

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 Wednesday 19th February, 2014 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Girton, at 7.30 p.m.

Residents in the parish were invited to attend this meeting and to speak at Item 14/16.1

Present: Cllrs: de Lacey (Chairman), Williams, Garner, Godby, Gordon, Simpson,
L Taylor, M Taylor, Westley

PCSO A Mani and PCSO T Baugh (until end of item 14/16.4)

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk)

- 14/13 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially PCSO Mani and PCSO Baugh. The Chairman notified the Council that since the last meeting the RFO has broken her heelbone but will hopefully not need an operation, and thanked the Clerk for producing the finance reports in the RFO's absence. The Chairman read out a letter of resignation from Cllr Thorrold, who has resigned from the council because of ill health. The Council gave Cllr Thorrold a general vote of thanks for his service and enthusiasm as a parish councillor.
- 14/14 Apologies and reasons for absence** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Bromwich, Clift, Cockley, Hiley and Noble, County Councillor J Reynolds, District Councillor T Bygott and from the RFO, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.
- 14/15 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** Cllr Williams declared an interest in item 14/19.4, as a member of Girton Bowls Club.
- 14/16 Public Participation session on agenda items & matters of mutual interest:**
The following item was brought forward to allow the PCSOs to return to their policing duties:
4. Police Report (*Appendix C*). PCSO Mani reported about the following crimes in Girton. On 17th-18th January a motorbike was stolen at Wellbrook Way. On 31st January – 1st February a downstairs window was smashed at a property in Bandon Road and tools were stolen. The police had recently carried out house-to-house surveys in Girton to make householders aware of safety issues – unfortunately, many doors were found to have been left unlocked, plus many bicycles left unlocked outside houses, and householders had been made aware of these risks. PCSO Mani reported that the review of the county's policing had recommended that PCSOs will continue to police our village.
The Chairman thanked PCSOs Mani and Baugh, who left the meeting at this point. The next Police Panel meeting will be at Over, and will focus on crime figures. There is now a fast-track 101 number for Neighbourhood Watch organisers. There have also been lots of reports of stolen wood in the area.
1. Members of the Public. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.
 2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*). Cllr Reynolds' report was received. Any questions arising from the report are to be forwarded by the Clerk.
 3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*). Cllr de Lacey's report was received. Cllr de Lacey reported that during the storm on 7th February, SCDC officers delivered sandbags to affected dwellings and thankfully no houses were flooded.

14/17 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th January, 2014. The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr L Taylor, seconded by Cllr Gordon and approved with two abstentions.

14/18 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

14/07.1 Girton's precept request has been received by South Cambs District Council (see correspondence item 14/21.6).

14/07.2 The Council's concerns regarding street lighting have been forwarded to Cambridgeshire County Council officers and contractors Balfour Beatty (see correspondence item 14/21.8).

14/07.3 The Council has responded to the Girton Post Office public consultation.

14/12 Concerns regarding parking in Dodford Lane have been raised and responded to (see correspondence item 14/21.5).

14/12 Concerns about refuse carts during rush hour have been forwarded to South Cambridgeshire District Council (see correspondence item 14/21.1).

Noted by the Council. The Chairman reported that, regarding item 14/12, the landlord is now trying to get the pub chain to extend the car park at the Old Crown.

14/19 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council

1. To approve a contractor for the Pavilion cleaning contract 1st April, 2014 - 31st March, 2017 (*Appendix D*). Cllr de Lacey proposed that Avocet Cleaning Services be given the contract with the proviso that they be given a six-month probationary period, seconded by Cllr Garner. Approved unanimously.

2. To approve a 2.7% (rounded up to the nearest 25p) increase on all user fees for the Pavilion and sports facilities for the year 2014-2015 (*Appendix E*). Proposed by Cllr Simpson with an amendment that fees be rounded down in some cases, seconded by Cllr de Lacey. For next year, the Sports and Recreation Committee are to look at user fees against costs and comparable costs in other villages, with a new fee structure to be introduced. Approved unanimously.

3 In the current budget, £300 was allocated to the purchase of a leaf blower. On the recommendation of the Groundsman, the Council is asked to approve the purchase of a cricket square mower with this money and to defer the purchase of a leaf blower to a later budget. Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Godby. The mower would not be exclusively for use on the cricket square. The groundsman anticipates that he may be able to sell the old mower. Approved unanimously.

