised at the request of youth club members which will fell have supported the club continuously over the past year. 2we had debated that as it is only available to a small group whether or not to have places it on to the schedule this summer. However, we decided that it is vital that we continue to listen to the youth club members and reward their support. The premise is 60 minutes to escape a maze, working together as a team to crack codes and solve riddles. It is great fun, really encouraging to hear the voice of the younger members whilst working alongside the older members.
- Command Tasks Day – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Ryan introduced this great activity which unfortunately was not supported by the young people as much as we had hoped. The young people that did attend the day enjoyed solving physical riddle tasks together in a team. Which included having to make a sling out of a blanket and rope to wince a casualty across the ravine, extreme balance and trust in your team mates whilst walking the plank. Some great ideas that will be taken forward and rolled out during Monday youth club sessions.

## **2. Develop effective partnerships with schools and other young peoples services in the county**

This month we have been in touch with Abbeyfields and will be attending the opening of the new community coffee shop early september. We will be exploring options as to how youth club could work on a joint project together in the future. In connction with this we have also reached out to the langaugae college, they have requested that some of their students attend youth club to pratice their english speaking skills. This is something we plan to talk to the current youth club cohort about once the new achademic year begins again and the numbers begin to pick up. Informtion about youth club remit has been exchanged and pupils have been invited to join a session in September. Whilst in the mean time I have put the langague college in touh with Abbeyfields to see if there would be scope for the pupils to spend time with the residence.

## **3. Design and deliver five, month-long themed projects with input from young people and meeting their needs.**

We will be using the first Thursday session back after summer as a mind mapping session for what the young people would like to see at their youth group, hopefully taking us up to Christmas. Already they have expressed interest in a Halloween trip to Scaresville and the possibility of attending a Christmas matinee at the corn exchange, during the Christmas break.

The YMCA have donated a large amount of craft resources to the project, whilst we have been attempting to re-introduce new craft projects in the back room at Cotton Hall these have not been as successful as hoped. However, as the weather turns against us and the Rec becomes less and less attractive to the young people we are hoping the craft project will gain more interest.

## **4. Develop a pool of sessional and voluntary workers for the project**

Ryan will be leaving his current position at youth club to join Cambridge Fire service, he will be given a sessional contract and once his basic training is complete we are hopeful that he will return in the new year. Ryan has been a proactive, enthusiastic and positive member of staff, one of whom will be missed. It has been decided that now Rachel is in a 40 hour a week position Ryan's position will not require to be filled, however, it is apparent that in the coming months new members of sessional staff will need to be recruited.

#### 5. Additional

Our six day residential on the sailing ship Queen Galadriel started on 19<sup>th</sup> August. We had 7 14 year old girls and 1, 14 year old boy signed up for the trip along with Jamie and Tim, of whom I inherited the trip from.

There is so much to tell about the experience, obviously I had heard the feedback from last year, but I still can say that the experience far surpassed anything that I was expecting. Some photos have been added to the report, with more on our Facebook page and website. Jamie is currently putting together a short film from our trip, which will be added onto facebook.

The first two days were extremely challenging with a mixture of sea sickness, rain and sleep deprivation, however, once everyone found their feet with regards to expectations on the boat and looking out for each other as a whole team we all seemed to settle in to life at sea. It is because at times it was difficult that made the trip so brilliant; the change in attitude towards each other, Much of the reason it felt so life changing was because it was challenging, especially at the start.

This year we sailed in a completely different direction than we did last year, we felt this was important and some of the young people had attended last year and we wanted this to be a different trip. We left Poole Harbour to go towards Portland, hoisting the sails whilst combating sea sickness was interesting. We anchored up and went ashore when the heaven opened and the rain fell, this did not damper spirits as we explored Portland and the old castle. During the sail we covered over 190 miles, sailing to Brixham and spending a day there, exploring the quaint town and swimming in the beautiful bays, enjoying the British summer sun. As we made a decision to stay docked for a day this meant that we had a 12 hour sailing day ahead of us, allowing us to experience night sailing. Breath taking is an understatement; viewing the coastline we had sailed the previous few days in a different light and atmosphere, we even spotted dolphins.

Whilst sailing Queen Galadriel we took the opportunity to complete a royal yachtsman course, enabling the young people to gain a recognised qualification in sailing. To earn this everyone had to learn to tie knots, use a map and compass to plan a safe sailing route; without the reliance on technology. Steer the boat whilst developing an understanding of the wind direction and sailing terminology.

**A fantastic experience of which all who were able to attend are very grateful for being given the opportunity.**

### APPENDIX H

## Flood and Drainage Report for Girton Parish Council 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017

After several months with little to report, there has recently been some progress on a Flood Management Scheme for the northern part of Girton. Accompanied by two residents, Robin Irvine and Brain Bromwich, I attended a meeting with the Environment Agency (EA) and the A14 Project Team on 21<sup>st</sup> June. They claimed that the work already carried out had already reduced the flood risk to Girton, but the bottom line was that they would not allocate more than £115,000 to a scheme for the village. One positive was that the flood works associated with the A14 Upgrade would be completed prior to the road works so that increased flood risk during construction should be avoided. Their calculations indicate that due to their flood mitigation measures the run-off from the road will be less than at present. However, as this is measured in litres/second and the flow in Beck Brook is estimated at 9 cubic metres/second, the reduction will be negligible.

Following the meeting, the new Project Manager, Henry Smith, and Team Leader, Richard Taylor, visited Beck Brook on 14<sup>th</sup> August with Peter Creighton and myself to see the state of the stretch of Beck Brook downstream of the Oakington Road Bridge, which has not been maintained for many years and is now inaccessible in parts. Unfortunately, the EA staff responsible for maintenance were not able to join us, so no maintenance programme could be agreed.

On 16<sup>th</sup> August I received an email from Henry Smith offering an "Individual Property Resilience" (IPR) Scheme, or nothing. This used to be called "Individual Property Protection" but the name has been changed to reflect the fact that it does not protect properties from flooding, only delays inundation. In his email he asked how many properties had been flooded, a fact that you would have expected them to know after 16 years of studies! In response to his email and with no alternative proposal I had no option other than to accept the offer of IPR so that each of the 16 households in the high risk area could make their own decision on whether or not to install this. My personal hope is that by combining into groups of properties a more effective and efficient solution may evolve. In my response to him I queried some of the EA's assumptions, in particular that the fact that the works already completed had reduced the flood risk, if this were the case why haven't they updated their flood risk maps to indicate this?

The latest news from the EA is that they have submitted a request for A14 Legacy funding to the Highways England prior to the deadline of 8<sup>th</sup> September and await their response. If funds are approved they will then write to each resident in the 16 high risk properties with their proposal and then appoint a contractor to do a detailed survey of each property.

All emails have been circulated to all those in the flood group but if any Councillors would like more details I will be happy to include them in the email circulation list.

Douglas Whittle

GPC Flood and Drainage Officer