

# 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 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Girton, at 7.00 p.m.

*Residents in the parish were invited to attend this meeting and to speak at Item 18/83.1*

**Present:** (Cllrs) H Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Dashwood, de Lacey, Godby, Griffin, Hickford (until end of item 18/87.4) and Townshend.

Cllr T Bygott (South Cambs District Council) (until the end of item 18/87.2)

Dr R Hiley & Mrs A Bonnett (Girton Town Charity) (until the end of item 18/87.2)

1 member of the public (until the end of item 18/83.4)

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

**18/80 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially the member of the public and Girton Town Charity Trustees.

**18/81 Apologies and Reasons for Absence** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Cockley, Kettle, Thorrold and L Williams, and from County Councillor L Harford, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.

**18/82 Members' declarations for items on the agenda** None.

### **18/83 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**

1. Members of the Public. Mr A Hawkes, new Chairman of Girton Colts Football Club, introduced himself and spoke about the club. There are currently five teams running plus training sessions for 4-6 year olds. They are inundated with children, and currently have a big drive to recruit managers and coaches. The players are mainly from Girton – 50% from Girton Glebe School and 50% from University of Cambridge Primary School at Eddington. The club are committed to keeping membership fees low, and need to look at revenue streams. It costs £500 to create a new team and this year they are creating two. They will speak to Girton Town Charity about possible sponsorship. He's spoken with the Parish Office about using preferential times on the pitches and will be in touch in February regarding needs for 2019-20. Mr Hawkes thanked the outgoing Chairman Mr G Hanlon for all the work he's done for the Colts. The Chairman thanked Mr Hawkes.

2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) Any questions arising from Cllr Harford's report can be forwarded to her by the Clerk. Road resurfacing through the village will begin on 25<sup>th</sup> July. It's not known how far down Cambridge Road the works will go, and Cllr Harford will follow-up if not satisfactory.

3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Cllr de Lacey will be discussing the Athena signage on Huntingdon Road when the JDCC look at this. There are a number of volunteers who'd be happy to help with the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Bygott spoke about the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Girton College in 2019 – a website for this is now available. Cllr Bygott was asked about the rent solution service mentioned in his report – people are invited in and given advice.

4. Police Report (*Appendix C*). The Council has heard that two teenage boys were threatened and one was physically assaulted on the Recreation Ground, but this incident did not appear on E-cops. The Chairman has contacted PCSO Mani who is to let him know the outcome of

the incident.

**18/84 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018** (previously circulated). The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, and approved with two abstentions.

**18/85 To confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2018** (previously circulated). The Minutes were proposed as a true record by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Griffin, and approved with three abstentions.

**18/86 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**

18/79 The Annual Return for 2017-18 has been submitted to the External Auditors.

Noted by the Council. Our accountants and the Internal Auditor were thanked for their help and timely submission.

**18/87 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To consider any candidates for co-option to the Parish Council. There were no candidates at the meeting.

2. To consider the position of the tenders for the car park. The Chairman proposed suspending Standing Orders to allow Girton Town Charity Trustees to join the Council's discussion, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and unanimously agreed. Final costings from Mead Construction are £70.5k but the Chairman has found items to be taken out of this costing, and questions the high level of specification for the footpath to the Pavilion. Dr Hiley reported that although six companies had been asked to tender, only four did so, with Mead and Regent the most economical – Mead gave the best price for the car park works, and Regent for the bus shelter and footpath. Girton Town Charity suggested value engineering. GTC agree to pay for the resin surface up to the Pavilion. GTC are looking to see if CCTV can be powered from the bus shelter or lamp-post. It is not known if the provision for soakaways is adequate. Mrs Bonnett is meeting with Parish Councillors and Mead on-site. It was suggested that Mead's tender be accepted with the proviso that it is no more than mid-£60ks. The works would take place in the Autumn term and would last 8-9 weeks. Mead and Regent are used to working together. Half the car park would be out of action at a time. The ornamental fence will go in last.

The Chairman proposed reinstating Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and unanimously agreed.

The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council accepts Mead's quotation, seconded by Cllr Griffin, and approved with one abstention.

The Girton Town Charity Trustees and Cllr Bygott left the meeting at this point.

3. To approve a proposal for the Local Highways Improvement Scheme Grant Scheme. Cllr Hickford proposed that a 20-mph limit on Cambridge Road from Dodford Lane to Redgate Road junctions would help curb speeding in this part of the village. Cllr Hickford proposed that a budget of up to £3,000 be put aside for speed reduction works in the village, seconded by Cllr H Williams, and approved with one abstention. Cllr Hickford and the Clerk will submit the application by the 31<sup>st</sup> July deadline.

