

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 Meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th March, 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 14/28.2

Present: Cllrs: Williams (Chairman), Bromwich, Clift, Cockley, Garner, Godby, Gordon, Hiley, Noble, L Taylor, Westley.

Cllr T Bygott (SCDC) (until item 14/28.5)

H Topel (Deputy Project Director, Cambridge University), H Mistry (Marks Barfield Architects), G Dukes (AECOM), B Wan (Cambridge University), M Parsons (Cambridge City Council) (until end of item 14/28.1)

1 member of the public (until item 14/28.5)

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk), N Stone (RFO)

14/25 Welcome from the Chairman In the Chairman's absence, the Vice-Chairman chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone, especially the visitors from Cambridge University and colleagues.

14/26 Apologies and reasons for absence. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs de Lacey, Simpson and M Taylor, and from County Councillor J Reynolds and PCSO Mani.

14/27 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda. None.

14/28 Public Participation session on agenda items & matters of mutual interest:

1. Officers from Cambridge University to talk about NW Cambridge Development's proposed primary school application.

Heather Topel gave an introduction to the project. The first phase includes 530 homes for staff, 400 market homes, school, community centre, healthcare facility and public space. The school will be 3-form entry, with 630 pupils and 78 nursery places and is to be run by the university. Work will start in 2015 and it will open in phases. The School Trust Consultation Open Days will be at Madingley Rise, looking at governance issues and how the school will relate to other local schools. Representatives from the project have met with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of Girton Glebe School.

Hena Mistry spoke about the design process. UK and international precedents had been looked at, and eight primary schools visited to exchange ideas. Classrooms will have direct access to outside, and quiet study areas. Clusters of six classrooms for interactive learning will form a continuous ring around the school, around a central courtyard. The school will be sustainable, and aim for an excellent environmental assessment rating. Councillors' questions included major concerns regarding absence of accommodation for drop-off traffic, adequacy of visitor and staff car parking and the effects on other schools in the catchment area. There will be 40 on-site parking spaces for staff, with promotion of cycling and 15-minute walking time for school drop-off, rather than car use. The school will primarily be for residents of the new site and the university is working with Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the estimated number of children on site. Councillors stated that it was inevitable that some parents would want to drop off children on their route to work and to fail to recognise this can only lead to traffic congestion. Concern was also expressed that a University run school would be a magnet to parents and detrimental to the surrounding schools, which include Girton

Glebe. It is anticipated that the planning application for the school will be submitted on 18th April.

The representatives from the North-West Cambridge project were thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at this point.

2. Members of the Public. The member of the public spoke about safety concerns with the proposals outlined in the Huntingdon Road Traffic Proposals public consultation documentation. The raised cycle lane could be hazardous, with a difficult kerb if cars or cyclists go into it. Driveways also present difficulties. Central bus stops are only a lane wide so traffic would gather behind when buses stopped, which adds to pollution. White rumble strips would separate the cycle lane and the main carriageway and could be provided on both sides of the road, making both safer. With the heavy traffic use of the road, there is a need to make it safe and flexible. Prominent signage should urge cyclists to beware.

The member of the public was thanked by the Chairman.

3. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) Any questions arising from Cllr Reynolds' report will be forwarded by the Clerk.

4. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*). Cllr Bygott spoke about the Huntingdon Road traffic consultation which closes on 7th April, suggesting that a bus stop be moved closer to the city, by Oxford Road. The Community Chest applications for the Bowls Club and Sustainable Girton's apple press have been approved. The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan is going to the inspectorate – Cllrs de Lacey and Bygott had opposed the change for Girton to a minor rural centre. Action on Energy is making grants available for insulation of properties with no cavity walls. During councillors' questions, it was noted that the Greater Cambridge area City Deal means that up to £500,000 match-funding is available to improve transport infrastructure. Cllr de Lacey's report mentioned the proposed 'branding' of the new NW Cambridge development, and councillors raised concerns about lack of Girton involvement in the naming process.

5. Police Report (*Appendix C*). Councillors noted a recent increase in phone and email scams.

Cllr Bygott and the member of the public left at this point.

14/29 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th February, 2014 (previously circulated). The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Garner, seconded by Cllr L Taylor, and approved with three abstentions.

14/30 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

14/19.1 The new Pavilion cleaning contract has been agreed and begins on 1st April, 2014, with a six-month probationary period to be overseen by the Clerk.

14/19.2 All Pavilion and sports facilities users have been notified of the 2014-2015 fee increases, with no adverse comments.

Noted by the Council.

14/31 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To receive and approve the Annual Risk Assessment (*Appendix D*). Proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Cockley. The provision of fireproof filing cabinets for archive storage is to be investigated. Approved with one abstention.

2. To approve the Joint Statement from Histon & Impington and Girton Parish Councils regarding the A14 upgrade (*Appendix E*) Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Gordon. Approved unanimously.

3. To consider the planning application for the erection of a 75-bedroom care home (within class C2), access, parking, landscaping and other associated works on land at Wellbrook Way : SCDC Planning Application Number S/0294/14/FL. (*Appendix F*) Cllr Williams noted that the developers should provide economic reasons why the footpath should not be provided, and planners should investigate this fully. The Council would need the local surgery to confirm that they have been consulted and are happy that there would be enough medical support. Concerns were also raised over siting a secure

unit close to fast traffic on Girton Road. Cllr Williams proposed that these comments be put to the developers, seconded by Cllr Gordon, and approved with one abstention.

4. To approve a response to the Huntingdon Road Traffic public consultation (*Appendices G and H*, and correspondence items 14/33.3 and 14/33.7).

As this is an open public consultation, the Council could gather general opinions and councillors were also encouraged to submit their own responses. Bicycle lanes need to be wide enough for bikes to pass each other. Concerns were raised over the safety of floating bus stops and raised cycle lanes. Cllr Williams proposed that the council is not in favour of the current proposals, seconded by Cllr Noble and approved with one abstention.

14/32 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve payments for the previous month. Proposed by Cllr Garner, seconded by Cllr Cockley. With the exception of one cheque for trade waste, the payments were approved unanimously.
2. To approve the balance sheet (*Appendix I*). Proposed by Cllr Garner, seconded by Cllr Godby. Approved unanimously.
3. To receive the Finance Report from 1st April, 2013 to date (*Appendix J*). Received by the Council.

14/33 Correspondence (to be received)

1. 14 February 2014: Letter about possibility of real time bus boards in Girton
 2. 17 February 2014: Letter of resignation from Parish Councillor John Thorrold
 3. 26 February 2014: Correspondence regarding proposed floating bus stops, Huntingdon Road.
 4. 04 March 2014: Correspondence regarding road signs in Thornton Road and Thornton Way.
 5. 04 March 2014: Correspondence about planning and development permission.
 6. 07 March 2014: Public Consultation on Older People's Healthcare and Adult Community Services
 7. 11 March 2014: Correspondence regarding the public consultation on transport in Huntingdon Road.
 8. 13 March 2014: Correspondence from external auditors regarding annual audit.
 9. 13 March 2014: Request for post box at Abbeyfield/Wellbrook Way.
- Received by the Council. Regarding the Anglia Ruskin University Howes Close redevelopment, the village could make use of facilities as and when developed, which could take pressure off the MUGA.

14/34 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix K*).
2. Girton Town Charity. Recent support for local organisations includes donations to Arthur Rank Hospice, East Anglia's Children's Hospice and Cambridge Citizens Advice Bureau, plus urgent need grants to individuals in the village. There is an urgent need to buy extra community land at Wellbrook Way. The Charity is continuing to develop plans for the WI Hall site, where three almshouses could possibly be placed.
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix L*).
4. Footpaths. No report this month.
5. Water Management. Cllr Bromwich reported that on 27th February, Beck Brook had come very close to flooding but thankfully had not flooded. On 26th March, Cllrs Bromwich and de Lacey are meeting with representatives from the Environment Agency, Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council to investigate flooding issues.
6. Bowling Green Committee. Two County are continuing with landscaping, and the tender for fencing and gates is to be sent out shortly. It is hoped that the bowling green should be ready to play on by June 2014.
7. Wellbrook Way Development Committee. No more progress can be made on the proposed Community Hall until SCDC come back to Girton Town Charity.

14/35 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes None.

14/36 Matters raised by Members (for information only)

Children should be dissuaded from picking flowers in public places. Parish noticeboards should be used for parish business.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm