

# Girton Parish Council

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## **Minutes of the meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August, 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 18/96.1*

**Present:** (Cllrs) H Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Cockley, Dashwood, de Lacey, Griffin, Townshend.  
Cllr T Bygott (South Cambs District Council) (for item 18/96.3)

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

**18/93 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**18/94 Apologies and Reasons for Absence** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Godby, Hickford and Kettle, and from County Councillor L Harford, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence. The Chairman had received an email from Cllr L Williams offering her resignation on health grounds. Cllr de Lacey pointed out that Cllr L Williams would need to write to the Clerk to make this official.

**18/95 Members' declarations for items on the agenda** None.

**18/96 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**

1. Members of the Public. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.
2. County Councillor's Report. Apologies had been received from Cllr Harford.
3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix A*) Cllr de Lacey reported that there is no enthusiasm for a Congestion Charge. A coherent plan is needed to sort out traffic chaos in Cambridge. Cllr Bygott opposes the change of policy on the Congestion Charge. The Chairman thanked the District Councillors. Cllr Bygott left the meeting at this point.
4. Police Report (*Appendix B*). Received by the Council. No response from PCSO Mani had been received following last month's police report.

**18/97 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2018** (previously circulated). The Athena signage will be 'discussed' (item 18/83.3). With this amendment, the Minutes were proposed as a true record by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Griffin and approved with one abstention.

**18/98 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**

18/87.2 A Letter of Intent has been sent to the car park redevelopment contractors. The Chairman explained that following a meeting about the car park redevelopment, the cost to the Parish Council will be £61k and a Letter of Intent has been sent to Mead Construction. Three soakaways have worked well for 20 years and should be replaced. Official notification to progress will be sent. If the soakaways fail we would have to research the cost of putting a connection to the main storm drain and having a conservation lagoon under the car park.  
18/87.3 The Parish Council's application for a Local Highways Improvement grant has been submitted.

**18/99 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To consider representation at SCDC Planning Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 regarding the proposed waste recovery facility at Waterbeach (application S/3372/17/CW)

(Appendix C). The Parish Council wishes to express concern on the possible impact on Girton and the surrounding area. Traffic Surveys are restrictive in nature, eg to the A10, and the District Council are still waiting for an air quality report. It is very difficult for lay people to comment on so many documents. Councillors questioned whether alternatives have been sought, eg continued landfill. The issue of small particulates has not been addressed. Some European directives now require specification of levels of toxins as low as responsibly practicable. The Chairman and Cllr de Lacey expressed their gratitude to Cllr Dashwood for her very good report.

Girton is already on a corridor polluted by the A14. There should be a very clear study of air quality looking at PM 10, PM 2.5 and PM 1, and the Parish Council will request that such a study be made. Cllrs H Williams, de Lacey and Dashwood will draft a written response. In the future, there could be a tax on plastics and an Incinerator Tax which would make this proposal uneconomic. Cllrs H Williams, de Lacey and Dashwood will draft a written response.

2. To approve refurbishment works to Girton War Memorial. The works would be to the bottom step. It would be an additional £400 to modify the second step if required. It was queried whether the metal rail should remain. The Chairman will speak to the contractors and the Parochial Church Council.

#### **18/100 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*Appendix D*). The payments schedule had been checked before the meeting by Cllr Griffin. Proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, and approved unanimously.

#### **18/101 Correspondence (to be received)**

1. 1<sup>st</sup> August: Compliments received for the Groundsman's work

2. 7<sup>th</sup> August: Suggestions regarding cycleway improvements

Three residents' comments have been received on cycling improvements in Girton. Also, Girton is not mentioned on the Greenways Project regarding cycling access to the busway. Cllr Harford has offered to organise a meeting and the Chairman and Cllr de Lacey would be happy to attend along with residents. A response will be sent to the Cycling Officers. The correspondence was received by the Council.

#### **18/102 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix E*) The Chairman thanked Cllr Harford for her efforts in enabling Cambridge Road repairs. She is now looking at obtaining improvements to footways. He will write to the Feast Committee and also to GYP regarding comments following the Feast.

2. Girton Town Charity Report (*Appendix F*)

3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix G*) The Chairman will write to the Feast Committee and also to GYP regarding their comments following the Feast.

#### **18/103 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.**

Cllr Cockley was thanked for attending the recent Timebanking presentation by Cambridge Housing Society at South Cambs District Council HQ, and will report on this at next month's meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.03pm

### **APPENDIX A**

#### **i) Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey 7. 8. 2018**

We have agreed that scrutiny ought to be pro-active rather than reactive: this will make the committee both more effective and more interesting. At the last meeting we looked at the proposed Uttlesford District Council Local Plan, which includes a major new settlement (5000 homes) right on our boundary. We identified a number of concerns for South Cambs including schools

and access (the major access will be the congested A505 in South Cambs). Uttlesford offer a sop in that the housing will take pressure off us; but since the development is not guaranteed our own plans cannot rely on it. Our comments now go to Cabinet for final approval. Our next meeting will look at the problems likely to be raised by the roll-out of Universal Credit in Cambridgeshire.

The JDCC looked at an application to reinstate the enormous advertising hoarding for Athena, the University site's market housing, which I managed to have removed at the start of this year since it had no permission. My pleas that it is grotesquely over-sized were heard and the application rejected; the Committee also approved future guidelines for such advertising which will make any repeats most unlikely.

The JDCC has toured two of our major sites: Trumpington Meadows and NW Cambridge; with officers and the chairman of our quality panel of architects. We noted what seems to be working well and what is not.

The most significant item on the Council agenda was my proposal to make it easier for our residents to talk to the Council. If you are concerned about an item on our agenda you can now submit a written comment which will (with caveats about appropriateness) be read out before the item is discussed. Previously comments and questions had to be submitted before the agenda was published. Council also agreed to write to the Secretary of State requesting that the roll-out of Universal Credit in Cambridgeshire be delayed until the current manifest problems are addressed.

Douglas de Lacey

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

### **Cambridge Congestion Charge**

It is often said that if something is someone's pet project, it doesn't matter how many times people say they don't want it, it always keeps coming back onto the agenda. The Cambridge Congestion Charge has been one of the most persistent of such issues. The District Council had voted on two previous occasions to oppose a Congestion Charge, but at July's Council meeting, the issue came back a third time and the new administration enthusiastically backed the imposition of such a tax. I voted on all three occasions to oppose a Congestion Charge.

Supporters of this tax often refer to congestion charges in London, and sometimes Stockholm, as models of what they want to achieve. But these are not relevant to where we live, because both London and Stockholm have excellent public transport systems. The London Underground and its 270 stations are well known to us, Stockholm's Metro has 100 stations, and is well designed and efficient. Our Mayor, James Palmer, is working hard to bring us an excellent metro system of our own, but right now our public transport is very substandard, and driving is a necessity for most people. When Cambridge City Council developed its detailed proposals in 2008, it drew the boundary of the charge area along the A14, directly through the middle of Girton. Such a boundary would create complete chaos in the village, as visitors from outside would park their cars in the surrounding streets to avoid paying. The chaos, crowding and inconvenience created by this parking would then give rise to a whole system of parking controls and enforcement areas. Our relative freedom to go where we please, with plenty of space and few worries, would be replaced with a progressive institutionalisation of our environment, and a network of surveillance, monitoring and control. The ever growing complexity of the rules that govern our society requires continuous alertness, and is a major cause of increased stress levels.

A key feature of the City's proposal was that residents of Cambridge City would not pay the tax, but residents of South Cambridgeshire would have to. Any new proposal is almost certain to have the same feature. Dry Drayton and Madingley have three buses per day for most of the week and none on Sunday, and many of our more remote villages have only one or two buses per week. In contrast, city dwellers are lavish recipients of public transport spending. The Government reports that last year,

£944 was spent per capita on Transport in London compared to £333 in the East of England, and that despite receiving considerably more for rail, Londoners also received £115 for 'Local Public Transport', which includes buses, compared to £12 for our region:

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8130>

In the countryside, driving is a necessity, whereas in the city, driving is a luxury. It is therefore wholly unfair that country dwellers should pay the tax, whilst city dwellers are exempt.

### **Artificial Intelligence**

This summer, we have had some great weather in which to enjoy our beautiful countryside. However, enjoying rural life is always tinged with sadness, because we fear that it is only temporary, and that eventually our small overcrowded island might become a single city with no spare space in which to enjoy life. The CBI (Confederation of British Industry) has again launched one of its regular campaigns for a massive increase in immigration. This malign organisation has always had the ear of Government, and its vision of a high-population low-wage society is almost universally accepted as being indistinguishable from economic growth and progress. Whenever we are fortunate enough to achieve the benign state of full employment, the CBI issues panic warnings of labour shortages. These are always answered by Government in time to prevent any 'damage' to the economy that might be done by the advent of higher salaries. For most of the population, salaries are considered revenue, but for the CBI, effectively a militant trade union for the international super-rich, salaries count as costs. Far from being the voice of the future, the CBI is in fact the voice of the old economy, promoting an obsolete and defunct form of economics in which vast factories and warehouses must be filled with an ever-increasing stream of low skilled and low paid workers. By listening to these voices from the past, we are failing to prepare ourselves for the coming wave of artificial intelligence.