4. To review security arrangements for the Pavilion and Recreation Ground. There has been a spate of petty vandalism on the Recreation Ground at weekends, notably the slashing of cricket covers and snapping a temporary goalpost. The Chairman and Clerk have had discussions with the Security Officer and suggest a later tour of duty than 8pm, phased dependent on the time of year ie later in summer and earlier in winter. The Security Officer should look at CCTV to see if crowds have gathered and alert the police, Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman. It would be good to give access to the security cameras from home for the Security Officer. The Security Officer should make his rounds near the end of bookings. Cllr Hickford left the meeting at this point.

5. To approve a payment to the Internal Auditor to a charity of his choice. The Council were unanimously in favour of a payment of £200, and the Internal Auditor will be asked to forward the Clerk an invoice on the charity Camtrust's behalf.

6. To approve a quotation for replacement goals at Girton Recreation Ground. The quotation was approved on the basis that cheaper quotes cannot be found.
7. To review electricity suppliers for Girton Parish Council. A decision was deferred.

**18/88 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*Appendix D*) Cllr H Williams had checked the Payments Schedule before the meeting. It was queried why there were two separate invoices for herbicide application, and the Clerk agreed to check this with the Groundsman. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved unanimously.
2. To receive a quarterly financial update. The Chairman and Clerk met with the accountants on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**18/89 Correspondence (to be received)**

1. Correspondence regarding meeting on proposed rail route.  
Received by the Council.

**18/90 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix E*) The Chairman reported that there have been several incidences of anti-social behaviour on the Recreation Ground, and these will be mentioned in the Parish Council's next report for Girton Parish News.
2. Girton Town Charity. No report this month.
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix F*)
4. Footpaths (*Appendix G*) Further to the Footpath Officer's report, Girton Green Team are to look at cutting back overhanging foliage on Footpath 4.
5. Water Management. No report this month.
6. Waste Management. Cllr Dashwood reported. The major risk for Girton is air pollution, with dissemination of particles the main issue. The visual impact of the scheme is also of concern, as the tower will be as high as the bulk of Ely Cathedral. Cllr Dashwood will bring a report to the next meeting, with the Council needing to comment on the application in September.

**18/91 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes**

1. Planning Committee Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 (previously circulated)  
Received by the Council.

**18/92 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.**

Girton Parish Council thanks and congratulates Girton Village Celebrations for organising the recent Girton Feast Week.

All Parish Council Committees are to meet in September.

A rota for checking the Payments Schedule prior to monthly meetings will be circulated to Councillors.

The meeting closed at 8.34pm

## APPENDIX A

### Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report July 2018

There was no meeting of the **County Council** in June. The next one is scheduled for 17 July and for those who would like a preview of what Members will be considering, the agenda pack is available at: <https://bit.ly/2KKIYHp>

**Commercial & Investment Committee's** [C&I] agenda included a decision on the appointment of a replacement director for the County Council's legal officer who has now left

the authority. The decision was to replace him with a councillor but not one who serves on the C&I committee. Agenda, decisions and minutes at: <https://bit.ly/2J68D6F>

Following my reference last month to the increasing number of children being taken into the care of the County Council there may be some of you who are interested in the Council's role as Corporate Parent. The **Corporate Parenting Sub-committee** meets regularly to oversee this role and the agenda, decision statement and minutes for its June meeting can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/2KUo2fb>

The **Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority's** [CPCA] agenda for its June meeting included approval of the Community Land Trust [CLT] Strategy. This will see the development of a strategic model to deliver CLT schemes across the whole Cambridgeshire & Peterborough area and an assessment of the total loan facility required. Meanwhile the CPCA will engage with the Treasury to understand its position with regards to the cap applied to CPCA borrowing as well as the relevant rules and requirements on borrowing for this purpose. There are of course benefits to bringing forward housing through these community schemes not the least of which is the control that the community has over the development and the subsequent allocation of affordable homes that are part of those schemes. However, they are slow to bring forward and may provide no more affordable units than commercial developments do. SCambs DC is to be applauded for its continuing work with Housing Associations and on building its own homes. The need for affordable homes can only be met through looking at all options for delivery. Agenda pack and decision summary at: <https://bit.ly/2u5pvpA>

Highways maintenance is something of interest to a great many. **Highways & Community Infrastructure Committee's** agenda for Tuesday 10 July [tomorrow at the time of writing this report] includes a report which reviews the first nine months of the Highway Service contract between Cambridgeshire County Council and Skanska and summarises performance and achievement. Committee will also be considering a report on Traffic Signals Design & Operational Guidance following an audit on all signal installations carried out by the **Greater Cambridge Partnership** [GCP] in collaboration with the County Council. The audit has reviewed the current situation and assessed the potential for improvement at each site. A new guidance document on signal design and operation has been jointly prepared by the traffic signals team and the GCP. This focuses on improving the movement of people rather than on the management of vehicle queues which has tended to be the key factor in signals management in the past. It will inform and influence a future GCP signal upgrade investment plan as well as other signal infrastructure projects that are undertaken by the County Council and by developers. Following scrutiny by the GCP Joint Assembly and Executive Board, Committee will be asked to approve the new guidance.

