

Girton Parish Council

Robert Stone
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

**Summons to attend Girton Parish Council's Meeting of Wednesday 17th March 2010
at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.30pm.**

Members of the parish are welcome to attend this meeting and speak at Item 10/32.

AGENDA

10/30 Welcome from the Chairman

10/31 Apologies and reasons for absence

10/32 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

10/33 Public Participation session on agenda items & matters of mutual interest

1. Peter Studdert, Director of Joint Planning for Cambridge City & South Cambridgeshire
2. Members of the public
3. District Councillors' reports (Cllr de Lacey's attached at Appendix A)
4. County Councillor's report
5. Police Report
6. Parish Plan

10/34 To confirm the minutes of Parish Council meetings of 17th February 2010.

10/35 Matters arising

10/21/ii Spine road though Wellbrook Way	Wimpey have agreed to improve the surface.
10/24/iii Clearance works on Footpath 13	Contractor appointed.

10/36 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council

1. (a) To approve the recommendation from the Environment Committee for expenditure on the boundary works between the recreation ground and St Johns Field (*specified at Appendix B*) subject to external funding being obtained; and (b) to authorise an approach to Girton Town Charity for a grant to cover the cost. (*Quotations to be circulated*)
2. Girton Parish Council notes the proposals of the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste Disposal draft to extract material at sites M7E, M7F and M7G, for the expansion of the A14. It approves the restoration of M7E and F as a water feature. It proposes tree planting wherever possible. It requests Bridleway 6 and Footpath 7 to be restored. It requests to be consulted again on the detailed planning applications. It hereby authorises the Chairman to respond to the Consultation with these points (See Appendix C)
3. To approve the response (to be circulated) to the third transport plan for Cambridgeshire.
4. To approve proceeding with participating in the Future Jobs Fund scheme for Cambridgeshire (See Item 09/113/8), and delegate appointments to the Parish Chairman and Clerk.
5. To re-appoint Cllrs Hiley and Gordon as Girton Parish Council's Trustees to Girton Town Charity for a further term.

10/37 Finance & resource management

1. To approve payments from 17th February 2010 to 16th March 2010
2. To approve the balance sheet at 28th February 2010
3. To receive the finance report from 1st April 2009 to 28th February 2010
4. To approve back pay for staff based on NALC's recommended pay rates for 2009/10 announced in September 2009. (See Appendix F for rates)
5. To consider the list of insurance items at Appendix D, and determine which to approve to provide additional cover for the Council. (A copy of Aon's proposed Schedule for 2010/11 will be available at the meeting.)
6. To approve replacing the existing Cambridge Building Society Account with:
 - an Easy Access Business Savers Account for non specified reserves; and
 - a Business Savers Account for specified reserves.
7. To approve expenditure for two training courses (& travel costs) for the PFO to attend:
 - CPALC 14th April 2010 Year End Accounts at St Ives £55
 - SLCC 15th June VAT course at Haslemere, Surrey £95 (+ standard rail fare).

10/38 Correspondence received (to be circulated at the meeting)

Standards Committee Newsletter	Parish Council member vacancy. Volunteer(s)?
SLCC 2010 Course Programme	Available to Members
Big Lottery Fund - Extra Funding available	Lead Councillor to assist with funding bids?
Neighbourhood Panels Publicity	Clerk to display on notice boards
Girton Bowls Club	Future relationship with GPC
SCDC letter on parish council elections	Advice on dates in the event of combined elections. (<i>Note: Councillors please pick up nomination pack from Clerk.</i>)
Northstowe & low carbon demonstrator project	Update on national eco towns policy statement
Roger Taylor, Project Director NW Cambridge	Environmental standards for new development
Changes to Stagecoach & Norfolk Green services	Includes Girton – see Citi 5 & 6
Insurance cover	Proposals (see Appendix D)

10//39 To receive reports:

- i) Chairman's Report (Attached at Appendix B)
- ii) Girton Town Charity
- iii) Girton Youth Club - with introduction of new leader, Tim Shuker-Yates.
- iv) Footpaths and Rights of Way

10/40 To receive unconfirmed Committee minutes for the Planning meeting of 1st March and Sport & Recreation Committee of 10th March. (To be circulated)

10/41 Matters raised by Councillors including items for the next Agenda.

Robert Stone
10th March 2010

Appendix A

Cllr de Lacey's District Councillor Report for March 2010

On 25 February the Council met, primarily to set its annual budget. This was presented as a truly conservative budget: risk-averse, cutting millions off our spending yet somehow managing to meet all our needs. The leader of the LibDems claimed on the contrary it was an extremely risky budget: the reduction in staff would increase the risks of delay in planning applications (already quite excessive, and some huge applications yet to be assessed); risk in the planning of our new communities; and yet at the same time still facing the risk of being capped. However, he put forward no alternative, not too surprising as we had had so little time to digest the figures. My own major concern is the very great discrepancies between our last year's budget estimates and actual spending, with enormous overspends on items like agency staff and consultants, equipment purchases, and `other'(!). Correspondingly there are huge underspends, and the suspicious may think these indicate reduced value to our residents rather than prudent pruning by managers. The budget as approved proposes a smidgeon under 3% increase; about the same as the other authorities who bid for bits of your Council Tax. Our tenants were also awarded a 2.7% rent increase. It could have been worse.

