

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 16th July, 2014 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Girton, at 7.30 p.m.

To: Councillors de Lacey, Williams, Barnes, Buckler, Bygott, Cockley, Godby, Gordon,
Noble, Simpson, L Taylor, M Taylor and Whittle

Residents in the parish were invited to attend this meeting and to speak at Item 14/83.1

Present: Cllrs; de Lacey (Chairman), Williams, Barnes, Cockley, Godby, Gordon, Noble, L Taylor, Whittle.

PCSO Mani (until end of item 14/83.4), Mr D Whitehouse (East of England Ambulance Service)

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

- 14/80 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially PCSO Mani and Mr Whitehouse.
- 14/81 Apologies and reasons for absence** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Reynolds, Simpson and M Taylor, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.
- 14/82 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** None.
- 14/83 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**
The following item was brought forward to allow PCSO Mani to return to his policing duties.
4. Police Report (*Appendix C*) PCSO Mani reported that Girton is relatively low on crime. In the last month, there has been criminal damage to a car in Wellbrook Way, a theft from a jet wash machine on the A14, and a lorry was broken into on the A14. Complaints have been received on parking issues on Cambridge Road by Girton Glebe School, by the Co-Op store on Girton Road, at the junction with Weavers Field. PCSO Mani is continuing his patrols. Cllr de Lacey suggested that it would be good to outline how the force might change over the next year for the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting. The Chairman thanked PCSO Mani, who left the meeting at this point.
1. Members of the Public. David Whitehouse of the East of England Ambulance Service spoke about the provision of defibrillators. The budget to provide defibrillators has now run its timescale but they have been offered to Girton and Bar Hill. Milton and Waterbeach also have them. The Ambulance Service is giving free of charge defibrillators and cabinets to set up community public access defibrillators. The cabinet is stainless steel, and has a code on the latch – 999 having been dialled, the ambulance operator will decide if the defibrillator is necessary, with mapping showing where the defibrillator is. The defibrillator is very safe and easy to use – the person using it is told what to do so there is no need for training. The ambulance aims to be at the scene within 8 minutes but it depends where the vehicle is, so the defibrillator increases the chances of survival in the minutes before the ambulance can get there. Sometimes the defibrillator will re-set the heart and will analyse if the patient needs a shock or not. The batteries are guaranteed for 5 years. The batteries are guaranteed for 5 years. The 12v device only uses electricity as frost protection at an estimated cost of £3/year. The device will need mains power and it is recommended that an electrician installs a box to

fit the power pack in and a switch. It will be a self-test unit and someone will need to check either weekly or fortnightly. The device has a seven-year manufacturers' guarantee and the Ambulance Service provides a support team. There have been a couple of cardiac arrests a year in Girton and the defibrillator could be a life-saver. After only a couple of months of installation, the defibrillator in Newmarket had been used. The pack containing scissors and face mask is £10, and replacement pads for the device are £25. The second person on the scene would be asked to run and fetch the defibrillator. There is a 10% per minute drop in the chance for life after a cardiac arrest. Young people playing football are often victims, but it mostly affects the elderly. The external wall of the Recreation Ground Pavilion would be a good site as it is next to the church and primary school, and near to the language school and allotments site. If the village wanted a second or third defibrillator, the cost would be £1,000 for the defibrillator and £1,000 for the cabinet.

The Chairman thanked Mr Whitehouse for his informative talk and there were lots of positive comments. Mr Whitehouse is also prepared to give working demonstrations to groups etc.

2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) Cllr Reynolds had sent his apologies as he had two other meetings to attend. He has raised the issue of Girton's pavements and will talk to officers. Any questions arising from his report will be forwarded by the Clerk.

3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*). There were no questions arising from Cllr de Lacey's report.

14/84 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th June, and of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th June, 2014 (previously circulated). The Minutes of the parish council's Annual General Meeting, held on 4th June, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Gordon, seconded by Cllr Godby, and approved unanimously. The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 18th June were proposed as a true record by Cllr Whittle, seconded by Cllr Williams and approved unanimously. The Chairman signed both sets of Minutes.

14/85 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

14/79.1 The Annual Return and Annual Governance Statement have been sent to the External Auditors. Noted by the Council.

14/86 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To accept the generous offer from the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust to provide a defibrillator to be located at a suitable point on the Pavilion external wall, to agree to accept the cost of fixing and maintaining the device (*Appendix D*)

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, and seconded by Cllr Cockley. A reserve of £40/year would be adequate for maintenance. The Health and Safety Officer could be asked to check the device, or Cllr L Taylor. Unanimously approved.

Mr Whitehouse was thanked for the offer and will be contacted regarding fitting etc. Mr Whitehouse left the meeting at this point.

2. To authorise the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Wellbrook Way Development Committee to negotiate with the Abbeyfield Society and bring to this council a proposal concerning the land to the north-west of the Abbeyfield building between Abbeyfield's fence and the footpath.

Misinformed by the surveyor, the fence is only 1m away from residents' windows. The Council didn't own the land when the fence was put in. Cllrs de Lacey, Williams and Gordon would meet with Abbeyfield regarding the arrangements, and bring this back to the Council. Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Godby. The land would need to be valued, and an amicable solution is sought. Cllr de Lacey agreed to circulate the plan and Cllr Gordon offered to show people round. Unanimously approved.

