

Girton Parish Council

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

Minutes of the meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th December, 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 18/140.1

Present: (Cllrs) H Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Dashwood, Godby, Griffin, Kettle, Rodger, Thorrold.

Cllr L Harford (Cambs County Council)

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk)

18/137 Welcome from the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr L Williams has stepped down from the Parish Council for health reasons.

18/138 Apologies and Reasons for Absence. Apologies had been received from Cllrs de Lacey and Hickford, and from District Councillor Bygott, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.

18/139 Members' declarations for items on the agenda. None.

18/140 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:

1. Report from Madingley Parish Council on their Local Highways Improvements application. The representative did not attend the meeting so this item was cancelled.
2. Members of the Public. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.
3. County Councillor's Report. Cllr Harford apologised for not having a written report this month. She wants to see what happens when the cycle path goes in at Oakington Road and will forward a plan of this. Cllr Harford has asked for speed limits here in the past and extra money for road maintenance has been received from central government. This won't be a huge amount for each village, but Cllr Harford has asked for this to be used for pavements maintenance in Girton. She is to develop a questionnaire for attendees at the meeting on January 10th 2019, which will be disseminated through the village. Environmental groups in other villages are doing good work and Cllr Harford would like to encourage people to take pride in a community effort to keep everything beautiful. She has spoken with the Editor of Girton Parish News and she's very supportive of social media. If parish councillors have any questions to be included, please email Cllr Harford. The meeting will be a drop-in session from 5.30-7.00pm on January 10th at Girton Glebe School. Cllr Harford will speak to officers and Cambridge University regarding horse-riding on Eddington's Ridgeway. She has also spoken with the Local Highways Officer regarding maintenance of the road next to the car park, which is currently in a poor condition.
Cllr Harford thanked the Parish Council for their support during 2018, and the Chairman thanked her for all her help too.
4. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix A*). The Clerk agreed to forward any questions arising from Cllr de Lacey's report.
5. Police Report (*Appendix B*) The Chairman thanked Cllr Rodger for clearing-up broken glass left outside The Old Crown public house.

18/141 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20th November 2018 (previously circulated). The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Griffin and approved with one abstention.

18/142 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

18/86.3 The Local Highways Improvements Grants panel meeting for Girton's application will take place on 14th /16th January, 2019.

Cllrs Harford, Hickford and the Chairman have met with the Local Highways Officer. The position regarding the replacement of Mayfield bus shelter was questioned and Cllr Harford agreed to approach Skanska to clarify the process for this to be done. Cllr Cockley thanked the Council for the flowers and cards following her recent accident.

18/143 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To consider whether the Parish Council should open a social media communication channel with the village. Opinion is divided regarding Facebook and Twitter may be a better way forward. The Chairman proposed that a Twitter account be implemented, seconded by Cllr Thorrold. Cllr Griffin agreed to help the Clerk set up a Twitter account. Approved with one abstention.

2. To review the latest proposal for a Local Highways Improvement Grant. (*Appendix C*). Hicks Lane to Dodford Lane has been recommended for a 20mph zone. The problem with an extended area is that this is not enforceable. Cllr Harford is to speak with Cllr Hickford as he is leading on this project. Re-lining, the replacement of the bollard by the Language School and 'Slow' on each side of the bend are to be undertaken as a separate project.

3. To consider the proposal to move to a Cloud-based telephony system (*Appendix D*). BT are wishing to sign us up for an early contract. A mobile phone to use for outbound phone calls could save a considerable amount, and Cllr Griffin agreed to look in to this for a future meeting.

18/144 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*Appendix E*). The Payments Schedule had been checked by Cllr Godby before the meeting. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Cockley, and approved unanimously.

18/145 Correspondence (to be received)

1. Response to the request for play equipment on Mayfield Triangle.
2. Response to forthcoming resignation of Girton Town Charity Trustee.
3. Request for clothing recycling bank in Girton.

Received by the Council. Mr B Pycok is retiring from Girton Town Charity next July and the Parish Council seeks input in appointing future trustees.

18/146 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix F*). Regarding Duck End, the Chairman has gone through the insurance report in detail and has written to the underwriters questioning the justification for removal of the trees and to ask for a replanting plan. Girton Parish Council should probably lay claim to the land in question.
2. Girton Town Charity Report. No report received this month.
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix G*)
4. Footpaths Officer. No report this month.
5. Water Management Report. No report this month.

18/147 Items which the Council need to discuss at future meetings.

It was suggested that Girton Parish Council hold an event to promote Council membership eg cheese and wine party. It was noted that other parishes have Youth Parish Councils. The feasibility of solar panels installation on the Pavilion roof has been considered in depth and found not to be economically viable.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

APPENDIX A

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey 8. 12. 2018

The answers to my question on priorities were overwhelmingly that the District should take precedence, and I now think that is right. When I was just an independent backbencher I felt strongly that my primary commitment was to the Parish; and all the committees I was on had daytime meetings so there were no clashes. Now I am Chairman, and Scrutiny (the only evening committee) has much greater significance, I think I need to change. However, I shall attend Parish Council meetings as often as I possibly can.

The County Council invited us to join a Members' briefing which looked at renewable energy, the Combined Authority, and adult social care.

Renewable energy: There are now a number of local energy projects in and around Cambridge, but the grid is simply not designed for input from them. However, Cambridgeshire is looking for funding to explore how Cambridge can become a 'smart energy city' and how projects across the County can link in -- more on this below. These issues will have an impact on our new Local Plans.

GCP's main concern at present (apart from staffing and massive cost overruns) is transport, and we were enthusiastically told we need to double our current public transport offer (mainly buses). Two obvious problems were largely glossed over: Stagecoach already struggles to find enough drivers as it is, and buses are very polluting. Electric buses were mentioned but would need financing; there is also the problem that buses are not an end-to-end solution, especially if one needs to change in the city centre. Would the metro solve the problem? Probably not. The effects of road closures are being modelled. One questioner claimed that a lot of pollution is caused by people driving round and round looking for a parking space and suggested that all free parking in the City should be removed.

The contribution on adult social care was thoughtful and thought-provoking. New IT systems, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), and better co-operation with other groups are all making strides, but there remain problems including recruitment and retention of staff.

On 21 November I cycled to Northstowe to take part in the turf cutting for the new Academy there. I had not realised that the haul road is simply a mud track -- a yellow brick road without the bricks -- and my bike is now an interestingly different colour. The 2mx2m turf had been carefully laid on a levelled bit of ground, and the developer provided us with a lunch. I was pleased to meet there a partner from the architects working for GTC on the Micheal's Close development.

Scrutiny started with two pre-meetings so we were in session from 3.30 to 8pm with no break. Scrutiny now has teeth, and is being proactive in looking at issues before they go to Cabinet or Council; this makes our comments much more useful. But it means a very tight timetable, and concerns were raised that there simply is not enough time for proper consideration. We had a major item on increasing our loan to the Cambridge Ice Rink (Cambridge Leisure and Ice Centre, or CLIC) by more than half a million pounds; we needed to sure we understood all the issues. Yet some members had only had three days to digest the details, and we have made strong representations to Cabinet that the system simply will not work without some changes.

The third County annual parishes conference was as always a place for useful contacts. There was a session on renewable energy, which focused on a project in Swaffham Prior to provide an energy

centre for the village. This is a very compact community, and the concept is to retro-fit community heating via a ground-source heat pump (GSHP). Central government is interested in the experiment so funding has been made available. If it proves viable the idea could be rolled out elsewhere, and incorporated into more new-build developments.

Other sessions on neighbourhood planning and community engagement were not so exciting or informative. Neighbourhood planning is a costly and labour-intensive activity, but it can work to protect important sites from development as well as noting those which should be developed; or focus on design and landscaping and identify essential infrastructure. How we get the local community involved, when we cannot even fill our Parish Council, remains a hard question.

In the course of tackling a long-standing problem affecting a number of Girton residents I was pleased to meet Heidi Allen's senior caseworker, who has also been happy to be involved in another case of mine. It is good to have an MP who is, and whose staff are, very involved in the constituency.

We had another over-long Council meeting with many issues under discussion. The first member motion was to ask Council to set a zero-carbon by 2050 goal when we look at our next Local Plan. As it had all party backing I was able to put it for approval by acclamation without any discussion at all, a great saving of our time. Other motions, including increasing our loan to CLIC, were however more contentious and the final vote was taken at 6.30pm. I do not complain about the length of the meetings: it is the result of our new Councillors having so many ideas for improvement of the District. In this one we discussed motions ranging from improved conditions for our staff through climate change to transport infrastructure.

During the Council meeting I was somewhat distracted as the story had just broken of the 'horrendous' explosion (so the Cambridge News) in Girton, and we were being given updates by the police. As I surmised, the whole story was a damp squib, blown up out of all proportion by the media. But it did entail evacuations and we had to set up a relief centre briefly that evening.

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX B

Police Report – November/December 2018

Hicks Lane, Girton Criminal damage to a vehicle. Between 21/11/2018 18:00 to 22/11/2018 09:10 a car has been damaged by someone keying it with some force. CR 35/46999/18.

