

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 Tuesday 17th October, 2017 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 17/116.2

Present: (Cllrs) H Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Dashwood, de Lacey, Godby, Griffin, Kettle, Taylor (until end of item 17/116.2), Thorrold, Whittle.
Cllr L Harford (Cambs County Council) (until end of item 17/116.3)
Ms K Christodoulides (SCDC Planning), Mr J Wilding (Hill Residential) (until end of item 17/116.2)
4 members of the public (2 left at the end of item 17/116.2)

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk)

17/113 Welcome from the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Cllr Harford, developers for the Eddington site, Girton Town Charity Trustees and members of the public.

17/114 Apologies and reasons for absence. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Bygott and L Williams, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.

17/115 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda. Cllr Taylor declared an interest in item 17/116.1 as an employee of Cambridge City Council, a planning authority for the NW Cambridge site. The Chairman declared an interest in item 17/119.2 as a member of Girton Social Club and Chairman of the Village Institute Trustees.

17/116 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:

1. Presentation on Lots 1,2 & 4 at the North West Cambridge Development (Eddington) by representatives from Hill Residential. Mr J Wilding spoke about two parcels of land within Girton boundary, the first being Lot 4. This area is adjacent to the existing lots M1 and M2, and will be designed by the same architect. 77 homes are proposed, comprising two apartments buildings and 30 3/4 bedroom houses, framed around the veteran oak. The tertiary road network is now in place, and a basement car park will be provided for the lots. Lots S1 and S2 are closest to existing properties on Huntingdon Road. There will be 225 homes across these parcels of land. S1 comprises 2/3 storey housing. Towards Girton, the developers are looking for more red-brick and pitched-roofs. There will be 1-2 bedroom apartments plus 2/3/4 and 5 bedroom houses. Bay windows will be replicated across houses and apartments. There will be a basement car park for the apartments. Garages cannot be converted to housing and there will be one visitor space for every four dwellings on site. There will be one car parking space per dwelling for 1/2 bedroom homes and two spaces for up to 4 bedroom homes. All the properties are in Girton and all are for public sale. There may be community facilities in the Girton area of the development in future phases.
The Chairman thanked Mr Wilding.

2. Members of the Public. The Chairman of Girton Town Charity Trustees spoke about the commencement of building the William Collyn Community Centre at Wellbrook Way, named after a benefactor who bequeathed land in Girton in 1521.. Contractors will be Godfrey & Hicks and the project will commence on 30th October. It is expected to take 49 weeks to complete. No HGVs will be routed through the village and construction traffic will be limited during school times. The site for the car park and informal play area will be transferred to GTC, and efforts

are being made to chase up a missing land reference. Girton Town Charity are also looking to recruit a new Trustee under 60 years old and living south of the A14 in Girton, preferably with planning experience. This involves a one day per month commitment plus an evening meeting. Potential applicants are requested to contact Girton Town Charity.

The Chairman thanked Dr Hiley. Representatives of Hill Residential, Cllr Taylor and two members of the public left at this point.

3. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) Cllr Harford said how proud the village should be of Girton Glebe School, and needs to be supportive. Regarding a complaint about the Number 6 bus service, Andy Campbell of Stagecoach is looking into this and has asked the concerned resident for more details. A borrow pit is to be created at Girton Interchange and the Parish Council will want to comment on issues which may affect Girton. Comments have to be made via the County Council, and Cllr Harford will get back to us with the date by which comments are to be received. Cllr Harford and the Chairman are to meet to discuss implications on the village of upgrading Girton Interchange to a four-way junction. The County Council has voted to go ahead with proposals for children's centres. Romsey Mill is not closing but being relocated. Histon currently serves its location through outreach and this will increase. Cllr Harford is keen to hear of any concerns. The Chairman thanked her. Cllr Harford left the meeting at this point.

4. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Cllr de Lacey spoke of changes to the Planning system. Smaller developments are to be delegated to officers rather than the SCDC Planning Committee, and only in very contentious issues will it go to the Planning Committee. Next year, the planning departments of Cambridge City Council and SCDC are to merge with officers working over both authorities. On questioning he reiterated the need to go ahead with the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and will call a meeting of interested parties shortly.

5. Police Report (*Appendix C*) There was an incidence of vandalism on Girton Recreation Ground on 6th October, with a further outbreak of littering on the cricket pitch and Recreation Ground on 14th October. Cllr de Lacey will write to the Chief Constable to ask why not all events appear on E-Cops. The Close Pass Initiative in the UK encourages Cambridgeshire Constabulary to take part and the Police and Crime Commissioner is urged to take action. Cllrs Godby, Kettle and H Williams agreed to attend the Police Panel Meeting at Girton Pavilion on 19th October.