For anyone wanting to understand the relationship between technology, artificial intelligence and employment, a good place to start is Martin Ford's book *The Rise of the Robots*.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rise\\_of\\_the\\_Robots\\_\(book\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rise_of_the_Robots_(book)). For many decades the West has had access, through both mass immigration and offshoring, to a vast pool of cheap labour that has enabled big business to draw profits from their businesses as an alternative to investing in technology.

Progress in automation and productivity has been slow. However, advances in artificial intelligence have enabled automation to reach a tipping point, beyond which it is cheaper than mass employment, and the next few decades will see its very rapid growth.

His book has been criticised for its bleak predictions of hard-working and motivated people being unemployable at any price. For the United States, where he writes - a high-population low-wage society - this is probably an accurate assessment. In South Cambridgeshire, where there will be many jobs programming the robots, our future can be a lot brighter, but only if we ignore organisations like the CBI. Humanity's best future is in a low-population high-wage society, where we can enjoy both advanced technology and uncluttered green fields.

CLlr Tom Bygott

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## **APPENDIX B**

### **Police Report for August 2018**

#### **Girton – Wellbrook Way**

Between 10:30 hrs and 14:10 hrs on 10/08/18. Unknown offender has entered a locked van by unknown means and taken tools. The van was parked in a communal parking area. Crime ref: 35/21458/18.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Report on Proposed Waste Recovery Facility at Waterbeach**

The Parish Council should note that this Report is submitted without prejudice and results from the work of one Councillor. I apologise in advance for any omissions or misunderstanding.

Amey Cespa:

See: <http://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/swift/apas/run/WPHAPPCRITERIA>  
Planning Ref.: S/3372/17/CW

The Proposal/Application is for the development of a Waste Recovery Facility (Waterbeach Waste Recovery Facility – WWRF) AT Levitts Field, Waterbeach Waste Management Park (WWMP), Ely Road, Cambridgeshire, comprising the erection and operation of an energy from waste facility to treat up to 250,000 tonnes of residual waste per annum, air cooled condensers and associated infrastructure, including the development of an internal access road; office/welfare accommodation; workshop; car, cycle and coach parking; perimeter fencing; electricity sub-stations; weighbridges; weighbridge office; water tank; silos; lighting; heat offtake pipe; surface water management system; hardstandings; earthworks; landscaping and bridge crossings.

We should note that this Application is subject to an application for an Environmental Permit and is regulated through the Environment Agency. Application for an environmental permit, which allows the site to operate once it has been built, is separate from the planning process. It follows that the Environment Agency is not yet in a position to assess the environmental impact of the Amey Cespa proposal. When it is, detailed work will be undertaken on such an impact.

The **main building** would be 141 meters in length, with a width varying from 55m to 91m and a highest point of 41.7m. The stack (chimney) would be 80m in height and 4.5m in diameter. (Environmental Statement (ES) Doc. 4)

After a **construction period** commencing in late 2018 and lasting about 36 months, the **opening date** would be autumn/winter 2021 for the combustion of 250,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of waste.

The Facility could also **accommodate growth in waste** and have the capacity to recover energy from residual waste currently disposed of in **other landfill sites in adjoining counties**. (Introduction to Environmental Statement (ES, 1-4.)

Design life of c.40 years, but many elements of the plant would last beyond this and/or could be replaced so planning permission is sought for a **permanent development**. (ES 1-5).

The main considerations are considered to be: impacts on landscape, local character, heritage, natural environment, human health, transport and sustainable waste objectives (see: S Cambs District Council Report to Planning Committee, 7 February 2018)

Concerns have been voiced about the visual and **potentially intrusive impact** of such a large-scale development with tall stack on landscape and monuments, including Denny Abbey and Ely Cathedral, as well as on local ‘receptors’ (i.e. buildings in the area and the proposed Waterbeach Barracks development. Suggestions for mitigation have been put forward by Amey, although insufficient for some objectors.

The study of **increased traffic flows** during both the construction period and the operational period appear to have related mainly to the A10. However, if waste from adjoining counties is brought in to the site, there would be implications for the A14 through Girton and possibly for local roads including the network through Girton.