How the guidance is applied across the wider county highway network will be managed by the Council as Highways Authority under the Traffic Management Act 2004. A flexible approach is recommended to best reflect circumstances such as road hierarchy and even air quality and achieve a pragmatic balance between competing movement demands.

Prioritisation of sustainable transport modes over motor vehicles is likely to be more significant in city and town centres than in suburban and more rural locations. Agenda pack: <https://bit.ly/2udaMrQ>

On the subject of highway maintenance, I know that some of you are preparing to put in an application to the **Local Highways Improvements** scheme. Please remember that the deadline for applications is Tuesday 31 July. Please let me know if you need my support but please don't miss this opportunity.

You will recall that I have previously reported on the financial challenges that our **local schools** wrestle with due to the inequity of government funding. Cambridgeshire is one of the worst funded education authorities in England. The county receives £400 less per child than the average funded authority and £1,600 less per child than Westminster. The rural nature of the county means that there are a high number of small village schools that have been seriously disadvantaged by the introduction of a National Funding Formula which has meant a cut from £150,000 to £110,000 in the lump sum allocation for each school. That cut

roughly equates to the full cost of a teacher. The High Needs budget is also under enormous pressure with an increasing number of children presenting with high needs and the complexity of those needs also escalating. Funding for early years childcare is also stretched as Government funding levels for 30 hours of 'free' childcare does not cover the actual cost of delivery. Funding for the county's schools has not kept pace with inflation over recent years and although two-thirds of Cambridgeshire schools saw a modest increase in funding for 2018-19 this has been completely eroded by increasing costs including salary and pension increases, growing recruitment costs, inflation and the Apprenticeship Levy. Cambridgeshire's Schools Forum met on 06 July and is calling on the Secretary of State for Education to increase funding for all the county's early years, primary, secondary and special schools. Parents, students, school staff and others who care about our schools are asked to show their support for the campaign by signing and sharing the Government petition which can be accessed at: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/211156>.

Following news of a couple of awards last month it seems that achieving such success is becoming a habit for the Council. Its Energy Investment Unit has won a British Renewable Energy Award for its pioneering approach to energy work. The Council's award was for its work on smart energy grid innovations, its energy strategy and the delivery of over forty projects involving schools and the upskilling of staff and politicians to facilitate more strategic development of, and investment in energy projects.

The Council has also been awarded £20,000 by NHS Digital and the Local Government Association in the first 'discovery' phase of funding for an innovative pilot project to help people with serious health conditions take their medication. Cambridgeshire County Council is one of just twelve councils chosen out of a total of eighty-two who applied to explore how technology can help shape the future of social care.

I look forward to receiving any questions or comments that you have about these or any other matters either at your July meetings or by email. Most of our Parish Councils don't meet in August so my best wishes to you all for the summer recess. I hope you all get an opportunity to enjoy some valuable down time with your families and friends.

*Lynda*

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

## **APPENDIX B**

### **i) Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey 9. 7. 2018**

In mid-June Cambridge ACRE held a day conference on Neighbourhood Plans.

These are intended to stand alongside the Local Plan and advise on development within a Parish (or other agreed area). They give residents a big say on where and how development should proceed. However, they must be in line with the Local Plan -- they cannot try to impede development approved in it. And they require a dedicated band of volunteers, while there are other ways of achieving the same results. I offered a while ago to spearhead a group to develop a Plan for Girton, but I would need a lot of support. Over the summer I shall try to get a group together to assess the feasibility; will other councillors join me?

The Joint Development Control Committee (which oversees planning for fringe sites including NW Cambridge) had its first meeting of the new year and I was unanimously elected as Vice-Chair. This is rather good: without the onerous responsibilities of the Chair, I shall be involved in decisions which are often delegated to the quaintly-named 'chair and spokes' -- ie Chairman (and Vice) plus the Spokesmen of the various authorities. On the agenda were the design code and phasing plan for the Marshalls development; generally good but we objected to a complete lack of reference to electric vehicles. In the code now is a requirement to provide charging points for each dwelling or justify the omission. I see a week later the Government plans consultation on making this universally compulsory.