The Chief Executive, Greg Harlock, has announced that he is resigning `in my own best interests and those of the authority'. He will work a six month period of notice.

We have a little more information on the breakdown of negotiations over the partial merger with Uttlesford, though no indication as to what follows now.

At the end of February SCDC dished up two interesting surprises. After months of pushing I was delighted to learn that the planning application for the play area on Wellbrook Way had finally been approved. But the Decision Notice adds five pages of conditions which are likely to delay procedures. Wimpey have agreed to pull the stops out to try nonetheless to achieve everything by 31 March, but it is another example of the lack of communication which makes the job so much more difficult. And for the Planning Committee another bombshell: an application that an eyesore derelict caravan which the Parish and District has been trying to get moved for years has now been in situ so long that the owner has applied to have the use legalised and officers seemed to think this would be straightforward. However, neighbours deny the owner's claims and so we have a messy situation developing which I shall monitor carefully.

Plans to `consider the future management maintenance and adoption of the proposed sustainable drainage system (SuDs) that will serve the NIAB development in the North West Quadrant' have just been announced and will be decided on by the Environmental Services PFH. I am grateful that Girton Parish Council has a qualified, retired water engineer among its number who can advise me on such matters. Future failure of NIAB's drainage could be catastrophic for Girton.

Douglas de Lacey

Appendix B

Specification for the replacing of boundary hedge and fence between St Johns Field and the Recreation Ground.

The length of hedge between St John's field and the old recreation ground a distance of approximately 178 metres and extends from the boundary with the St Andrews Church cemetery and the ditch bordering the Ten Acre field.

What remains of the hawthorn hedge must be cut down to 10cm above ground level to allow the stumps to rejuvenate and the ivy removed.

As the ivy will re-grow it must be sprayed with herbicide twice during the first year, care must be taken to avoid spraying the new growth from the hawthorn stumps.

A kissing gate and a 12' field gate (both supplied) must be erected in the positions indicated and a fence erected on the recreation ground side of the hedge as close to the hedge as possible.

The wooden fence posts should be 2 metres long, approx' 10cm in diameter and treated with a wood preservative.

The distance between the posts will vary because of the tree roots but should not exceed 4 metres. Angled supports should be placed on both sides of the posts at not more than 50 metre intervals.

Three single strands of wire should be stapled to the posts and tensioned.

Pig wire .8 metre high should be stapled to the posts with a gap of 20cm between the soil level and the wire.

A double row of hawthorn whips should be planted to fill any gaps between the stumps and rabbit guards used to prevent damage. The bare areas close to the chestnut trees should be planted with either well rooted holly bushes or hawthorn.

Please quote both.

On the St John's field side of the hedge/fence the bramble and other growth should be cut back to ground level and the ditch cleared of debris. Any soil removed from the ditch should be spread at normal soil level.

To gain access to the field gate and kissing gate the ditch should be piped using concrete pipes .5 meter diameter or wooden bridge erected.

Please quote both.

Contractors

Contractors may quote for the whole of this work or parts of it.

Because this work may extend over a long period stage payment can be arranged.

Ray Gordon

Environment Committee Chairman.

6th February 2010

Appendix C

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals Consultation

Three sites are proposed for providing filling material (clay and other minerals) for the widening of the A14 from sites affecting Girton (coded M7E M7F and M7G): Slate Hall Farm (to the west of the A14 and south of Dry Drayton Road), Grange Farm (contiguous to Slate Hall), within Girton Parish, and between the Avenue and the Girton Flyover, west of the A14, also within the Parish. These would affect Girton very directly from 2012 to 2016. Given that M7E and M7F are contiguous we are effectively dealing with two sites. Within the consultation document we are dealing with paragraphs 7.47 -- 7.52. (The consultation document is at <http://tinyurl.com/yangew3> which takes you to Peterborough's website)

This is for building the A14, a government backed road building scheme which will proceed (subject to funding and a Public Inquiry) however much we may wish to prevent it from happening. We are not being asked to discuss the scheme. It is our task to ensure what is done at these borrow pits may be to the ultimate benefit of Girton

Issues which should concern us include moving of heavy vehicles between excavations and the A14 leading to an increase in traffic; and, at the end of it, two large holes in the nearby ground. However, the consultation does not at this stage cover traffic movement, only the end-use of the pits.

We note that with both the excavation sites the presumption is to return the land to agricultural use.

