

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 on Wednesday 16th February 2011 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs de Lacey (in the Chair), Ash, Bromwich, Cockley, Garner, Godby, Hiley
(from Item 11/19.2) Johnson, Martin, Noble, Taylor and Thorrold

Also Present: District Councillor Bygott (to Item 11/16.3)
There were no members of the public

In attendance: John Burridge (Clerk) Natalie Stone (PFO).

11/13 Welcome from the Chairman:

The Chairman made a presentation to Mr Sam Clift and thanked him for all the hard work that he had done during the interregnum between Clerks. He then welcomed members and District Councillor Bygott and the new Clerk, whose first meeting it was.

The Chairman brought forward Item 11/19.1 and invited Mr Clift and Mr Gordon to complete their Declarations of Acceptance as co-opted Councillors and they duly signed their Declarations, which were witnessed by the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed Councillors Clift and Gordon, who then took their places.

11/14 Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from County Councillor Reynolds and Cllr Ziobro and the Chairman accepted their reasons.

11/15 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda:

There were none.

11/16 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:

- 1. Members of the public.**
No-one was present.

2. County Councillor's report.

County Councillor Reynolds had already sent his apologies and his report, which had been previously circulated, was noted

3. District Councillors' reports

District Councillor Bygott confirmed that the SCDC budget was due to be debated next week and that the Council was debt-free and, as there were substantial reserves, it seemed unlikely that there would need to be compulsory redundancies and that Council Tax should stay the same at the previous fiscal year's levels. He said that the Council was considering publishing guidelines about the naming and numbering of new roads, as this was perceived to be a problem. A copy of Cllr de Lacey's report, which had been previously circulated, will be appended to the Minute Book .

Councillor Bygott then left the meeting at 7.46 pm.

4. Police Report:

The police representatives were not present but their written report was circulated by the Chairman a copy of which will be appended to the Minute Book

5. Youth Club:

Mr Shuker-Yates was not present and no report had been received.

11/17 To confirm minutes of the Parish Meeting of:

1. Parish Council Minutes of 19th January 2011.

Proposed: Cllr. R. Martin

Seconded: Cllr V. Godby

Cllr Johnson said that he was content that the Minutes should stand unaltered, but that changes to the reserves must be made before year end and it was agreed that this should be an item on the agenda for the next meeting on 16th March.

Approved: Unanimously.

2. Extraordinary Meeting of 31st January 2011.

Proposed: Cllr. J. Thorrold.

Seconded: Cllr. V. Godby

Approved: 12 in favour and 2 abstentions.

11/18 Matters arising from the Minutes:

10/07.2 Contract has been signed by both parties (in Correspondence item 4)

11/07.3 Agriplant has been informed that they have won the contract

11/07.4 Munro have been informed that they won the contract

11/07.5 The Village Plan had not been submitted to CCC and SCDC but will be submitted without delay.

11/07.6 Januarys have been informed of the Council's decision.

(see correspondence Item 5 letter to David Ward 31st January 2011)

The above were noted.

11/19 Business items requiring a decision or consideration by the Council:

1. To co-opt two members to the Parish Council:

This had been dealt with at Item 11/13 (above).

2. To approve a response to the Cambridgeshire Community Services:

Cllr. G Cockley gave a short report on the meeting that she had attended regarding the formation of a Foundation Trust. The existing Trust is due to be dissolved in 2013. The new Trust, which will join up both Health and Social Service provision, will be looking to work with a greater catchment area, possibly reaching as far as Bedfordshire. However, the Trust had not sent leaflets to all households, stating that there were insufficient funds to allow it to do so. Cllr Cockley did not think that a specific response from the Council would be useful. In the light of the foregoing, no formal response was proposed or approved at this stage.

Ms Gill Francis, a Public Governor of the Addenbrookes Hospital Trust, who had requested to address Council, arrived at 7.48 pm and Standing Orders were suspended so that she could address Council. She stated that the work of the Governors was very important and that there were both Public and Patient Governors who had input to the Trust. Questions were raised by Councillors over reports in the media that there were unacceptable instances of death by, amongst other causes, dehydration. Ms. Francis said that all such deaths were unacceptable and that each one was investigated. She urged Councillors to consider standing as Governors. Elections are held in May and a term of office is for three years. The maximum that a Governor can serve is three terms. Ms Francis left literature for Councillors and her email address.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Francis for her presentation and she left the meeting at 7.55 pm.

Standing Orders were then resumed and the meeting continued.

3. To approve a revision of the fee charged on Saturdays for the use of the pavilion:

Council discussed this at some length. The Chairman informed the meeting that that there was an anachronism in that Saturday use was charged at 'peak rate', and the sole the Saturday user did not feel that he could continue at the present rate of charging and, as it had proved that there was no justification for charging more for Saturday use, the rate should be brought in line with all other user rates. A number of Councillors felt that the current rate should be revised upwards for all users. The Clerk was instructed to investigate and to inform Council of the actual cost of running the Pavilion with a view to setting a new rate at the next meeting. In the meantime the Saturday user should be written to, to inform him that the Council would reduce his charges until the new rate was set.

Proposed: Cllr. R. de Lacey

Seconded: Cllr V Godby

Approved: 13 in favour, 1 abstention.

4. To approve a response from the Parish Council to the letter from Inspector Chris Savage.

Cllr. Ash circulated a draft letter that he had written and explained that the Parish Council was under legal obligation to do all that it could to minimise crime. Some Councillors wanted detailed breakdowns of the crime figures provided in the Police report and it was pointed out that the Police had insufficient time to do this and that many reported crimes did not become statistics until the alleged offender was prosecuted, found guilty and sentenced. Cllr. Godby said that she would be attending a general meeting with the police and other services next Tuesday and that information was usually generally available and that she would report back to Council on this. In the light of this, the matter was deferred.

5. To set up a working party to examine the business plan circulated by Cllr Ash:

The plan had been circulated and Council agreed that radical changes were necessary to the way in which Council carried out its business. It was agreed that the Working Party should look at individual Councillors' particular areas of expertise and availability and then report back to Council

Proposed: Cllr. D de Lacey.

Seconded: Cllr. J. Ash

Approved: 11 in favour. 3 abstentions.

The Working Party will comprise of Cllrs. Ash, Johnson, Godby, Thorrold and Noble. It was agreed that all emails and papers should pass through the Clerk.

6. To set up a working party to establish a disaster plan for the Parish:

Cllr. Ash spoke to this item. He stressed the need to discover the areas covered by County and the Local Authority, so that the Parish Council could make an informed decision whether there were areas where the Parish could, and should, involve itself.

Proposed: Cllr. D. de Lacey

Seconded: Cllr. J. Ash

Approved: 11 in favour. 3 abstentions.

The Working Party will comprise of Cllrs. Ash, Bromwich and Taylor.

7. To complete the construction of the pavilion building and agree a timetable for a formal opening:

The Chairman said that a situation had been allowed to develop where the building had been left unfinished and that, as a result business rates had not been paid. A complaint had been made by a resident and it was important that the matter now be dealt with. Cllrs Ash and Taylor pointed out that there had been a degree of future-proofing and that there was no legal requirement for the lift to be installed. In any event, there was no capital to cover the outstanding works. Cllr. Clift said that it was essential that the question of rates be addressed as a matter of urgency and proposed an amendment that Council should debate and decide on this. After further discussion, it was agreed that the matter should be investigated by the clerk and that

it should be specifically made an agenda item for the March meeting. On this understanding, the proposed amendment and the original motion were both withdrawn.

8. To approve a Grievance and Disciplinary procedure for Girton Parish Council in line with the recommendations of NALC and the SLCC:

Proposed: Cllr. D de Lacey

Seconded: Cllr M Taylor

Approved: 12 in favour. 2 abstentions.

9. To approve:

1) An annual cleaning contract for the pavilion from 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2014.

Three quotations had been received. After discussion, it was agreed that Green Clean should be awarded the contract, subject to a six month probationary period.

Proposed: Cllr. M Taylor

Seconded: Cllr. D de Lacey

Approved: Unanimously.

2) A cleaning contract for a one off deep clean of the Pavilion.

Councillors felt that they needed further information in order to make an informed decision and the Clerk was instructed to find out who would be responsible for the provision of materials and equipment and whether the figures provided included VAT or not. Cllr. Taylor said that a "tick-box" system should be introduced to ensure that the current contractor carried out the remaining work properly. The item was, therefore, deferred.

11/20 Finance & Resource Management:

1. To approve payments from 19th January to 16th February 2011.

Proposed: Cllr. R Martin

Seconded: Cllr. J Ash

Approved: 11 in favour. 3 abstentions

2. To approve the balance sheet to 31st January 2011.

Proposed: Cllr. J Thorrold

Seconded: Cllr. D de Lacey

Approved: 11 in favour. 3 abstentions.

3. To receive the finance report from 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011:

The report was received.

11/21 Correspondence received:

The following correspondence was circulated to all Councillors.

1. Letter from Grounds by Rounds re withdrawing his tender open spaces work.
2. Letter from Januarys 7.12.2010 re building plot at rear of 121 Girton Road.
3. Letter from Royal British Legion re its 90th Birthday celebrations June 2011.
4. Letter from Bradshaws (Estate Agents) re Sponsorship of Flower tubs.
5. Letter from Cllr A J Barnard concerning his resignation.
5. Letter from Parish Chairman to A J Barnard accepting his resignation.

11/22 To receive reports:

1. Chairman's Report

Received.

2. Girton Town Charity:

Cllr. R Hiley reported that there was nothing of significance. Cllr. Taylor pointed out that, at the last Planning Committee meeting, concern had been expressed at the use of the building to be occupied by the Charity and that, for this reason a condition on the permission had been requested.

3. Girton Youth Club:

Cllr. Johnson reported that the older group was now helping run sessions for the younger group, who were very energetic. All were looking forward to being able to get outside in the summer. A questionnaire had been circulated and the response had been very positive with the young residents praising the facilities and helpful and sympathetic staff in particular.

4. Footpaths and Rights of Way:

Cllr. B Bromwich reported that the Probation Service team had finished resurfacing Pathway No. 13 and had finished up the materials on work to Pathway No. 10. A letter of thanks had been sent to the Probation Service who had replied that they would be happy to carry out further work for Girton Parish Council.

5. NHS Foundation Trust:

Cllr. Cockley had previously spoken to this matter under Item 11/19.2 (above).