### **Air pollution**

The impact on air quality and possible increased air pollution on the A14 Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) has been studied, and a report by Fichtner for Amey (Appendix F Air Quality Clarification, 24 April 2018), in response to a study requested by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), refers to that study as saying that it is unlikely that the additional traffic generated during the construction and operational phase would have a significant impact on air quality within the AQMA. It would, though, seem appropriate to consider the impact of emissions from the proposed 80 m stack, and the dissemination of those emissions, together with the increased traffic flows, in the light of recent research. This research into emissions of particulate matter (PM) is referred to in a letter of 24 April 2018 from Heidi Allen MP to CCC Planning Committee in which she writes: “ Particulate matter (PM) emitted by many industrial processes; including waste incineration comes in various sizes: PM10, less than 10 micrometres; PM2.5, up to 2½ micrometres in diameter, and PM0.1, particles up to one-tenth of a micrometre.

The report submitted by the Applicant takes into account the measurement systems for PM10 – PM2.5, yet a recent Parliamentary question submitted by David Drew, MP showed that ‘there is no specific limit set for PM1 emissions from incinerators.’ These particulates are therefore not subject to

measurement. This is of concern because Public Health England state 'PM is inhaled into the lungs and ultrafine PM0.1 is thought to pass into the blood, causing many adverse outcomes including systemic inflammation' 1. Furthermore, DEFRA states 'Exposure to airborne PM is associated with a range of adverse effects on human health including effects on the respiratory and cardiovascular systems, leading to hospital admissions and mortality. There is increasing evidence that fine (PM2.5) and ultrafine (PM0.1) particulate matter plays a more significant role than previously thought' 2 As a result of this, the Treasury have published the 'costs to society' figures for some of the pollutants released by waste incinerators."3.

Sources:

1 *Air Quality in England: A Briefing for Directors of Public Health* (PHE, DEFRA and LGA, March 2017)

2 Particle Numbers and Concentrations Network – see: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/networks/network-info?view=particle>

3 11 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/air-quality-economic-analysis>

JRD

15/08/2018

**APPENDIX D**  
**Payments Schedule for August 2018**  
**(please see separate document)**

**APPENDIX E**

**Chairman's Report**  
**15<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

Following our last PC meeting, Cllrs. De Lacey, Griffin and I met with Mead Construction, GTC and Northmores to further review their latest costings. Following my request to modify the design and construction of the footpath running between the car park and the recreation ground to reduce cost, GTC have suggested that they fund this portion of the work in order to maintain a consistent appearance for all the new footpath. We also agreed that the replacement rail fencing would be 'knee-high' treated timber as is common in other areas of the village, notably, Wellbrook Way and Mayfield triangle. The Mead tender total cost to GPC is now just below £62K + VAT which is within the figure agreed at our last meeting. A letter of intent has been provided to Mead to allow them to undertake exploratory work on the drainage prior to contract finalisation. The work should begin mid-September and be completed in 6 weeks. Partial closures of the car park will be necessary during the work and total closure for 3 days to allow resurfacing work.

In late July I attended a presentation at Litlington on CamBedRailRoad, a community pressure group in South Cambs seeking to relocate the Milton Keynes, Bedford, Cambridge railway route to run via St Neots, Cambourne, Northstowe and North Cambridge. My impression was that this was both too late and problematic in how it would negotiate sensitive areas in the approach to the northern edge of Cambridge. The most realistic route would link with a new proposed 'Metro' link from Cambourne but who knows what the chances of that ever happening are.

On July 20<sup>th</sup> Susie, Linda, Andy, Gill and I attended the opening of Storey's Field Community Centre and Nursery in Eddington. It is a beautiful practical building and no surprise that it has been nominated for a prestigious architectural award.

One quotation has been received for refurbishment of the base of the Village War Memorial; a second is being chased.

Following the presentation from Officers on S106 funding for cycleway improvements

between Oakington and Girton, we have received a number of responses to our request for ideas on this. Unfortunately they all relate to routes through the village and towards Histon rather than Oakington. They will nevertheless be forwarded to the relevant parties. I have also noted that the Greater Cambridge City Deal Greenways consultation lists several villages as being important to link to the St Ives Greenway which follows the guided bus route. Again Girton is not listed!

(See <https://citydeal-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/Appendix%2013%20St%20Ives.pdf>)

It puzzles me that we are so invisible!

The crack and seal repairs to Cambridge Road have been completed and I am sure all will agree that they are a great improvement. Our thanks are due to County Cllr Harford for her diligence and persistence in ensuring that this much needed work was carried out.

**Haydn Williams**

## **APPENDIX F**

### **Girton Town Charity Report – August 2018**

Following requests for assistance, the Trustees have responded by agreeing financial help for a range of circumstances including providing essential household needs, making homes safer and enabling transport to hospital appointments, not covered by the Charity's popular Taxi Scheme.