17/117 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th September, 2017. Proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, and approved with five abstentions.

17/118 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

17/107.3 The replacement sign for Town End Close's pond has been ordered.

17/107.4 The IT group met on 6th October and a contractor was selected for installation and maintenance of the new Parish Office IT system.

Noted by the Council.

17/119 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To approve a donation to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The Clerk gave details of donations for the past three years. The Chairman proposed that the donation be £75, as it was last year, seconded by Cllr Godby and approved unanimously.

2. To approve a donation to Girton Social Club for the Village Christmas Event on 8th December, 2017. Accounts had been received from last year's event, clarifying that donations made are from the raffle takings. Cllr de Lacey proposed a donation of £50, seconded by Cllr Godby. Approved with one abstention.

3. To approve a donation to Over-55s Christmas Party on 20th December, 2017 (*Appendix D*) The Chairman proposed free of charge use, seconded by Cllr Whittle. The Chairman then accepted an amendment that to ensure legal insurance cover remained in place. the Club be charged but then be given an equivalent donation. The amended motion was approved unanimously.

4. To approve the purchase of an updated IT system for Girton Parish Office. Cottenham Computers are local and competent and came out cheapest. The

Chairman has asked for a revised quotation as higher capacity storage hard drives are needed plus a multi-function printer able to print A3 plans. Total cost is now £2,615 inclusive of VAT. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Griffin. A service package is to be agreed later and is best dealt with separately. Approved unanimously.

5. To authorise a detailed costing of a new CCTV system. The current system is inadequate and needs replacing. It doesn't cover the Recreation Ground and Cricket Square, and high quality is needed to identify individuals. Sufficient clarity to identify number plates is highly desirable. The Chairman proposed and all agreed that Cllrs de Lacey, Griffin, and L Williams form a task group to develop costings.

17/120 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*Appendix E*) Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Whittle and approved unanimously.

17/121 Correspondence (to be received)

26th September: External Auditor's correspondence on the Annual Return 2016-17 Received by the Council.

17/122 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix F*) The Chairman has tried to chase-up the SCDC Tree Officer regarding the Holm Oak replacement.
2. Girton Town Charity. Trustees had been present earlier at the meeting to report on the new Community Centre's progress and recruiting a new trustee.
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix G*) Cllr Kettle is to ask GYP for a plan for the graffiti wall.
4. Footpaths. Cllr de Lacey is to keep trying to obtain quotations for works at Dovehouse Close.
5. Water Management. Cllr Whittle reported that the Environment Agency is still waiting for Highways England to make a decision on legacy funding.
6. Human Resources. An interview for Finance Officer has been arranged for 1st November. The Clerk will invite the applicant to meet at Churchfield Court. The Chairman and Cllr de Lacey confirmed that they had no further questions to add. The Clerk is to circulate a copy of the contract and pay scale details for the post to members of the HR Committee.

17/123 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes (to be circulated) None.

17/124 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.

A bonfire on the Recreation Ground was suggested to use wood from the dismantled WI Hall. This is too late for this year's Bonfire Night however.

Gretton School has asked the Chairman to become an Independent Listener. He has declined but is to gather more information on the role and bring it to the next meeting. Cllr Thorrold expressed an interest in the position.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

APPENDIX A

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report to Parish Councils

October 2017

This month has provided me with the usual quota of meetings some of which were ... well

let's say not so inspiring as the two I attended with the Headteacher and Chair of

Governors of Girton Glebe Primary School. Over the last year or so the three of us have met a few times with County Council Officers as the school has wrestled with funding challenges. Over this time I have learned much about the quality of leadership that has raised the school's performance so that it now rivals and, in some areas, surpasses that of other establishments locally. I am not sure that many of us really understand the demands made upon teaching staff but none of these seems to distract from this school's firm belief that children's personal and social development is as important as their academic progress. Statistics evidence the school's success in providing the latter. First hand observation tells me that this friendly, inclusive school at the heart of Girton's village community is delivering so much more. It would be unfair for me not to say that my respect and admiration extends to all the headteachers and their teams in the primary schools within the division with whom I am equally well acquainted. I know that they are all faced every day with similar challenges and have to use skills that would have been unheard of in teaching staff of my youth. It just happens that this month I was so forcibly reminded of teachers' dedication by these particular meetings and I hope you will agree it is nice for me to have such a positive message to deliver at the start of my October report.

The subject that has prompted the largest number of emails from residents this month has been the County Council's proposal to change the way services that are currently provided through Children's Centres are delivered in the future. As soon as the proposal came forward I met with relevant Council Officers to establish exactly what it would mean for us locally and was reassured that little would change. Much of what the centres deliver is already through outreach which will continue. One benefit will be in freeing up space for

much needed additional Early Years places. Most of those emailing me of their concerns have not actually been resident in the division. I have received separate emails from one couple in Dry Drayton, two from Girton residents and none at all to date from Bar Hill or Lolworth. Councillors will debate the proposals at the meeting of full Council this month and by the time I attend your meetings I will be able to advise the outcome and answer any questions or concerns that you have.

Since an initial call last year for parishes to suggest how links to public transport could be improved, six villages have been working with the Council and the Greater Cambridge Partnership [GCP] to look at how the idea of rural travel hubs could work in practice. A well attended event was held in September to continue this initiative by the GCP to get more people out of their cars and using public transport, cycling or walking. Most locally to us, Oakington Parish Council may be able to use this as an opportunity to address some of the unintended consequences of the success of the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway [CGB]. The Parish Council's ambition to make a change to the bus route will certainly benefit Girton. The work so far has indicated that connecting SCambs villages to each other as well as to Cambridge is important but other factors have also been highlighted: the issue of space to build a facility and reducing on-street parking around rail stations/bus stops among them. It has been stressed that this should be a 'bottom up' initiative allowing villages themselves to drive the projects and that there is not a one size fits all definition of a rural travel hub. It has provided, too, an opportunity for neighbouring villages to support each other and investigate mutually beneficial proposals.

Profiting from its new status as a devolved authority the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority [CPCA] submitted a bid for £193m from the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund's Forward Funding Pot to facilitate development of Cambridge Northern Fringe East. If the bid is successful it will allow for the relocation of Anglian Water's Cambridge Water Recycling Centre and unlock the potential for 7,600 new homes to support new jobs on the Cambridge Science Park and in the Greater Cambridge area generally. The other two proposals considered were for the Huntingdon Third River Crossing and Wisbech Garden Town. Whilst they were unsuccessful on this occasion support was given by members of the CPCA for seeking future funding opportunities for these two proposals.

CPCA also endorsed funding bids submitted by constituent District Councils including one from SCambs to the Government's Marginal Viability Fund which seeks to get stalled developments moving. The SCambs bid is for £2m to develop Cambourne High Street and deliver much needed additional affordable homes. The scheme given permission in 2012 for the provision of 8,000 square feet of retail space proved unviable due to the high cost of essential road widening and relocation of a complex network of electric cables, sewers and broadband links. A successful bid would allow for the development of shops and restaurant space as well as 120 additional homes. Successful bids will be announced between December this year and February next year.

I have checked the Transport Investment Plan [TIP] details of which were presented to the Economy & Environment Committee this month. It is extremely long and depressingly most of the schemes on it will remain little more than a pipe dream until a

source of funding can be identified for them. I confirm that the schemes for which both Girton and Dry Drayton have expressed desire have been included as I requested but in the main these also fall into the category of no funding solution currently identified. The only exception is the link from Wellbrook Way which will, when it comes forward, receive funding from the Darwin Green development.

I have been fascinated to discover 'Your Library in the Palm of your Hand' available via an app called Spydus Mobile which can be downloaded from either the Apple iTunes Store or the Android Play Store. Effectively this is an anywhere 24/7 library. You can search for books, e-books, films, music and more. Once you've found what you are looking for, you can download, save or reserve the items. It also has a 'Discover' feature which can provide suggested reading via featured new lists, new arrivals or personalised recommendations. Another innovation by the Library service which you may find useful.

And finishing on another technological topic: this month I became an 'Uber' subscriber. I never get into politics in my reports so won't comment on the recent position taken by the London Mayor but what I have learned is: it is generally cheaper than other providers, incredibly efficient and reliable. I took the opportunity to talk to my driver each time. None had any complaints about terms and conditions. All were unfailing courteous and good conversationalists.

I look forward to hearing your comments and questions about the items in this report or any other

local or strategic matter either at October's Parish Council meetings or directly by email.

Lynda

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APPENDIX B

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey 13. 10. 2017

The University's North-West Cambridge site has played unwilling host to a community of Travellers; I feared that when evicted they would seek a site in Girton. In the event they have moved to Madingley, but no doubt they will soon be forced to leave there too. I have discussed our concerns with the College porters, and we shall keep in touch.

The NWC project managers have clarified the parking situation I mentioned last month, assuring me that there is no intention that the market housing should need to use Sainsbury's car park, which will indeed be entirely under Sainsbury's control. The enormous sign advertising the opening of the store which appeared in September was entirely illicit as no planning application was even made, let alone approved, and -- after a surprisingly extended and complex conversation -- has finally been removed. It is disappointing that large companies believe they can ignore the law in their own commercial interests. The remaining sign is the one we approved, and must be removed within 18 months (and not, as I mistakenly said last month, three years).

Since we launched our suite of shared services with other Councils there has been a barrage of complaints; the service most pertinent to our residents is probably the `service desk'. One major complaint was that voicemail messages left (because there was no human available to take a call) were not being answered. It was not hugely reassuring to read that in future voicemail messages will prompt an automated email response (we are not told how an email address is garnered from a phone message), as though that solves this problem.

You may be aware that Transport for London refused to re-register Uber because of inadequacies in its organisation. SCDC has registered 50 Uber drivers and we are assured that they are subject to exactly the same rigorous conditions as all our other taxi and private car drivers.

We have been informed that from 5 November Citi 5 & 6 Sunday and bank holiday buses will be `up to 16 minutes earlier'.

In the Council meeting on 28 September, we were invited to comment on the offer SCDC is proposing to make to Parishes working on Neighbourhood Plans (NHPs). It was difficult to be complimentary. I had sat on the group which developed the proposals, but we were hampered by increasingly limited resources. NHPs were intended to be locally-led, community-led visions for our villages, but the final draft envisages significant use of professional planners which seems contrary to this vision. Money is probably less of an issue to parishes than local resources: local SCDC and IT officers, environmental experts and those who could work with a local village team. It is not clear these are adequately available. We also noted that the complete failure of our Local Plan makes a mockery of any attempt to plan the development of our District or our local communities.

Council received a report from the Combined Authority. An attempt to increase significantly the Mayor's budget was `called in' by the Scrutiny Committee, not just because of the

unreasonable demands on the public purse but also because it indicates that the Mayor's cabinet has no ability to determine properly the needs, despite the requirement for their 'informed decisions'. Our Scrutiny Committee member also commented on an interview with one Cabinet Member so manifestly out of his depth as to be embarrassing.

A question was asked about our Leader's multiple roles, and whether he can reasonably fulfil his role as Leader with so many other responsibilities. All he was prepared to say was 'I carry out a number of roles'; not in itself very reassuring. I asked a question about staff morale and staff losses among our lower-paid employees, having had some very worrying conversations with some of the members of our waste disposal team. The answer was that recruitment and retention did not seem to be problematic, and that our use of agency staff was not a drain on our resources. It did not really address my concern about morale, and I had no answer to my proposal that pay rises should no longer be proportional (a percentage increase) but be equal among all ranks.

I was back next day for the Corporate Governance meeting. We have a problem with the valuation of our housing estate being about £50M out, but our auditors did not seem too worried. More worrying is that the Government's deadlines for fully audited accounts are being brought forward and we do not appear to have the capacity to manage this. I had to leave early for a meeting with the senior Planning team, but as I did so I drew the committee's attention to a statement in our auditor's report that 'no evidence of value for money was found'; I anticipate the auditors will have acknowledged the omission of a vital word.

The meeting with the planning team was a bit bleak. We still have a large backlog of applications and concerns over staff confidence; planning staff feel under fire from members and we need to build confidence. We suggested that we should be involved more by officers; for instance in pre-application discussions. We should hear from the Local Plan inspector next month, so far we have little inkling of what her report will say. It's hard to say what value NHPs will have until the Local Plan is adopted. All sites with approval are now building and we hope NIAB plans will come in soon. We are looking at pre-fab houses (6 staff can erect one in 4 days ready for habitation) but the total cost is greater than conventional build. We would encourage self-build but that requires all the infrastructure to be in place. We are discussing sending only electronic plans to parishes which would have implications for residents wishing to view them. Under the new scheme of delegation it is assumed that the Planning Committee will only look at larger developments unless there are exceptional circumstances in a single-unit application. The team acknowledged that communication with parishes is not as good as it might be, but the parish forum is the primary means and parishes are always invited.

Our neighbouring parish of Histon and Impington celebrated a 'Mental Wellbeing Week' in mid-October with a range of events calculated to promote mental health and encourage people with concerns to find help. I attended a workshop on 'Mental Wellbeing in the Community' which attracted a range of participants from local councillors to mental health charities. HI have just appointed a Mental Health Champion (who lives in Girton). We might learn from their experience.

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX C
Police Report for October 2017

CF0572131017
04/10/2017 22:00 - 05/10/2017 07:00
Thornton Close, Girton.
Theft from a motor vehicle, tools taken

CF0582421017

06/10/17 22.30-23.00

Girton Recreation Ground Car Park, Cambridge Road, Girton
Vandalism to waste bins and signs.

APPENDIX D

Request for Donation – over 55's Christmas Party

Dear Councillors

Once again Club 55 – Girton is planning a Christmas Party for the over 55's and less able of the village. The party is to be held in Girton Pavilion on Wednesday 20th December 2017 at

lunchtime.

In 2016 the Club held the party for the first time and with help from Girton Parish Council managed to put on a successful lunchtime event. Many of you will have heard on the 'village grape vine' about its success or otherwise. A collection during the event managed to raise over £192 for A.C.T (Addenbrookes Charitable Trust). Performers gave their time freely or worked for A.C.T and this was most also helpful to us.

We are trying to keep our expenses down in order to give everyone the best possible party for the low cost of £5 per person and allowing carers to come along free of charge. Club 55 members will give their time freely hoping that this low price will entice those people who rarely get chance to get out the opportunity and incentive to come along. This may also be a chance for the carers to have a pleasant afternoon.

We expect to produce a buffet meal and serve mulled wine as well as putting on some musical entertainment including Christmas Carols plus other entertainment.

I would ask that the Parish Council be kind enough to donate enough money to cover the cost of hiring the Pavilion for this function - it would help us enormously.

Addenbrookes Hospital serves our villagers well and the more elderly probably use it more often than the young. I hope you will be able to help us.

Very best wishes from all Club 55 members.

Yours faithfully

Sam Clift

APPENDIX E

Payments Schedule for October 2017 (please see separate document)

APPENDIX F

Chairman's Report 11th October 2017

As reported last month there were a number of queries received about the Annual Return from our external auditor. These related to failure to provide all the requested information with the original submission. Our contracted accountant was not of assistance so we endeavoured to answer the questions as best we could. This was successful in that the Return has now been signed off but it has been commented that there is an inconsistency in the way lump sum receipts have been accounted for. It appears that S106 income and large donations have been kept outside the receipts and expenditures account but added to the reconciled bank/savings accounts. This has no real consequence but is an issue that seems to date back about 10 years and has never been noted before by either internal or external auditors. It appears that the question has been thrown up by a junior member of staff at the auditors who has taken the job a little more seriously than those in previous years. It is hoped that our next RFO will be able to rectify matters. Interview of the one candidate for the vacant RFO position has been delayed by unforeseen circumstances but it is hoped that it will happen soon.

A further meeting of the IT group has agreed the preferred supplier conditional on satisfactory answers to a few questions. The final costs will be presented to the meeting for approval.

We still await a second quotation for the car park refurbishment and when this is available will meet the GTC project management team to agree the way forward.

I met the Highways Officer responsible for roads in our area and inspected reported problems with Cherry Bounds Road. Remedial work is proposed. I also mentioned the long standing

issue with speed humps and junction 'cushions' along the length of Girton and Cambridge Roads. He has promised to deal with these but it may take longer than we would wish. I have chased up the South Cambs. Tree Officer in relation to the replacement of the Holm oak near Cotton Hall. I find that a new person is now in post and is slowly catching up with a backlog. She has promised to help but progress may again be slower than we wish therefore. Regrettably I have to report more vandalism at the recreation ground area close to the Pavilion. On Friday evening waste bins were thrown about, and signs uprooted and damaged. Matters have been reported to the Police but is unlikely that any real action can be taken.
Haydn Williams

APPENDIX G

Summary of Girton Youth Project Report – September 2017

The YMCA have just undergone a successful merger with Suffolk and will now be known as YMCA Trinity instead of YMCA Cambridge and Peterborough, all invoices will have to be changed. Now the merger has been made official marketing are working hard on our new GYP website, hopefully this will be up and running by the end of October, as well as the new flyers and banner.

Cotton Hall trustees have fixed the leaking shed, unfortunately there has been damage made to the YMCA sumo-suits that was stored in there. However, Bruce has been very accommodating with the issue and has said a claim can be made through Cotton Hall insurances. I also raised some questions regarding August invoice for Cotton Hall, we was charged £45 for use of the office for the month although this was inaccessible due to it being re-decorated, likewise the internet was turned off for this month so have sought compensation for the bill we have paid. This will be discussed at the trustee meeting on the 17th of October.

This month Histon Football ground hosted a Kick Cancer cup tournament, that raised over £6000 for the oncology unit at Addenbrookes, GYP donated a paintball experience to the raffle in exchange for a whole page in the programme advertising the youth project.