Our Scrutiny Committee has been completely ineffectual for several years.

Before our first meeting of this year we had a really excellent afternoon's training session on the role of a scrutiny committee, and the excitement of the new chairman (a Conservative Councillor) was palpable: he must have used the phrase 'how exciting!' a dozen times during the session, admitting that he had never realised what such a committee should be about. So our first session was also exciting as we devised new ways to ensure that we really shall hold the new administration to account.

The Civic Affairs Committee had two interesting items: a parish wishing to reduce its quota of Councillors because it felt it had no hope of filling it; and another wishing to increase its quota to way over the norm for its size, because of the amount of assets it administers, and confident it can find the volunteers. I am frankly puzzled why some Parish Councils seem able to draw on committed and proactive people while others (sadly, including Girton, Dry Drayton and Madingley) cannot even get enough people to stand at the election.

At the end of June officers arranged a tour of the waste and recycling unit run by Amey, and also our own waste collection service, both based at Waterbeach. If I can remember enough of the details of this very informative afternoon I'll be writing an article for our Parish magazines.

For the first time in many a moon there was a meeting of the leaders of all the Groups (LibDem, Tory, Labour and Independent) to be briefed by the Council Leader and share information. The top items on our agenda are still the Local Plan and Designation; we expect some communication soon on the former; on the latter we are concerned that the Government appears to wish to make an example of one or two of the 15 or so authorities eligible for it. We touched on the scrapping between the Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership which could lead to the Government withdrawing significant funding to the latter. A lack of Government joined-up thinking? Who could imagine such a thing.

Finally, I have been informed of some minor Busway A/B changes in timetable. The details are available on line.

Douglas de Lacey

## ii) **District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott**

### **Sesquicentenary of Girton College**

As we have just completed yet another wonderful Girton Feast, we shouldn't feel too sad that all the festivities are over, because next year we have more exciting events coming up as Girton College celebrates its 150th anniversary. The College was founded at Benslow House in Hitchin on 16th October 1869 by three brave pioneering women, Emily Davies 1830-1921, Barbara Leigh Bodichon 1827-1891 and Lady Stanley of Alderley 1807-1895, and moved to its current site in 1873. It was the first UK residential institution for women studying to degree level.

The College has created a website that contains lots of information about the College's history, and a list of events that will occur throughout the year: <https://girton150.com/>

One of the early events that will occur next year, on February 15th 2019, will be the Girton150 Founders' Memorial Lecture by Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado of Japan, an alumna of the College who graduated from Cambridge in 1975.

I am working with the College on a commemorative event next June, which we hope to be able to announce at some point over the next few months.

### **South Cambridgeshire prevention of homelessness**

During 2017/18, 208 families in South Cambridgeshire were prevented from becoming homeless last

year following intervention work by the District Council's Housing Advice and Options team. That figure increased from 126 during the previous year (2016/17).

Residents are being reminded that the sooner they ask the authority for help with housing-related issues, the more options the Council has to help people. The main way they have prevented local families from becoming homeless is through working with landlords to secure private rented accommodation. This can include payment towards arrears, assisting with a deposit and helping guarantee rent in advance. Alongside this, where possible and appropriate, social rented housing is offered to those most in need.

The primary cause of homelessness in South Cambridgeshire is when people lose an assured shorthold tenancy. This is the most frequently used tenancy agreement in the letting of residential properties. This reason accounts for almost four in ten of all homeless cases that the authority deals with. Another way the Council is helping keep people housed is via Shire Homes, its private sector leasing scheme. This was set up as a way of helping residents who need assistance to be able to afford to rent a private property locally. Landlords sign up for a minimum of three years to let their good quality properties via this comprehensive management scheme, which offers guaranteed rental income. The Council takes over management of the properties and offers them to those needing homes at an affordable rent below market rate, increasing the availability of affordable housing in South Cambridgeshire.

Additionally, South Cambridgeshire District Council is part of a rent solutions service with other local Councils, which offers specialist assistance and advice to agents, landlords and tenants. It aims to help maintain tenancies and try to help resolve tenancy problems that may otherwise lead to evictions. This can include assistance with issues such as debt problems leading to rent arrears and property repairs and maintenance.

SCDC has long been a top performing council for initiatives to prevent homelessness, and I am hoping that this good work will continue under the new administration.

### **Public Health Dashboard**

On July 12th, Public Health England published the most recent 'Public Health Dashboard' which compares local authorities on how they deliver preventative local health services for 0-5 year olds, child obesity, drug and alcohol misuse treatment, tobacco control, NHS Health Checks, sexual health services and air quality.

