

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 16th January, 2018 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 18/04.2

Present: (Cllrs) H Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Dashwood, de Lacey, Godby, Griffin, Kettle, Kirby, Taylor, L Williams.

Cllr L Harford (Cambs County Council) (until end of item 18/04.3)

1 member of the public

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk)

18/01 Welcome from the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Cllr Harford, the member of the public, and Cllr Kirby, who had signed the Acceptance of Office prior to the meeting.

18/02 Apologies and reasons for absence. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Bygott, Thorrold and Whittle, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.

18/03 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda. None.

18/04 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:

1. Presentation on proposed change of use at Manor Farm. This item was deferred. Change of Use is to be submitted to SCDC in the next few weeks. The site is not going to be a kennels, and the owner will be happy to speak to the Council in due course. It is classed as a major development only because of the size of land involved.
2. Members of the Public. The member of the public spoke of his concern for muddy footpaths and queried whether chippings could be put at the end of footpaths for members of the public to spread. Chippings are used effectively around the allotment gates. There is currently a shortage of wood chippings. Atlas Tree Surgery to be contacted by Cllr Griffin to see if they could put chippings in a certain place for distribution (eg allotments site). Cllr de Lacey is to contact the A14 contractors to see if they have any chippings.
3. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*). Cllr Harford spoke about the problems at the junction of High Street and Cambridge Road, and she has been in communication with Highways Officers. According to their criteria, the registered number of incidents doesn't support statutory requirements to investigate further. There is a discrepancy between what the residents have observed and what the Highways Officers have observed, so a Project Officer is to come out to look at the possibility of signage. Damage to the walls of the language school and neighbouring dwelling has occurred more than once. The Parish Council could apply for a Local Highways Improvement Grant, putting in 10% of the total, to fund road safety measures, and should let Cllr Harford know if this is to be taken forward. Cyclists and pedestrians feel vulnerable: Girton Glebe School reported that a child had been run off the road by a motorist. In Cottenham, school children have designed advisory signs - Cllr Harford has details. The cost in October 2016 was £254 for five A2 laminated signs and clips. The Glebe's headmaster is keen to collaborate on this project. Cllr Harford agreed to forward details of the criteria Highways would need to do something about the problems at the Cambridge Road/High Street junction. It is to be mentioned in Girton Parish News how important it is to report all incidents of damage or injury. The camber

should also be looked at as it may allow a point of opposition to the Highways decision. Cllr Harford left the meeting at this point.

4. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Cllr de Lacey spoke about 'designation'. This would mean that the District Council was put in special measures and planning applications would be handed over to Inspectors who would approve all applications. This would be a real problem. Currently in the absence of a Local Plan, the Council can try to encourage developers to change their views. Whereas a Planning Inspector would not put any conditions on applications. Cllr de Lacey is to speak to the Senior Planning Team.

5. Police Report (*Appendix C*) Cllr Godby had attended the Neighbourhood Watch Executive Meeting held the previous week. The Police and Crime Commissioner has published an on-line survey asking whether an extra £1 on the precept for policing would be acceptable. To date the majority appear to be in agreement with this. It is to be mentioned in the Girton Parish News, for the public to have their say on the proposed increase.

18/05 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th December, 2017 (previously circulated). The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, approved with three abstentions and signed by the Chairman.

18/06 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

17/143.1 Ms Kirby has been notified in writing about her co-option to the Council.

17/143.2 The Chairman has written to Girton Bowls Club regarding maintenance arrangements and requested they forward more detailed accounts.

17/143.3 Mr Stearn will meet with Parish Council staff to discuss working arrangements during the Groundsman's absence On annual leave

17/146.1 The Chairman and Clerk are to meet with contract accountants regarding finance officer duties.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Kirby as a new member of the Council.

18/07 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To approve a precept request for the financial year 2018-2019 of £117,561, representing an increase of 5% which will cover a general fee increase of 3% and the difference added to reserves to cover the car park costs or pavilion building loft refurbishment and/or sinking fund.

A rise of 3% will cover inflation, but 5% will leave a margin for reserve funds we may need. The Chairman proposed a precept request of £117,561. Committees are to meet and look at what they need to do over the next financial year. Seconded by Cllr Godby, and approved with two abstentions.