#### **Road safety**

In addition, support was agreed for a Road Safety initiative, instigated by Councillor Linda Harford. The grant will be used towards the costs of producing and installing ten road safety signs in the Village which will feature illustrations and road safety slogans created by children from Girton Glebe School. GTC is also funding the continued provision of Relate outreach services for the next three years at Girton Glebe School which deliver valuable counselling support for both children and adults, including a new Relate4Parents service and the Be A Buddy Scheme.

#### **Valuable support**

An interim grant was given to Macmillan Cancer Support as a result of the value it delivers within the Village to residents requiring support – and a contribution was made towards the roofing costs for the Girton Village Institute. Dr Robin Hiley, GTC Chairman said: "Recent weeks have seen an unprecedented number of requests for help from Village residents and, as a result, a record number of individual grants have been given. We were also delighted to support several community causes requiring financial assistance. "The last month has also seen us make an appointment to the vacant almshouse at Centenary Court for which we had a number of applications. This means that all our existing 16 almshouses are now occupied and with plans to increase this provision to 29 homes over the next two years, we are addressing the clear need for housing in this Village.

#### **Breathing space**

"Our Centenary Court almshouses are for three-year appointments which offers families the opportunity to have a breathing space to manage personal circumstances, save money, or use the time as a stepping stone towards owning their own home. "Of course for some families Social Housing can be a preferable option as it offers longer-term security rather than a three-year appointment. For our older residents, this timescale does not apply and they are eligible to remain in their home for as long as they can live independently."

If you feel that you or your family could benefit from any of the Grants and Schemes, please contact GTC's office.

## **APPENDIX G**

### **Summary of Girton Youth Project Report for July 2018**

During this month we have had a further three new members join the Club, all for the Monday group,

they have come to club after working with us in the school during the Friday sessions and one is a sibling of an already existing member.

As the sun continues to shine so does our use of the outside spaces, in Mess Club this month we have had a bbq, which was enjoyed by all (sorry I must have been having too much fun to take photos) but I did managed to get one of our mac and cheese night.

We have been playing lots of football, capture the flag and Frisbee over at the Rec, with frequent water breaks.

All of our summer activities we have put on this year have had a good response, meaning all but one of our trips being fully booked. I think the success of the trips this year is largely to do with the Easter evaluation forms and feed back from the young people. Creating a summer scheme lead by the young people we support with a mixture of old and new activities has guaranteed its success.

Mondays the 30<sup>th</sup> we head off on our first residential trip of the summer, PGL Ormingston Bay, Weymouth. Three members of staff have agreed to very late nights and early mornings for a week of outdoor activities and swimming in the sea, with a very excited group of young people aged between 14-16. All risk assessments have been approved by Graham Jones, the Health and Safety Officer ay the YMCA and I shall be driving myself to the site behind the mini bus so we have an emergency car on site. As some of you may already be aware GYP had been heavily involved in the Feast festivities this year, which unfortunately did not run as smoothly as we had hoped. We had been approached to supply the soft drinks for the Feast this year as well as managing our own stall on the promise to be the only people selling soft drinks this year this was not the case on the day, which meant the inventory of drinks that I was provided with that they sold last year was nowhere near the mark and we was left with a rather large quantity of soft drinks left over. Laura and I have managed to sell the remaining stock at cost to Oakington Garden Centre and Hardwick Sports and Social Club.

There was also an incident with car parking duty; I has been asked to approach young people on the village to see if they would help the Feast parking car and be paid £10 per hour for doing so. Two young men had volunteered to help on the Friday, however, on their arrival they had been told that they were no longer required to do so. This was at no point communicated to us prior to their arrival. Instead they were asked to help move some equipment, then refused payment. I am absolutely outraged that this has occurred and I have followed it up with members of the Feast Committee.

Whilst the two young men did receive some payment for their work I have offered them spaces on the paintballing day without charge as an thank you from us at GYP and an apology for the way they was treated at the Feast.

Whilst GYP supports and encourages young people to help their community in an attempt to teach them respect of their surroundings and to help break the stigma some people have towards youth in the community I have said that GYP will not be as involved in the Feast festivities next year. The lack of communication between those who organise it lead to some of our young people being disappointed and feeling underappreciated. Unfortunately this goes completely against the ethos of GYP and I would be hesitant to put them in that position again.

With that said a huge thank you and appreciation has to go out to Jamie, Matilda, Ryan, Daisy, Angus, Ruby and Laura for their help at the Feast, as well as our young members that came to volunteer on the day to help raise money for their residential trip.

Rachel Rason