You can browse the data on Public Health England's website.

<https://healthierlives.phe.org.uk/topic/public-health-dashboard/>

The dashboard gives each local authority a ranking for each service area and shows how it compares nationally and with similar local authorities. Similar local authorities to Cambridgeshire include Oxfordshire, Warwickshire Northamptonshire and Suffolk. Cambridgeshire is in the 'best' category nationally for 'childhood obesity' and 'best start in life' ranking second and fourth out of 16 similar councils respectively.

However Cambridgeshire is in the 'worst' category, ranking 14th out of sixteen similar councils for tobacco control, overall we are at 73 out of 149 areas in this category. The reason for this is that 15.3% of the adult population hasn't succeeded in stopping smoking yet.

If you or one of your friends or family is trying to quit smoking, here is some advice from the NHS: [www.nhs.uk/smokefree/why-quit/quit-smoking-tips](http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree/why-quit/quit-smoking-tips)

Cllr Tom Bygott

[cldr@bygott.net](mailto:cldr@bygott.net)

07765 475 513

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Police Report for July 2018**

#### **Girton – Manor Farm Road**

Interference with a motor vehicle

Between 2250 hours and 2300 hours on the 2/7/2018 a tractor at the location has been tampered with causing the indicators to flash. It is believed offenders have then made off from the location.

#### **Girton – Cambridge Road**

Between 22:00 hrs on 06/07/18 and 09:00 hrs on 07/07/18.

Unknown offenders have damaged the front gates to a property and broken into a garage. Nothing has been taken. Crime ref: 35/12531/18.

**APPENDIX D**  
**Payments Schedule for July 2018**

(please see separate document)

**APPENDIX E**  
**Chairman's Report**  
**11<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Following the Council's approval of the Annual Return at our last meeting I was following up with our accountant Rebecca Coles on actions necessary to respond to the queries from the External Auditor on last year's Return and discovered that the rules have changed and that now the internal audit is required before approval. The Clerk managed to identify a parishioner who was able and willing to carry out the task and this was duly completed with co-operation of our accountants and Susie and Linda. Last year's Return was revisited and the faults rectified by Rebecca so that the completed Return was approved at an Extraordinary PC Meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup>. This allowed publication on our website by the July 2nd deadline. However the new rules are that this is the deadline for the fully audited accounts so we have clearly missed this. The good news is that in a contradictory note it is stated that the deadline for submission of the accounts to the External Auditor appears to be September, so we are well within that.

On June 30<sup>th</sup> I also discovered that Northmores had decided to exclude me from all communication on the car park tender process dating from June 11<sup>th</sup>. They cannot explain the logic of this but have now sent me updated prices from Mead which are now about £70K for the Car Park/Drainage/ Footpath work. My latest e mail suggesting several further significant spec changes to reduce costs has not received a response, 7 days and counting. If possible I will bring revised figures to our July meeting for consideration.

We have received complaints from parishioners concerning, vandalism and unsociable and criminal behaviour on the Recreation Ground, unsociable bonfires, and encroachment of hedges and plants onto public footpaths and walkways. We shall publish suitable wording in the next issue of GPN to cover these.

I have met a parishioner to discuss repairs to the Village War Memorial. An exploratory application to the War Memorial Trust has been made and quotations for the needed repairs are being obtained.

Further repair to the Cambridge Road ('crack sealing') is planned for July 18<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Harford is keeping a close eye on matters.

**Haydn Williams**

**APPENDIX F**  
**Summary of Girton Youth Project Report – June 2018**

All staff this month completed and passed a 'Channel General Awareness Module' on identifying and reporting those young people that may be at risk of extremist views. Matilda, Jamie, Laura and myself and continuing with our mental health course also.

Susie, the Girton Parish Clerk has kindly sent me information about a two-day course on safeguarding that me and Jamie are awaiting to hear back about our secured place which will

take place during the summer holiday.

I have informed both Matilda and Daisy about the grant that could be available to them through GTC with regards to resources for their university courses, as they will soon be departing us to further their education.

As some of you may have been aware I had been approached by the prison service and was successful in all stages of the recruitment process to join HMP Highpoint as part of the SEN education team. Just to quash any rumours you may have heard I will not be accepting this position and look forward to planning the future funding of GYP.

## **APPENDIX G**

### **Footpaths Officer's Report**

Nothing to report but a dog walker said that Footpath 4 which connects Woody Green with A1307, had been used by Gretton Court's mobility scooters to get to the Co-op, but it is not wide enough at the moment. The brambles would need to be cut hard back and secateurs are not enough. Did you know that this was happening and do you have any ideas about how to widen the path.