11/23 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes from:

1. Environment Committee minutes of 20th January 2011
2. Planning Committee Minutes of 31st January 2011

The Minutes were duly received.

11/24 Matters raised by Councillors:

Any matters to be raised had been dealt with under previous items.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

APPENDIX A

February 2011 Report from John Reynolds 4 Hollytrees Bar Hill CB23 8SF

Email J.E.Reynolds@ntlworld.com

BUDGET REPORT

The Council has published its Integrated Plan proposals. The proposals outline how we are going to deal with the most difficult and challenging service and financial planning position in the Council's history. The council will have a gross spending next year of £460 million plus the schools grant of £362 million. We will be spending around £195 million on adult care, and £122 million on children's services. We will also be investing some £108.9 million on capital projects such as new or expanding school. Even with this expenditure we will still need to make substantial saving. **This involves radical change.**

The Council's priorities - which are the priorities of residents - will change. How we work to deliver them will change, and in many cases, the services themselves will change. Our Integrated Plan 2011/12 contains a set of new priorities, as well as a statement of how we will provide them.

These priorities will help us deliver our ultimate vision for the county - Making Cambridgeshire a great place to call home.

The new priorities are:

Supporting and protecting people when they need it most

The Council will provide a safety net for vulnerable people until they can take back control of their own lives. We will work to keep children and families safe at home, whilst providing the right care at the right time for those children and young people for whom Local Authority care is the right decision.

We'll help older people and those suffering ill health or disability to get the care they want and need - helping people look after themselves in their own homes for longer, without the need for long-term care. Our support will be targeted to those most in need and where we do provide support, it will be to help people towards independence.

Helping people to live independent and healthy lives in their communities.

We want people to be in control of their own lives, as individuals and as part of their community. We'll promote choice through our services to help people choose the right options for them. We want people to step up and be more active in their local community so we'll work to remove the barriers that stop people getting involved. We also want to tackle the barriers which prevent everyone from enjoying the best that Cambridgeshire has to offer. We have a strong belief in fairness and reducing inequality. Therefore, we'll target our services at those people who need extra help to make the most of living in our communities.

Developing our local economy for the benefit of all.

We will help people to access the support they need to get the jobs being created in Cambridgeshire - supporting children and young people to stay in learning and providing a range of options for adults. Across the county, we'll ensure that people can travel safely and are able to access economic opportunities. We'll continue to provide the services that people use every day - like street lighting, dealing with waste and safely maintaining our roads - as much as we can within financial constraints. We'll provide these in the best possible way to improve the quality of life of the people who live here now and in the future.

How we work will also change. We've set out four principles which will guide and govern what we do.

- Be a genuinely local council
- Making sure the right services are provided, in the right way
- Investing in prevention
- Working together

Savings proposals

The budget decisions have and are being made in conjunction with Community Impact Assessments, which consider the impact of our services on communities, with particular reference to ensuring equality and cohesion. These will continue as changes are made to services. Pressures of demand for services, along with inflation and the steep reduction in our grant settlement, means the Council

has to make savings of £55 million in the coming financial year. We cannot achieve this without cuts to services, which of course carry an inevitable impact in terms of the numbers of employees which the Council needs to provide them. Some of the headline reductions are below.

Children's Services

In Children's services over the next four years, we will remove universal and discretionary services, saving £1 million from youth services, £761,000 from home to school transport and £600,000 from children's centres. We will end direct support to some children and young people, saving £1 million from disability services, £527,000 from specialist teaching, £315,000 from budgets for educating looked after children and £301,000 from the Cambridgeshire Racial Equality and Diversity service.

Other services where we will make savings include the teenage pregnancy service, Cambridgeshire Music and support for newly-qualified teachers. By doing things differently we will save £950,000 from children's social care, £240,000 from the early years service, and £3 million from mainstream and special educational needs school transport.

Communities and Adults

In Libraries, Learning and Culture next year, we will save £282,000 through operational efficiencies, income generation and new ways of working next year alone, £108,000 from redesigning the mobile library service, and £100,000 from introducing more self service and using volunteers in libraries.

Working in partnership with other councils to provide support services and creating a Trust to run libraries will save a further £294,000. In social care, promoting prevention and localism will save £2.9 million, adopting reablement approach a further £4.75 million, and decreasing the cost of high cost and complex placements will save £1.3 million.

Environment Services

In Environment Services, we will make savings totalling £6.5 million over year one. Re-designing services will save money and focus on the new corporate priorities. £641k will be saved by a proposed re-design of Trading Standards and there will be savings from a proposed restructuring of Waste Management and Highways and Access. Senior Management costs will be reduced.

We will be making savings on service provision, including £2.7 million (over four years) on public transport services, although we will make a small additional investment in our community transport budget. Some highway services, such as grass cutting and gully emptying, will be reduced. Although there will be a revenue reduction of £1.4 million in highways maintenance, we are now investing additional capital of £3.8 million in this area. This was a key issue coming through the public consultation results. It is proposed that Environment and Climate Change spending will be reduced by £472,000.

Corporate Directorates

In Corporate Directorates, over a four-year period, reducing properties and maximizing office space in retained buildings will save over £1 million. Reducing the contact centre opening hours and moving to more services being accessed and delivered online - £426,000, reducing IT functions and delivering services in different ways will save £989,000 and reducing communications and marketing activity will save £550,000.