3. To approve the purchase of hardware and the employment of a consultant up to a

maximum of £3,000 to create a network for the Parish Office which will serve files from a central server and provide secure access from home for the Clerk and Finance Officer when necessary (*Appendix E*) The current system is not a sensible one and it is the ideal time to do this, with the appointment of a new RFO. The consultant was recommended by Rupert Moss-Eckhart and Cllr de Lacey would be happy to get more opinions. Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Gordon. One new computer is needed and this would be included in the £3,000. Cllr de Lacey would like to look at products other than QuickBooks. Windows XP is no longer supported by Microsoft. A virtual machine would be accessible via the computers. It offers the opportunity to update the system – Centos would be running Linux underneath and would run much faster. The upgrade is not in the budget, but could come from unallocated reserves. Cllr Barnes proposed an amendment that a budget of £3,000-£4,000 be agreed. Seconded by Cllr L Taylor. Approved with one abstention. Best value is needed. It was queried whether other councils use this system. Cllr Williams proposed that more than one quotation be received for hiring a consultant, seconded by Cllr Cockley. Cllr de Lacey agreed to try to find a second opinion – there were four votes in favour, and five against getting a second opinion. Cllr de Lacey will ask former councillor Mrs Garner for her comments. There were eight votes in favour and 1 abstention, for networking the Parish Office.

4. Girton Parish Council was surprised to learn that the area of the NW Cambridge development which lies within Girton Parish is to be named "Ridgeway Village". Contrary to claims made in the official press announcement this does not appear to have been brought to our attention in any consultation. We object to the use of the term 'village' to describe a part of our Parish which is clearly not a village in its own right. It is our understanding that this area will be a part of Girton Village and to call it otherwise will be confusing and inaccurate. We urge the University to reconsider this proposal therefore.

Proposed by Cllr Williams. Calling the area a village is not correct as it is part of Girton parish. As there is no criteria for the naming of areas, councils won't intervene. Concern was expressed that parts of Girton will be lost and it was suggested that Girton could be indicated on street signs. The Council unanimously agreed to propose a name such as Girton Ridgeway and to demand that the university reconsider, and drop the epithet 'village'.

14/87 Finance and Resource Management

This was Mrs Stone's last Parish Council meeting before her retirement. The Chairman thanked her for staying on and for all she has done as RFO.

1. To approve payments for the previous month. Proposed by Cllr Cockley, seconded by Cllr Barnes. Approved unanimously.
2. To approve the balance sheet. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr L Taylor. Approved unanimously.
3. To receive the Finance Report from 1st April, 2014 to date.

Received by the Council. The RFO spoke regarding reclaiming VAT. VAT-registered numbers are needed and there are three years in which to claim back VAT.

14/88 Correspondence (to be received)

1. 19 June 2014: Empowering parish councils to sell electricity
2. 20 June 2014: Correspondence regarding village flower tubs.
3. 1 July 2014: Correspondence from Girton Tennis Club regarding surfaces
4. 1 July 2014: Annual Report for Cambs Campaign to Protect Rural England
5. 4 July 2014: Correspondence about nature in Girton
6. 8 July 2014: Correspondence regarding play equipment at Recreation Ground
7. 9 July 2014: Invitation to IVC 75 year anniversary weekend, 13-14 September
8. 10 July 2014: Darwin Green 1 Art Project
9. 15 July 2014: Proposed pharmacy application

The Chairman noted that there were two extra items of correspondence received since the agenda was published – the NIAB art project and the pharmacy application. Received by the Council.

14/89 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix F*) There were no questions arising from Cllr de Lacey's report.
2. Girton Town Charity. The trustees had not met since the last meeting.
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix G*) GYP had been present at the Feast.
4. Footpaths. Footpath 4 is very much in need to cutting back. The appointment of a new Footpaths Officer will be discussed at the Environment Committee Meeting.
5. Water Management (*Appendix H*) Regarding funding flood defences, funding is being sought and Girton Parish Council is on the list. A funding information pack has not yet been sent by the Environment Agency. The next meeting with the Environment Agency is on 31st July, with Cllrs Whittle and de Lacey attending. It was queried whether those on the Somerset Levels are being asked to contribute to flood defences, as Girton is.
6. Wellbrook Way Development Committee. To reduce ongoing costs, the portable toilet has been removed and it is hoped to remove some security fencing soon. Not much progress has been made regarding the Community Hall.

14/90 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes

1. Planning Committee Meeting of 18th June, 2014 (previously circulated)
Received by the Council.

14/91 Matters raised by Members (for information only)

Concerns were raised over the commercial pharmacy application. The village is well-served by the current dispensary. A similar application was received four years ago. However, residents on the other side of the A14 bridge cannot get prescriptions from the surgery's dispensary.

Two man-hole covers in St Vincent's Close have been damaged by grass-cutting contractors.

There is graffiti on the Oakington Road bridge.

Cllrs Noble and Barnes were thanked for organising a successful Girton Feast as part of the Girton Village Celebrations Committee. More people need to be encouraged to help with next year's Feast.

The grass ridge next to the Pavilion needs building up to avoid a trip hazard.

The Parish Planning Forum offers the District Council the chance to update parish councils – next meeting is to be held at Cambourne on 22nd July.

NW Cambridge Development are actively consulting on street names.

Regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy, small changes have been made. The consultation continues for three weeks, to respond to the latest version.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm