

Girton Parish Council

Susan Cumming
Clerk to the Parish Council
Telephone: (01223) 472181
Email: clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk

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

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Thursday 10th November, 2011 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs: de Lacey (Chairman), Bromwich (from Item 132), Garner, Noble, Taylor, Thorrold, Westley
Cllr J Reynolds (CCC)

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk)

- 11/128 Welcome from the Chairman** . The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked Cllr Reynolds for attending.
- 11/129 Apologies and reasons for absence**
Apologies have been received from Cllrs Clift and Gordon, and the Chairman accepted their reasons.
- 11/130 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** Cllr Taylor noted a personal interest as he works for Cambridge City Council.
- 11/131 Public Participation session on agenda items & matters of mutual interest:**
1. Members of the Public. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.
 2. Cllr Reynolds explained that his role on the Fringes Planning Committee means that he might have to listen rather than contribute to discussion, as the Joint Development Control Committee on which he sits will be making the planning decision.
- 11/132 Council's Response to Planning Application S/1886/11 Proposed Development for 3,000 dwellings, 2,000 student bedspaces, 100,000 sq m employment floorspace and other facilities between Huntingdon Road and Madingley Road, Cambridge.**
- The Chairman outlined the three options which the Parish Council has regarding this application firstly, the application could be approved without comment, secondly it could be approved with restrictions/conditions, and thirdly it could be rejected with the grounds for rejection to be given. When put to a straw vote, 3 councillors voted to approve the application without comment, 3 voted against and the Chairman had the casting vote. Discussion followed, with councillors voicing their concerns as follows.
- i) Schooling
The Chairman outlined that the Education Assessment is flawed, with no capacity at Girton Glebe School for any children from this development in 2-3 years time. It was questioned whether other local schools such as Dry Drayton, Coton and some city schools would have any spare capacity. Secondary education questions have not been adequately answered, particularly as Impington Village College is reducing numbers. Education is a concern which needs to be clearly flagged. The Chairman proposed that this matter is significant enough to mean that the Council can only approve the application with conditions, which was unanimously agreed.
- ii) Traffic
There are concerns about traffic moving through the site, the routes being very dependent upon Huntingdon Road, meaning that junctions would have to be well-designed not to impact badly on Girton residents. There are also concerns about speed, and pedestrian crossings. There is perceived conflict between different categories of user (eg cyclists/pedestrians, buses/cyclists). There has been no response from the questions raised at the meeting with Roger Taylor. The Transport Assessment needs to be re-run, as it places significantly more traffic on Oxford Road/Windsor Road and therefore cannot just be dismissed as anomalous since traffic must go somewhere if it is believed that it will not enter Oxford Road. We would require the modelling to be re-run with proper data and the assessment revised.
- iii) Outline Planning Application
The fact that the drawings are not indicative of the final layout could have a large effect on Girton.

There is need for the Reserve Matters to reflect issues raised in the outline. It was agreed that any significant changes to the drawings made by the applicant should be referred back to the Council for our comment.

iv) Girton Gap Layout

Concerns about the maintenance of a gap between Girton village and the city were raised, and by a majority decision voted to be included as a concern in the Council's response.

v) Energy Generation

More information is needed on energy matters. It was a majority decision to include energy generation as a condition in the Council's response.

The Council voted to reject the application and to outline reasons – 6 agreed, 1 abstention. The Clerk will draft a letter to Mike Osbourn, the relevant Planning Officer of South Cambridgeshire District Council, outlining the reasons for this rejection.

11/133 To approve a proposal to erect a Christmas tree with lights at the Village Institute

(Appendix A)

The Council had received Cllr Clift's report on this matter. The Chairman proposed that the proposal be accepted, seconded by Cllr Bromwich, and this was unanimously agreed. The Clerk subsequently contacted Girton Social Club regarding the Council's agreement to this proposal, prior to their meeting of 11th November.

The meeting ended at 8.14 p.m.

APPENDIX A

Christmas Decorations in Girton 2011.

For the information of Parish Councillors I have made enquiries within the village with regard to the placement of some Christmas lights and in doing so I have borne in mind a possible donation of £130 by the Parish Council as well as some other important issues.

Consideration has been given to:

- 1) Health & Safety - plays significant part in erection & use of any lights in a public place.
- 2) £130 being a useful amount of money but one that was by no means huge.
- 3) A safe power source for the lights.
- 4) A safe location - Decorations/lights to be easily seen by villagers – especially the young.
- 5) Possibility of Parish Council led community project becoming an annual event.
- 6) Annual event to involve other villagers, Churches and clubs etc.
- 7) Road Safety

Having regard to Councillor Cockley's remarks at the September meeting concerning the erection of a Christmas Tree somewhere in the village and the promise of some financial assistance from the Parish Council I have been making enquiries to find a suitable location for a decorated tree. Erecting such a tree illuminated with low powered LED lights would mean that only one power source would be required. It could be a significant single feature easily decorated and could prompt other activities around it. It might be possible to locate it near to the centre of the village in a fairly prominent position clearly visible to anyone passing through and especially to children and parents on the way to and from school.