2. To agree financial matters relating to the car park redevelopment. The Chairman explained there has been a meeting between the Parish Council, Girton Town Charity and the contractors Northmores. Progress is very slow, and two consultants have been appointed. Northmores are looking at the design of the drains and whether to replace the current one with a new soakaway or link the current drainage points to a storm drain near the entrance to the car park. The drains would need to contain sudden surges under the car park, and would cost as much as a soakaway. Additional costs should be met by Girton Town Charity. It is expected to complete the works by June, divided into two time slots of half car park closure each.

3. To approve a contractor for the grass cutting contract at Girton Recreation Ground, for 1st March 2018 – 29th February 2020, the contract to be reviewable annually (details circulated). The Chairman proposed the AJ King's tender be approved dependent on clarification of vertidrainage costs and that the figures are fixed. Seconded by Cllr de Lacey. Approved unanimously.

4. To approve a contractor for the grass verge cutting contract for 1st March 2018 – 29th February, 2020, the contract to be reviewable annually (details circulated). This item was deferred to the February meeting as three written quotations had not been received in time for the meeting.

5. To agree interim finance measures pending the appointment of a Finance Officer and preparation of the end of year financial return. The Chairman noted that as there has been no strong interest expressed in the Finance Officer role. Coles Accountants had been approached to bring the accounts up to date and to prepare the end of year return at a cost of £20/hour. The Chairman proposed that they be employed on a contractual basis to undertake these works in the first instance, seconded by Cllr Griffin. Approved unanimously.
6. To agree a response to the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Main Modification Consultation (correspondence item 18/09.1) A possible response drafted by Cllr de Lacey could be approved at an extraordinary meeting.

18/08 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*Appendix D*) The payments schedule had been checked before the meeting by Cllr Griffin. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Griffin and approved with one abstention.

18/09 Correspondence (to be received)

1. 8 January, 2018: Letter regarding Cambridge Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Main Modification Consultation.
2. 10 January, 2018: Correspondence regarding safety issues at junction of High Street/Cambridge Road, Girton.

18/10 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix C*) There was no update on the Wellbrook Way lagoon.
2. Girton Town Charity.
3. Girton Youth Project. Cllr Kettle reported that there are no plans for the graffiti wall. The leader of GYP will speak with Girton Tennis Club regarding the wall.
4. Footpaths. Cllr de Lacey has spoken with residents regarding footpaths likely to be affected by the A14 works. It was noted that encroaching undergrowth is obscuring lighting on the footway between Girton and Histon.
5. Water Management. No report this month.

18/11 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes. None.

18/12 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.

The Cambridge City boundary marker has been seen on private property.

A resident is happy to help revamp the website and Cllrs H Williams, L Williams and de Lacey are to meet with her.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

APPENDIX A
County Councillor's January Report
(forwarded separately)

APPENDIX B
Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey 10. 01. 2018

I mentioned in my November report that the JDCC had rejected the office block at Cambridge North station. Instead of appealing the developers presented to the December meeting proposals for a slightly

smaller and re-positioned building which addressed all our concerns. When the detailed plans are ready approving them should be a mere formality. We were also given presentations about the two Marshalls developments: one with enthusiastic language about it being 'unique in terms of health and wellbeing' with 'dedicated cycleways'. Questioning elicited, however, that these are nothing more than slightly sub-standard shared-use paths. It is a real pity that developers are prepared to abuse the terminology to disguise their failure to incorporate really first-rate facilities. Nor were they at all concerned about the location of the City-District boundary; we have seen in NWC just how problematic that can be.

Our 'community champion' has contacted me again to tell me of another County Council fund. This means that since her appointment she has justified her £5000 allowance by forwarding me just two pieces of publicly-available information. No doubt someone in County Hall thinks this is a bargain at a monthly rate of over £400 per communication.