BUDGET ON LINE

More detail of the County Council Budget are only a click away. The link to the budget page on our website - it's actually only one click away from the front page. From here there is more detail under the three headings on the left, the links in the main text and related links on the right. The most useful links are 'areas of savings' and 'detailed budgets by policy area' on the left.

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/finance/spending/ip2011/>

CONSESSIONARY FARES

As you know responsibility for this transfers to the County Council on the 1st April and this is another pressure on us. We're told that last year the District/City Councils jointly spent some £5.7m in delivering the scheme across the county. The Coalition Government have given us £3.995m by way of grant The Department for Transport guidance is that the reimbursement rate for bus operators in the order of 50% as opposed to the current 66%. We are still in negotiations with the bus operators on the reimbursement rates.

ZERO COUNCIL TAX INCREASE AND A RADICAL NEW APPROACH TO SERVICES IN COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET

There will be no increase in the County Council's element of Council Tax in the next financial year, and probably no increase for a further four years, proposals released today reveal.

The County Council has unveiled its Integrated Plan covering the next five years, which aims to save £50.4 million in 2011/12 and £160.6 million over the life of the plan.

The proposals, answer to the most difficult financial situation in its history, as the Council deals with the increasing pressures of demand, an increasing and ageing population and inflation coupled with a 14 per cent reduction in the core funding received from Government. They are defined by a new set of Council priorities, and informed by the results of a consultation process which put residents in the place of County Councillors and replicated the tough decisions in this year's budget.

BUSWAY CONTRACTOR CHASED FOR COMPLETION PAPERWORK

With only minor work left to be finished on the Busway, the County Council is demanding the contractor hands over the paperwork to confirm their work is finished and guaranteed. Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive at the Council, has today written to BAM Nuttall to ask when the Council will receive the outstanding documents and information it needs. These are the final pieces of information that are needed for the Busway to be certified as complete. Late last year BAM Nuttall set yet another deadline for when the relevant documents and work would be completed by December 17. Yet again the deadline was missed and the date has been slipping ever since. The information could and should have been provided by now.

The outstanding information includes:

1. Proof that Shelford Road Bridge has a long working life as required by the contract.
2. A final report to confirm the stability of earthworks where the Busway goes along old railway cuttings.
3. Evidence that work on the Trumpington Retaining Wall meets the required standards and the National Grid have approved this too.
4. Acceptance from Network Rail of how the Hills Road Bridge will be maintained
5. A final guarantee through completed documents that the work has been carried out to the standards required in the contract.

This information is vital to allow the Council to assume responsibility for the track in the same way as a prospective homeowner needs to get the NHBC guarantees or someone buying a car needs the registration documents before they can complete the sale

In the letter, Mark Lloyd says: "I am advised that you still have some minor work to do to complete Addenbrooke's bridge, which has now slipped to next week, and other minor snags and safety audit issues to finish, but other than these you have no further major site work planned. I am therefore concerned to hear that the Project Manager is still not in a position to certify completion as there are key areas of documentation which the Project Manager requires that have still not been provided by BNL or are not in the correct format. I understand that the Project Manager has been requesting these documents for some time.

"Whilst I understand that there are other matters outstanding, those listed above are the ones which are most critical and therefore the key to securing completion of the Busway. These issues are entirely in BNL's hands and consequently so too is the point at which the Busway can open for use. All of these issues could have been dealt with before now and should not have been left to this late stage. We all want to achieve completion at the earliest opportunity so I must ask that by return, you set a clear programme for when BNL will address these issues."

Once the contract is certified 'Complete' BAM Nuttall have 28 days to fix all notified defects on the route. If, as expected, the contractor does not complete the work within the time permitted the Council will bring in a new contractor to fix the defects charging the cost to BAM Nuttall.

For the latest information on the Busway, log on to:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/thebusway/Latest+information.htm>.

COUNTY COUNCIL'S ADOPTION SERVICE 'GOOD WITH OUTSTANDING FEATURES'

Cambridgeshire County Council's Adoption Service is well managed at all levels with particular strengths in supporting adopters and the provision of excellent access to psychological services, according to inspectors. Inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education - said the overall quality of the agency was good and children are placed in safe families who meet their needs. They said the service had a 'committed and thorough' medical advisor.

Staff within the organisation were viewed as being 'knowledgeable, skilled and committed and appropriately supported to enable them to provide a good service to children and their families'. They found a thorough and well-established matching process for children in which comprehensive sharing of information was used to assist in the matching of children with adoptive families. Birth families actively contribute to the matching and planning process, inspectors added.

Support to adoptive families was noted as being a particularly strong feature of the agency and adopters were well prepared for the task of parenting an adopted child during the preparation and assessment process. Adoptive families found the adoption and adoption support teams a valuable source of support, inspectors found.

Areas for development included the need for improvements in some procedural elements of the adoption process and a more consistent approach to ensure Life Story Books are provided in a timely manner for children.

Local Cllr John Reynolds, said: "This is an excellent report and a tribute to the hard work and dedication of everyone who works in the adoption team. It is clearly going from strength to strength and we now have the endorsement of OfSTED to prove this. Well done to everyone concerned."

Anyone interested in learning more about adoption should contact the adoption team on 0800 052 0078 or at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/childrenyoungpeople/socialcare/adoption The team is particularly interested in hearing from people from black, minority and ethnic groups as well as those who could consider adopting sibling groups or children with complex needs.

WINTER MAINTANCE

Clearly the winter isn't over yet but may return. Recent deliveries of salt have helped increase our stockpile - we currently have around 4250 tonnes in stock and we've already started refilling Parish Council bins.

POST SIXTEEN SCHOOL TRANSPORT SAVED FROM THE CUTS

Good news that the County can now continue to support Post 16 transport following the review of expenditure. This funding will help support those in the rural areas and support our priority of reducing those children Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETs).

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The services in Cambridgeshire are mainly provided on a commercial basis. However the Council does have a discretionary role in subsidising services that operators will not provide on a commercial basis. We also provide some funding for community transport schemes. We will increase this support by £220k over the next two years. The proposed phasing out of subsidised bus services is likely to have a significant impact on rural communities and potentially affect people travelling on Sundays and evenings. It will be important for us to closely monitor the impacts of phased reductions in tendered services to minimise impacts on our communities. Consultation will be carried out prior to any removal of services and community impact assessments undertaken.

We are in discussions with bus operators to find out to what extent operators might run currently subsidised services without a subsidy. In addition to the extra funding we are putting into community transport there is potential for other local councils to support public or community transport services and for us to work closely with districts and other partners to address transport needs of local communities. Initially the service reduction will focus primarily on services that are highly subsidised and/or underused, or where alternatives are available. Services are likely to be reduced rather than stopped altogether where appropriate.

NEW VISION REVEALED FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE LIBRARIES

Communities will be at the heart of running and managing libraries according to draft proposals drawn up to help protect Cambridgeshire services in the face of tough financial savings. Government has given Cambridgeshire 14 per cent less main funding than last year leaving Libraries having to find £3.2 million in savings over the next five years.

Rather than simply closing facilities Cambridgeshire County plans could see the savings being made while protecting library services as much as possible. The proposals are based on the feedback given by thousands of

Cambridgeshire residents. They emphasise that library closures will only be considered as a last resort but these can be avoided if communities come forward and help support their local services. The plans include the setting up of a Cambridgeshire Trust to look after the running of the libraries, but still the responsibility of the County Council. This would unlock funding and savings the Council currently does not have access to.

Libraries will also be reorganised into groups with a main library supporting the others in its area and sharing a reduced level of staff. This will also see the roll-out of more self-service technology and more community engagement and volunteers in libraries, with Community Management Boards like the one established for Wisbech Library. This idea is also backed by the public in the recent consultation. Some 69 per cent of respondents in the public consultation said they support Alternative Service Delivery model as an alternative to closing libraries. This would maximise the use of self-service facilities in libraries, while reducing staff and increasing volunteers.

Where it is already used in Cambridgeshire, self-service accounts for more than 85 per cent of normal library transactions. Already libraries have hundreds of volunteers as well as friends groups. The new model would extend this and see communities helping to manage the library as well as support initiatives such as IT buddying or children and older people's activities. Nearly half (48 per cent) of the 5,600 survey respondents said they would volunteer to help libraries, and 1800 people have already registered their interest in volunteering. Cambridgeshire will also join up with four other local authorities to provide backroom library services to drive down costs.

In order to meet the additional savings required, communities with least need will be approached to see if they could run the service themselves, with the support of the Council and the new Trust. This would be similar to the library access points which are already run by volunteers in the county. Libraries could also look to merge or share facilities with other services to reduce costs or move to other, more cost effective, buildings in the same area.

Some 77 per cent of survey respondents said they wanted to see libraries used as community hubs where various agencies and community groups could use the buildings. The proposals ask for communities to take the lead in helping to come forward and support their library to meet the savings targets.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "We are facing some of the toughest financial choices ever. But Cambridgeshire County Council is clear that libraries are vital community hubs that we need to support as much as we can and work together to keep them open. That is why we have come up with proposals that are based on what residents have said to us, that keep services but still make the savings needed.

"There is much we all can do together to reduce costs and transform the library service but communities must be encouraged to continue to play their part if they want services to remain. Due to the tremendous challenge we are facing we could have made the decision to close libraries but that would not be the right thing to do. We have put forward a plan that will change the delivery of services and put communities at the heart of that transformation. As part of the localism agenda I urge residents to take this opportunity with both hands and help us achieve the savings needed."

BUDGET ON LINE

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<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/finance/spending/ip2011/>

A14 UPDATE

You will be aware that the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton scheme was withdrawn in late 2010. Instead the Department of Transport is planning to undertake a study to identify cost effective, and practical, proposals which bring benefits and relieve congestion on the sections of the A14 covered by the former scheme. The study is to report in mid-2012, allowing the findings to play into the next Spending Review and other relevant decision-making processes.

The plan is to build on the body of existing evidence and analysis and to use this as a basis for the development of a Business Case for any preferred option which would support a definitive investment decision within the context of the next Spending Review. Priority problems would be identified and solutions for these proposed.

Roads-based solutions would be examined in the Huntingdon/Cambridge area, and this approach would also look at the potential for rail, other public transport and demand management approaches to help alleviate problems on the A14, particularly in the vicinity of the previous scheme. The study will involve local stakeholders.

REDUCING TOP MANAGEMENT COSTS.

The County Council is continuing to reduce the number of senior managers. Over the past 6 years the numbers have been reduced to 7 and this number is likely to reduce to 5 in the coming year.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THOUSANDS OF LOCAL PEOPLE TO SHAPE THEIR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (CCS) provides a wide range of community-based health and social care services across Cambridgeshire including adult social care services on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council. From 5 January to 30 March 2011, the Trust is undertaking a public consultation on becoming an NHS Foundation Trust, which will give thousands of staff and local people the opportunity to become Members of the Trust and really influence how local services are developed. The Trust genuinely wants to hear what people think about the proposals outlined in its consultation document, click on the link below to read a summary:

<http://bit.ly/eESf1o>.

To become a Member on line, click on the following link:

<http://bit.ly/g9tZJu>

For further information, contact Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust's communications team on 0800 013 2511 or 01480 308216 or email

FT@ccs.nhs.uk

SURVEY GIVES FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A new survey of parents has shown why the uptake of school dinners in Cambridgeshire has rise from 31.5 per cent to 40 per cent in the last three years. This equates to an extra 600,000 meals a year. Parents of primary pupils who choose a school lunch told researchers:

- * They valued the importance of a hot, nutritionally balanced meal at lunchtime
- * Children enjoyed the meals and are given the opportunity to try new and different food
- * School meals offer convenience for families with busy lifestyles
- * Eating a school lunch teaches children important social skills

* A school lunch offers good value for money.

The survey was carried out by Cambridgeshire Catering Services (CCS) - which is part of Cambridgeshire County Council. Uptake of school meals in Cambridgeshire has

The price of a school meal has remained at £2.00 for the last two years. CCS has also introduced a pre-ordering system in some schools to ensure the most popular meals do not run out - and is looking to extend this in 2011.

CCS already provides meals to over 200 schools across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Essex and Rutland, and has recently started providing meals to about 70 schools in Northamptonshire. A total of 17,000 children in Cambridgeshire now have a school meal every day.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

My report this month is about progress with the Annual Public Health Report which is one of the roles of the Director of Public Health (DPH). This is an independent report, which describes key statistics relating to the health of the local population and makes recommendations for action to improve/maintain population health. The Annual Public Health Report is distributed widely and made publically available on the NHS Cambridgeshire website.

The draft Health and Social Care Bill proposes an ongoing duty for the DPH in the local authority to produce an annual report on the health of the local population. The report includes information from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) as there is considerable cross over between the two documents.

The Annual Public Health Report 2010 presents a brief summary of some key health statistics for Cambridgeshire, key points and recommendations from the JSNA work carried out in 2010. The report reviews progress against the recommendations of the APhR 2009, and make a small number of new recommendations.

The full report is due to be published in March; previous reports are available from the Director of Public Health.

CHILDCARE AND EARLY YEARS NEEDS BEING MET IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

A survey of over 1500 parents and carers in Cambridgeshire has revealed that 94 per cent of their childcare and early years needs are being met. However, the survey also revealed that a quarter of parents find childcare difficult to afford, and that there were significant pressures on childcare. The final Childcare Sufficiency report will be published on 1 April 2011, along with detailed action plans and locality profiles giving more detail on the local childcare picture in residents' neighbourhoods.

Local Cllr John Reynolds, said: "The survey's aim is to identify where and why parents are struggling to find the right sort of childcare or early years education for their children. Once identified, we can put plans in place to meet these needs. It's good to see that we are meeting the needs of such a high proportion of our residents."

"Where families simply need more information about options, the Council's Childcare Information Service (CIS) is a vital resource. The CIS, currently provided by Opportunity Links, is the first port of call for parents seeking childcare or early year's places. The service includes enhanced support for parents who have particular needs or difficulties in finding suitable childcare".

Log onto <http://www.opportunity-links.org.uk/> or call 0845 04 54 014 (local call rate).

To view the results of the research and to provide feedback, as well as find out more on the sufficiency process, see:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/parents/childcare/sufficiency.htm>

GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A DIFFERENT SORT OF CARD

Why not give a different kind of card to the one you love. The C-card isn't like any other kind of card. It's much more exclusive - available only to young people aged 19 and under. Once you have a C-card you have access to a confidential service, providing information and advice around relationships, sexual health and access to free condoms.

The C-card scheme is run by Cambridgeshire County Council and is offered from a wide range of places that are accessible for young people, including Young People March to Alconbury Doctor's Surgery and Manor Leisure Centre to the Connections Bus Project, which stops at 11 places across the county. Many of the C-card registration points also offer other services to young people, such as screening, pregnancy testing, emergency contraception and testing for sexually transmitted diseases.

To find out more about the C-card and a searchable database of registration points, visit: www.youthoria.org/c-card. Youthoria is the website for young people in Cambridgeshire providing information and advice on a wide range of teenage topics.

NEW POLICE WEBSITE

The new Police website **www.police.uk** has provided you with maps that show crime and anti-social behaviour at a street by street level right in your neighbourhood. This means you can see, even from your mobile, exactly what crime is happening and where - right down to the level of your street corner. If you have concerns about the crime you see or how issues are dealt with, you can raise them with the police. The interactive maps open the door on crime and police information. You can view crimes including burglary, violence and anti-social behaviour in a particular area by using a simple postcode search. There will also be details about your neighbourhood policing team and information about regular beat meetings.

The government is introducing a series of measures as part of a plan to fight crime:

Slashing bureaucracy - steps already taken to save up to 800,000 hours of police time by scrapping the stop form and limiting stop and search reporting.

Removing all targets and setting the police just one goal: to cut crime.

Introducing directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure that police forces respond to the needs of local communities.

Providing transparent information so local communities really know about crime in their area.

These crime maps which will reconnect the police and communities through the power of information are just the start. **It's clear that this sort of transparent information is very popular as www.police.uk has already received millions of hits.**

We want to build on this by working with the police and with you to explore how we can go further and faster and drive forward even greater transparency across crime, policing and justice.

John Reynolds Feb 2011

Appendix B

Report from: District Councillor Douglas de Lacey

4 Feb. 2011

The District and County Councils are beginning to reveal the kinds of cuts which will immediately affect our village, but a clear picture has yet to emerge. However, despite assurances repeated to full Council last November that recycling centres like ours on the Recreation Ground are safe, the PFH has announced that glass, can and Tetrapak containers will be removed. They may possibly be replaced with containers for materials such as textiles, shoes, books, CDs/DVDs and toys. However, the paper container will stay, which hints at problems with the quality of the blue bin paper collection. This despite an unqualified (and implausible) assertion to January's Council meeting that no blue bin materials were going into landfill. Since contamination of recyclates is being a significant problem (with sometimes as much as a third of a green bin load having to be landfilled) I have written to the PFH asking for clarification on all these points.

At the Council meeting on 27 January we discussed progress at Northstowe. There is a Joint Development Control Committee charged with its delivery, but the District and County Cabinets have decided to set up an 'advisory group' consisting of 3 members from each authority. These are, of course, all Conservatives and local members are excluded. This led to much debate, especially since it was noted that the value of the so-called '3+3 group' was that it could have private conversations. Well, at least we resolved that (a) the Northstowe Portfolio Holder establish a formal means of briefing the members of affected wards after each 3+3 Group meeting; and (b) accurate records of the 3+3 Group's meetings including any already held be published to demonstrate commitment to open and transparent democracy in respect of this hugely important project.

On 13 January SCDC's Sustainable Parishes Energy Partnership hosted a meeting at Girton Pavilion, which was pleasingly well attended. There are a number of projects being developed, and although sadly none is in Girton our residents may benefit from spin-offs. In particular our neighbours at Histon and Impington are negotiating for bulk installation of roof-panels (both solarthermal and photo-voltaic).

I mentioned last month the 'Parish Forum for Planning IT', and since they omitted to involve Girton initially I was invited to meet the relevant officers to discuss my concerns. Despite my having submitted them several times (and being told erroneously that the majority were fixed) I quickly realised that the officers were unaware of the problems as seen by parishes. To that rather limited extent it was a valuable meeting. However, shortly afterwards I tried to help the Parish Clerk do an on-line comment on a planning application and discovered another whole raft of problems I had not noticed.

Appendix C

Girton Parish Council Chairman's report

5 Feb2011

I am grateful to Councillors for giving up three evenings on the run to attend the CPALC training course. I personally felt it was valuable not only in the material learned but also in the fact of working together for an extended time.

I am also grateful to our temporary Clerk as he steps down - more grateful than it is possible to put into words. Only those who have been in the office with him will know how efficiently he has dealt with the wide range of issues which he has had to face. Among other things he has developed the website which now hosts all our agendas and other papers, and sorted out a backlog of filing and other matters. We now look forward to working with his successor John Burrige, and perhaps welcoming Sam back onto the Council.

I have received complaints about mud on the road from two developments: 2 High Street and Abbeyfield. I have spoken to the foremen of both, and they have agreed that a street sweeper will clean up at the end of each working day. This seems a proportionate solution

Appendix D

GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL PROSPECTIVE STRUCTURE AND BUSINESS MODEL

Introduction

1. This document is informed to a great extent by comments made at the extraordinary meeting of 6 Jan 2011, and is offered as a basis for discussion. The present situation is not the most effective approach to serving the interests of parishioners. The Council faces a number of problems, and is in a situation in which it is consuming a great deal of councillor time, but has found itself stretched to fulfill its duties. At the same time, this is a period of financial constraint, in which central government will seek to reduce funding whilst simultaneously divesting itself of as much responsibility as possible. Inevitably, it will seek to do this to some extent by delegating tasks and responsibility to others. To cope, Council must adopt a model that is sustainable and will prove resilient as financial pressures bite.

2. What follows is a set of proposals predicated on the assumption that Council should act as a decision machine, not an unpaid administrative arm of central government. Fortunately, Council has a number of experienced and motivated members who can apply specialist skills to problems. The proposed structure aims to capitalise on their abilities, while diverting time spent in meetings to more effective decision-making.

Business model

3. Issues requiring a decision by Council should be distributed to the appropriate committee by the Clerk and then considered, before being submitted to the next full Council meeting with a set of options (based on the village plan or parishioner comment), and comments on option cost, feasibility and risk. The initial recipient of each item of distributed business should be the chairperson of the respective committee, or the nominated deputy. Responsibility will therefore be delegated to a greater extent, reducing the burden on the Chairperson of the Council. Each committee chairperson should be canvassed for agenda items prior to each full Council meeting.

4. The proposal is to hold fewer full Council meetings, while simultaneously supporting Council in making clear and informed choices. Committees should frame motions in terms of *a choice between options*. It shall always be appropriate for Council to consider the 'do nothing' option in respect of any proposal.

5. The Plans, Finance and Asset Management Committee (PFAM) is of critical importance in commenting on the feasibility, affordability and risk of issues being submitted to Council. It considers inputs from other committees, in particular the Planning Application and Environment Committee (PAEC) and the Sport and Recreation Committee (SRC). The PFAM can request costing information from the Clerk. It should also have delegated responsibility and resources for obtaining advice in respect of auditing, insurance and Human Resources.

Committee structure

6. Plans, Finance and Asset Management Committee (PFAM). Responsibilities and remit:

a. Create a set of tasks, informed by the Village Plan, parishioner comment, legal mandate, and the proposals of other committees, for the conduct of Council business.

These shall be passed to Council for scrutiny and sanction.

i. All tasks are either essential or desirable: An essential task is legally mandated. A desirable task is not legally mandated.

ii. The final approval of tasks is the responsibility of the full Council, advised by the PFAM.

iii. The prioritisation of tasks is the responsibility of the full Council, advised by the PFAM.

b. Advise Council on the feasibility of tasks, on the basis of:

i. Available funds.

ii. Availability of councillor, staff or volunteer time,

iii. Legal, financial and Health and Safety risk.

c. Maintain at all times an overview of Council finances, and warn Council when reserves are low or likely to be compromised.

d. Advise Council on appropriate audit requirements. Maintain an overview of the audit

programme.

e. Advise Council on appropriate insurance requirements. Maintain an overview of the insurance cover held by Council.

f. Advise Council on appropriate HR requirements.

g. Identify the training needs of council members and staff, and propose a training programme accordingly.

h. Maintain an inventory of Council land, buildings and assets.

i. Devise and report to Council on a programme of maintenance for Council land, buildings and assets, with inputs from the PAEC and SRC (see below).

7. Planning Application and Environment Committee (PAEC). Responsibilities and remit:

a) Receive, scrutinise, comment on, and either approve or reject planning applications within the purview of Council's legal mandate.

b) Maintain an inventory of Council green spaces. A green space is an area of land set aside primarily for non-sporting amenity or environmental worth, including biodiversity.

c) Advise Council with respect to policy for appropriate use of Council green spaces.

d) Monitor the condition of green spaces within the Parish, reporting any significant issues arising on them to Council.

e) Devise a programme of maintenance for Council green spaces, and forward the programme to Council via the PFAM.

f) Consider concepts for the improvement of parish green spaces, and forward them to Council via the PFAM.

8. Sport and Recreation Committee (SRC). Responsibilities and remit:

a) Maintain an overview of the use of Council recreation spaces. A recreation space is an area of land set aside primarily for sporting activity.

b) Advise Council with respect to policy for appropriate use of Council recreation spaces and charges for such use.

c) Maintain an inventory of Council recreation spaces.

d) Monitor the condition of recreation spaces within the Parish, reporting any significant issues arising on them to Council.

e) Devise a programme of maintenance for Council recreation spaces, and forward the programme to Council via the PFAM.

f) Consider concepts for the improvement of Council recreation spaces, and forward them to Council via the PFAM.

9. Development Committee (DC). (The name is in deference to George Orwell). Responsibilities and remit:

a. Identify and monitor construction or other projects in the vicinity of the Parish, or that have the potential to impinge on the Parish and adversely affect its inhabitants, environment, amenity or economy (Significant Projects).

b. Advise Council of potential Significant Projects and their progress.

c. Advise Council of measures for mitigating the effects of Significant Projects.

Lead advisors

10. To address issues not clearly addressed within the above structure, one councillor shall be nominated as lead advisor to Council on each of the following issues:

a. Education, youth and information services (including library and IT services). This person a member of SRC

b. Differently-abled and senior parishioners. This person should be a member of the PAEC.

c. Policing and community safety. This person should be a member of the PFAM.

d. Medical Services, This person should be a member of the PFAM.

e. Transport. This person should be a member of the DC.

f. Allocating lead responsibility in no respect limits individual councillors from taking an interest in a topic or issue.

Other business

11. Applications, comments and requests not falling easily within the purview of either a committee or lead advisor (for example, requests for charitable donations, or general complaints on the conduct of Council business) should in the first instance be passed to the PFAM, who will provide Council with a set of options (one of which will always be 'no further action').

Councillor time and resources

12. As the level of delegated responsibility within committees should be increased under the proposed model, to keep the workload constant, Council should determine a maximum fair burden of time to be expected from each councillor. Accordingly, membership of each committee may have to be reduced. Also, service on a committee with a broader remit, such as the PFAM, may demand equal time to service on two other committees. There should be a process of periodic review to ensure that councillor time allocation remains fair and appropriate.

13. It should be acknowledged as perfectly reasonable for a proposal put to Council to be affordable and of tolerable risk, but rejected on the grounds that insufficient councillor time exists for appropriate supervision within committee. As a starting point, Council should not be involved in more than two major projects at any one time.

14. It may prove beneficial to conduct more business by email, certainly within committees. Transparency in governance is important in a democracy, and presenting council meeting motions as a set of options will bring out more of the thinking process behind decisions. More careful preparation of the options can be facilitated by email, rather than time spent in meetings