For M7E and M7F the proposal is "Restoration to agricultural after use. (Potential for irrigation reservoir providing opportunities for flood water storage)." The site slopes down towards Washpit and the Golf Club. On balance we might benefit from a partial return to agriculture use combined

with a recreational and visually attractive water feature.

For M7G the proposal is that "Restoration should look at potential for contributing to Green Corridor 23 Cambridge Outer Orbital Corridor". Ridleway 6 and Footpath 7 are both affected by this site. We need to ensure their retention.

An alternative to simple return to agriculture would be to use at least some of the land for tree-planting. Some trees such as poplar and willow have a significant effect in the absorption of water and maintaining the balance of the air, also they can make a very good sound barrier.

We propose seeking advice on the use of trees which may not immediately affect us but will be beneficial to our children and their successors.

The consultation period is 15.02.10 - 29.03.10 thus we cannot express our views in any useful manner unless we approve a motion at this meeting. The consultation requires response paragraph-by-paragraph rather than a simple overall assessment. We propose a motion which we hope will enable the Chairman to respond to the consultation on our behalf.

James Ford-Smith & Douglas de Lacey

Appendix D

REVIEW OF INSURANCE COVER – POSSIBLE CHANGES TO SCHEDULE

Item	Covered/not covered	Recommendation	Additional Cost
Subsidence (excess £1000)	Not covered	Ignore	Detailed questionnaire to be completed.
CCTV (external)	Not covered	Ignore.	£66 for £5k cover.
Gates/fences	Not covered (except for impact)	Ignore.	Valuation of fence(s) required.
War memorials	Not covered but GPC has powers to do repair works.	Ignore.	Valuation required from stonemason.
Mowers & similar	Not covered (apart from poweroller).	Consider for new equipment.	Cover for new £5K mower would be £145.50
Other ground surfaces (MUGA/bowling green?)	Not covered.	Consider for new surfaces	To be looked at by underwriter when installed
Playground equipment	Not covered	Ignore	Need to provide lists, costs and dates for quote.
Bus shelters (x4)	Covered	Currently cover of £12,977. Follow underwriters advice	Underwriters to advise based on cover needed.
Trim trail	Covered	Current cover £23,595. Remove.	Possible saving £311 for 2010/11.
Tennis ball serving machine	Covered	Owned by tennis club. To be removed from Schedule.	Reduction of £13.95 in premium for 2010/11.
Computers	Covered	New laptop to be added.	Additional cost of £4.60

Notes: 1.) Policy renewal date 1st April 2010

2.) Premium £2,704 (before adjustments are made to cover)

3.) Dependent on Clerk and Councillors not having been subject to any County Court Judgements!

4.) Personal cover to be pursued when new Council installed.

Appendix E

Chairman's Report

Last month I attended the Parish Plan meeting and am pleased at the progress being made. The Plan should be ready well before the time of the Annual Parish Meeting (1 June) and will inform the discussion there on the way ahead for Girton.

At the end of February I joined a large and enthusiastic band of volunteers to plant the Oakington Wood, and met there County officers who are sympathetic to increasing woodland in Girton. The scrubby area behind the School will need some attention in the next few years and I am asking if some of this might be planted as an orchard,, but since it is earmarked for expansion of the school this might be difficult.

The string of conditions attached to the Planning Consent for the LEAP are very puzzling, but I have been unable to contact Melissa Reynolds for an explanation. Some of them appear to put requirements on us to do work before the LEAP can be constructed -- which is a requirement for us to receive the land! I shall keep trying.

Douglas de Lacey

Appendix F

NALC's recommended cost of living increases for Local Council Staff for 2009/2010 approved in September 2009 applied to Girton Parish Council staff

Name	Girton Parish Council Payrates Feb 10						Payrates at NJC Apr 09 Rates				Backpay Due*
	Full Time Hours = 37						Full Time Hours = 37				
	NJC	Hrs	FTE	Pro-Rata Salary	per hour	per month	NJC FTE Apr 09	Pro Rata	per hour	per month	
Linda Miller	21	16	18882	8,165.19	9.81	680.43	£19,126	£8,270.70	9.94	689.23	£105.51
Natalie Stone	22	6	19370	3,141.08	10.07	261.76	£19,621	£3,181.78	10.20	265.15	£40.70
Norman F Lewell	N/A	6	15392	2,496.00	8.00	208.00	15592.1	2,528.45	8.10	210.70	£24.34
FROM JUNE 09	28	1.5	23395.8	948.48	12.16	79.04	£23,708	£961.14	12.32	80.09	£9.49
				3,444.48		287.04		3,489.58		290.80	£33.83
Robert A Stone	22	25	19370	13,087.84	10.07	1,090.65	£19,621	£13,257.43	10.20	1,104.79	£169.59
TOTAL											£349.64

* Backpay calculated for whole of 2009/10 - to be paid in April 2010