Following the appalling behaviour of our Leader over the Local Plan, the Inspector has again written to the Council. We are now able to go out to consultation with a vast number -- 300 -- of 'main modifications' which if approved would be built into the Plan. Even with these it is not clear the Plan will be acceptable. Officers put on a brave face at a Member briefing but the situation is clearly not good. For Girton there are at least 3 relevant amendments:

* SC-MM030 car clubs in NIAB become merely optional

* SC-MM031 ditto dedicated bus routes; cycles routes are no longer required to be segregated from pedestrians

* SC-MM035 The area of the NIAB development is increased, and this allows 100 more dwellings. Officers deny this is an increase since the original plan gave it as an option, but it looks that way to me.

The details are at www.scambs.gov.uk/mainmods and if you wish to comment the deadline is 16 February. If you do comment please note the stern warning on that page:

'The Inspectors have advised the Councils take a rigorous approach to accepting only those comments that relate to the advertised modifications.

Any comments made that go beyond commenting on the Main Modifications or the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal that are the subject of this consultation will not be registered.' You should give reasons if you wish to register an objection to any part of the Plan.

The opposition leaders had a meeting with the CEO on 9 February.

We discussed the Combined Authority and our relationship with the mayor. The CEO wishes to work less formally than in big meetings and does have meetings with him, though not regularly. We shall be responsible for the £100M housing grant. The CEO thinks the CA does provide us with more access to the levers of power. We asked that both the mayor and the PCC be asked to meet the Council.

We discussed concerns that the new rubbish collection regime appears to have a number of rules which have not been made clear. Side waste is no longer welcome for the blue bin unless it is in a transparent sack -- something that supermarkets have only just begun to stock. I fear that this will mean residents just putting recyclable paper and card into the green bin because it is easiest. We have asked for investigation.

The news on planning throughput was encouraging, but the news on successful appeals over rejected planning applications decidedly was not: we are very close to being designated as a result. 'Designation', as I think I explained some time ago, is like a school being put into special measures; it would mean we would lose all control over planning applications which could be submitted directly to the Planning Inspectorate. We shall meet the senior planning team very shortly.

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX C
Police Report: December 2017 – January 2018

CF0747011217

27/12/2017 19:00 - 28/12/2017 08:00

A14 Junc M11 & A14, Girton, Major Route

Theft from a motor vehicle, lorry broken into and contents within taken.

Date Occurred: 09/01/2018 17:30 - 10/01/2018 17:30hrs

Location: Thornton Close, Girton

Description: Unknown offender/s have gained entry to an insecure vehicle and taken a purse from within.

APPENDIX D
Payments Schedule – January 2018
(please see separate document)

APPENDIX E
Chairman's Report
11th January 2018

Our internal auditor has failed to respond to phone messages and emails requesting possible engagement to bring accounts up to date. We have therefore approached a Cambridge based accountancy firm and a meeting is scheduled for next week.

The GTC Project Management Company, Northmores, are progressing the car park refurbishment albeit very slowly. They have appointed various contractors in respect of 'Civil, Structures, Highways & Principal Design' and 'Cost Consultant'. I have discussed with our architect and in a meeting with GTC have reiterated that we do not consider them necessary for the car park works. GTC have stated that they will cover costs where they are clearly related to the fence, bus shelter and footpath enhancements. The only likely additional cost to the PC will relate to resolution of questions on drainage.

We have received reports of problems of drainage from the 'lagoon' in Wellbrook Way.

Taylor Wimpey are exploring the cause and will resolve if it is still within their remit.

Ultimately when the roads are adopted this may well become the PCs responsibility so we hope to get fully resolved before adoption.

Residents near the junction of High Street and Cambridge Road have expressed concern about numerous traffic accidents on the bend leading to damage to their garden wall. The Language School have also reported an incident in December which removed a bollard and damaged brickwork in their wall. We have reported these matters to Highways and Lynda Harford and she is putting our case for additional safety measures to be installed with urgency.

It is sad to report that someone saw fit to smash a window pane in the Community Book Exchange near Pepys Way before Christmas; the result no doubt of indulgence in the wrong sort of Christmas Spirit! It is to be hoped it does not become a regular occurrence.

Thanks again to the volunteers who helped put up, (Douglas, Andy, Anne and Susie), and take down, (Douglas and Susie), the Christmas lights on the Pavilion and Cotton Hall. Best wishes to all for a happy and successful 2018.

Haydn Williams