APPENDIX C

Plan for proposed Local Highways Improvements Grant Application

(please see separate attachment)

APPENDIX D

Proposal for BT Cloud-based telephony

As discussed I have quoted on the BT Cloud Voice system, this is a cloud based phone system solution that is more flexible for you, enabling more concurrent calls on the same numbers and future proofs the council offices. This is useful due to the future changes to the BT line platform where copper lines are being phased out in preference of cloud based telephony.

It will run the calls over the internet, which will be cheaper for you in the long run. We will supply a new telephone system set up for you.

- 2 walkabout phones, 1 repeater
 - 2 calls at the same time rather than 1 as it is now, on each number, you get to keep each number
 - Auto attendant, press 1 for Bookings, 2 for admin etc, when ringing in on each number you have.
 - Voicemail
 - Voicemail to email
 - Easy transfer between the phones.
 - BT Cloud Voice system that can easily expand.
 - Call forward to mobiles
 - Caller ID
 - Ability to work remotely, even from home
 - Automatic failover to mobiles in the event of a fault
- Please see a breakdown below of costs:

Service Summary	Current Costs – Per Month	Proposed Costs – Per Month
Main Line Rental	69.99	75.38
Call Charges	47.76	4.8
broadband	87.60	58.20
Analogue line	0	15.60
Total Monthly Charge	£205.35	153.98

There are 2 ways to pay for the new phone hardware that you need.

Either

Outright sale: £573.20 – one off cost

or

Lease rental: £15.30 per month rental

Therefore, if you bought the kit outright, you would still save an estimated £2506 over the next 5 years.

Please let know your thoughts,

Many thanks

Jamie Hardiman
Voice & Data Specialist



APPENDIX E
Payments Schedule – December 2018
(item circulated separately)

APPENDIX F

Chairman's Report
13th December 2018

As I write the planing work to the car park is underway in spite of the inability of some users to observe parking restriction notices. Resurfacing is planned to be complete by Tuesday 18th. The need for the car park to be open for the over 55's Christmas lunch on the 19th means that the white lining will need to be postponed to the New Year. Clearance of the drainage gullies seems to indicate that replacement of the soakaway may not be necessary and will therefore be postponed indefinitely until any need is revealed. We now need to press the County Council for repairs to the adjoining road.

The GTC funded work awaits the installation of the fence and the replacement of the waste bin removed from near the recreation ground gate. Completion of the latter item is being resisted, I suspect by 'project management'. My requests that the rear of the bus shelter be closed in and some screening provided to its sides have been similarly rebuffed. The case for retaining the planter is to be made at our meeting on Tuesday.

I have written a second time to the Insurance Underwriters asking for a more detailed justification for their removal of trees adjacent to 1 Duck End. No response has yet been received.

The submission of the open letter from the coalition of Parish Councils concerning developments to Girton Interchange has apparently been delayed. I have held off finalising our submission on the same issue therefore.

Following a meeting with a Highways Official and Roger Hickford and County Councillor Harford a draft plan for our LHI has been developed and will be discussed at our meeting on Tuesday. Cllr Harford has also reported that new speed control signage for installation at the Language School corner has been approved by Highways.

We recently received a threatening letter from a debt collection company on behalf of an ex-contractor, CGM, claiming over £3600 in unpaid bills. We have vigorously contested this and have been sent a list of apparently new invoices dating back to 2016. We are comparing this to those we have paid in this period and are requesting a detailed proof that they relate to activity which they actually carried out and which was not already invoiced. We understand that this type of claim has previously been pursued against another PC in South Cambs and we are exploring the detail of that and its resolution.

Thanks are due to those who helped put up the Christmas lights on the Pavilion and Cotton Hall and to The Social Club for hosting the Annual Christmas event at the Village Institute in early December

Finally I would like to wish all Councillors and Staff best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and all you would wish for yourselves in 2019.

Haydn Williams

APPENDIX G
Summary of Girton Youth Project Report – November 2018

I would just like to take the opportunity to say how welcomed I have felt by everyone involved in Girton Youth Project. I have, instantly, been made to feel at home by all. I'm really looking forward to getting stuck in.

I have met with Bruce from Cotton Hall who has given me a brief handover. We agreed that I would attend the next trustee meeting in January and I will be informed of this date when it is set. I appreciate how important it is that GYP maintain a positive and close relationship with Cotton Hall and fully intend to continue this.

I'm afraid I haven't been able to find many photos from this month, but will be snap happy with the camera over the next few weeks!

Frances Roach