The Village Institute is centrally located and has a suitable area to its front where a Christmas tree could be erected. Power will be readily available, it will be reasonable easy to secure the tree against high winds, it will not be on the highway and although it will stand back a little from the road it will be easily seen by passers by. It is adjacent to both Scallywags and The Glebe School. Having initially considered the gap between Scallywags and the Village Institute as a suitable location, now, after negotiations with members of the W.I and having inspected the area to the rear of that car park I consider that their suggestion to place the tree there would be more appropriate and would allow their facilities to be used much more effectively.

This was also the opinion of Graham Clare our H & S expert.

I feel that the Village Institute is happy to work in partnership with the Parish Council and other groups in an effort to make this a success which will clearly benefit them BUT will also benefit villagers. In my opinion the recently refurbished W.I. building is suitable for this event.

Point 1 above:

- Graham Clare has completed a Health and Safety assessment (See attached)

Point 2 above:

- Clearly the donation of £130 from the Parish Council is a generous offer in view of today's financial circumstances but it is not a huge amount of money and quite clearly it will have to be stretched by all the means at our disposal so that we can afford to erect a Christmas tree worthy of our efforts.
- Girton Village Institute will play their part by allowing us to use their electricity but an outdoor socket will have to be fitted to the building to allow that. They also propose to put on some further entertainments, most likely music, inside the club room.
- Wire, timers, plugs and sockets and other electrical items will be required and these have been sourced at an exceptionally low price from Chris Starling.
- The outside socket and other electrical works must be carried out professionally – and a quote is being obtained by the V.I. – they who seem quite happy to accommodate that work.
- Low powered LED lights need to be purchased.

Points 3, 4 and 5 above:

- The Village Institute has provisionally agreed that power may be drawn from their building and that the tree may be sited on their property. No arrangements have been made concerning the cost of any power consumed by the lights but I feel certain that they will be able to accommodate that. These provisional arrangements will have to be ratified at their Village Institute meeting to be held on the 11th of November.
- The Village Institute seems keen to be involved in order to raise their profile within the village and to boost their coffers.
- Mr Graves of the flower shop has agreed to donate a 15ft Christmas tree to the village for the price of 'a mention'.
- I have contacted our new Vicar concerning a Carol Service near the Christmas tree when

the lights are switched on. She has suggested that the Churches of Girton might be interested. (I have a suggested date of Friday 9th December 2011 in mind for the switch on) Clearly more work is required here.

- o I have been able to source a base for the tree at no cost however some work on it is required if the go ahead is given. I expect to be able to source the LED lights cheaply, locally and quite easily.

Point 6 above:

- o Clearly this could involve many groups within the village – children in particular and to that end I have spoken with Scallywags day nursery and although they have promised nothing they did seem interested in involving their children in possibly making decorations some of which might be placed on the tree. It might be possible to involve children from the Glebe in some way.

Point 7 above:

- o Road Safety – in the event that a large number of people attend the switch on – I have been able to source some barriers from Abbeyfield at the Wellbrook Way site. These barriers could be placed in such a way that they prevent children/adults inadvertently stepping into the live lanes of Cambridge Road when arriving or leaving the area of the V.I. on the ‘switch on’ night. Some “Slow” road signs for Cambridge Road might also be required on the day of the ‘switch on’

There are two options:

- i. Place a Christmas tree in the location as suggested and simply switch it on for decorative purposes and take no further action.

- ii. Carry out community activities around the tree e.g. a Carol Service with Mulled Wine and Mince pies including a visit from Santa Claus for the children of the village. To do this some enthusiastic persuasions by Parish Councillors would be required in the hope of getting the various and required people to take part. If this is the direction that the PC would like to see this matter move toward then I would be grateful if councillors would use their powers of persuasion and spend some time to ensure that other groups become involved.

- iii. In view of the fact that we are fast approaching the date when the tree needs to be in place and the fact that many more actions need to be taken to get it ready for the 9th December including placing an advertisement into the Girton Parish News I would ask the PC to vote on this matter on 10th November.

- iv. I am prepared to help further with this project if necessary.

- v. The Village Institute has a meeting organised for the 11th of November so our meeting of the 10th will co-inside readily with theirs.

The Finances:

- o I am confident that local people will approve of this small step towards brightening up the village during the dark winter months and although this is only a small step I feel that if it has a successful outcome it could become an annual event that improves over the years. Success this year will breed success for the future.

- o Although I have no definite figures I suggest that the £130 allocated could be used as follows:

Tree – donated by Mr Graves £0.00p

Tree Base – sourced by Sam Clift £0.00p

Electronics – sourced from Chris Starling £50.00p est.(could be £0.00p)

Low Powered LED lights £60.00p est.

Toward small gifts for children Fruit/sweets £20.00p

£130.00p

Yet to be sourced if option (ii) is required:

- o Mulled Wine (cash might be available if electrics cost £0/00p)

- o Traditional Santa Claus costume

- o Mince pies

- o Help from other groups – carol singers etc

Inclement Weather:

- o In the event of inclement weather all outdoor activities could be moved into the Village Institute.

Village Institute:

- o Meeting 11th November – Parish Clerk to notify Wendy Ripley

wendy349ripley@btinternet.com of the Parish Council's decision on the morning of 11th November 2011 ready for their meeting in the evening.

INITIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Initial Risk Assessment

Location: Cambridge Road Girton – between Social Club & Scallywags
Christmas Tree Installation / Display

Contents:

Introduction

Our Approach to Risk Assessment

Risk Ratings

Risk Assessment Reference Number

Review of Risk Assessments

Logistics Risk Assessment Record