4. To approve a contractor for the Bowls Green Container enclosure (*Appendix F*). Cllr Gordon proposed that the contract be given to Kestrel on the basis of price, seconded by Cllr de Lacey. The trellis will not provide a climbing opportunity because it will be a small-hole trellis. It was questioned whether a hedge could be used instead, but the hedge would be hard to cut because the top would be 12ft high and the associated maintenance costs would be considerable. Approved with one abstention.

5. To approve a response to the proposed Care Home at Wellbrook Way. Cllr de Lacey proposed that this item be deferred as a full planning application has now been received by South Cambridgeshire District Council; but remitted to the next Girton Parish Council Meeting. Seconded by Cllr Gordon. The Council will tell the developers that the application will be considered at the next full Parish Council meeting. Approved unanimously.

6. On the advice of the Clerk and RFO not to seek quotations for insurance for the year 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015 but to stay with the current insurers (see correspondence item 14/21.10) Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Godby. If the Council asks new insurers to quote we would need detailed costings of the bowls green etc but these can be added to the existing quotation. Came & Company have been very helpful brokers. Approved unanimously.

14/20 Finance and Resource Management

The Chairman gave the Clerk thanks for her work during the RFO's sick absence. Accessibility options were discussed.

1. To approve payments for the previous month. Proposed by Cllr Garner,

seconded by Cllr Gordon. Approved with one abstention.

2. To approve the balance sheet (*Appendix G*). Proposed by Cllr Garner, seconded by Cllr Westley and approved with one abstention.

3. To receive the Finance Report from 1st April, 2013 to date (*Appendix H*). It was questioned whether the groundsman's wages had been underestimated in the coming year's budget but noted that the workload of the Groundsman is not constant throughout the year, so judgement should be suspended until the year end. Received by the Council.

14/21 Correspondence (to be received)

1. 16 Jan 2014: Correspondence about refuse carts in Girton.
2. 17 Jan 2014: Correspondence about street lighting at Thornton Road / Girton Road.
3. 17 Jan 2014: Information about Magpas Emergency Medical Charity.
4. 18 Jan 2014: Correspondence about parking in Girton High Street.
5. 21 Jan 2014: Letter regarding parking in Dodford Lane, Girton.
6. 22 Jan 2014: Precept confirmation from South Cambs District Council.
7. 23 Jan 2014: Correspondence regarding community governance at Darwin Green.
8. 6 Feb 2014: Correspondence from Balfour Beatty regarding Girton street lighting.
9. 9 Feb 2014: Correspondence from Girton Bowls Club.
10. 11 Feb 2014: Letter from Came & Company regarding parish insurance.

Received by the Council. Further to item 14/21.7, the Council needs to consider Girton Parish Council's possible involvement in the governance of the proposed Country Park at the Darwin Green site.

14/22 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix I*). During the recent storms, several workmen's barriers etc had been blown about, and the Chairman now has a hotline number for contacting Balfour Beatty. The Chairman has attended a meeting with Histon & Impington Parish Council and Jim Paice MP regarding changes to the A14. Members of Parliament Jim Paice and Andrew Lansley will be asked to talk to the Minister about the following issues: whether it is possible to surface the whole road with noise reducing surface, increase the noise barriers and to implement a 50mph limit. The Chairman has received approval for Executive Summaries to be provided for big developments such as Darwin Green and NW Cambridge Development. The Chairman will be pushing for action on the concerns raised over the planning website.

2. Girton Town Charity. No report this month.
3. Girton Youth Project. (*Appendix J*)
4. Footpaths. No report this month.
5. Water Management. (*Appendix K*)
6. Bowling Green Committee. No report this month.
7. Wellbrook Way Development Committee. No report this month.

14/23 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes

1. Planning Committee Meetings of 9th January, 22nd January and 11th February, 2014 (previously circulated).
2. Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting of 5th February, 2014 (previously circulated).

Received by the Council.

14/24 Matters raised by Members (for information only)

Cllr M Taylor gave apologies for non-attendance at prospective meetings during March, following an operation scheduled for 20th February.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm