

## **Girton Parish Council**

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Susan Cumming                      The Pavilion  
Clerk to the Parish Council              Girton Recreation Ground  
Telephone: (01223) 472181              Cambridge Road, Girton  
Email: clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk              Cambridge CB3 0FH

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2019**

**at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Girton, at 7.00 p.m.**

*Residents in the parish were invited to attend this meeting and to speak at Item 19/50.1*

**Present:** (Cllrs) Williams (Chairman), Cockley, Dashwood, Hickford, Kettle, Mitchell, Rodger, Thomason, Thorrold.

1 member of the public (until the end of item 19/50.1)

**In attendance:** S Cumming (Clerk)

**19/45              To elect the Parish Council Chairman for 2019-20.** Cllr Hickford proposed that Cllr Williams be elected Chairman, seconded by Cllr Cockley and approved unanimously.

**19/46      The Chairman to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.** The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**19/47              Welcome from the Chairman.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**19/48              Apologies and Reasons for Absence.** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Buckler, Godby, Griffin, County Councillor Harford, and District Councillors Bygott and de Lacey. In future, all Councillors will be asked to supply a reason if not able to attend meetings.

**19/49              Members' declarations for items on the agenda.** None.

**19/50              Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**

1. Members of the Public. Mr T Smith of Girton College spoke about the College's forthcoming events.
2. County Councillor's Report. Cllr Harford had presented her report at the Annual Parish Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.
3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix A*)
4. Police Report. There was no report this month.

**19/51              To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2019** (previously circulated). The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Rodger, and approved with one abstention.

**19/52              Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**

**19/53              Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To elect a Vice-Chairman for 2019-20. Current Vice-Chairman Cllr Griffin is recovering after a serious operation and would like to stand down. The Chairman proposed that Cllr Cockley be appointed, seconded by Cllr Dashwood. Approved unanimously.
2. To approve the dates of the Parish Council Meetings for 2019-20. The Chairman proposed that meetings continue to be held at 7.00pm on the third Tuesday of the month. Approved unanimously.
3. To approve, agree the sizes of, agree the frequency of meetings of, and appoint members of, the proposed Standing Committees for 2019-20 as follows:
  - a) Planning Committee
  - b) Sport and Recreation Committee
  - c) Environment Committee
  - d) Finance, Planning and Resources Committee
  - e) Human Resources Committee
4. To approve Parish Council Task and Finish Groups.
5. To appoint trustees, representatives and advisors, if necessary, for 2019-20.
  - a) Youth Work Liaison Officer. Cllr Kettle agreed to continue in this role.

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  - b) CAPALC Representative. Cllr Godby agreed to continue.
  - c) Police Liaison Officer. Cllr Godby agreed to continue.
  - d) Public Rights of Way (Footpaths) Officer. Ms C Garvie had agreed to continue.
  - e) Flood and Drainage Officer. Cllr Rodger will work with Prof Irvine.
  - f) Warden of Town End Close Nature Reserve. Mr G Thorpe had agreed to continue.
  - g) Tree Officer. Cllr Griffin will continue in this post.
  - h) Health and Safety Advisor. The post remains vacant.
  - i) Child Protection Officer. Cllr Kettle will continue this role.
6. To approve the following annual subscriptions: CAPALC, CPRE, Cambs ACRE, and SLCC.
7. To approve implementation of nationally approved pay scales for parish council employees for 2019-20, to be backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2019 (tabled at the meeting)
8. To approve the siting of Virgin Media cabinets at Wellbrook Way (*Appendix D*)
9. To consider Girton Bowls Club's request to show sponsorship signage on the Bowls Green Fence (*Appendix B*)

**19/54 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*Appendix C*). The payments schedule had been checked before the meeting by Cllr Cockley. Proposed by Cllr Cockley, seconded by Cllr Mitchell, and approved unanimously.
2. To receive end of year financial reports.

**19/55 Correspondence (to be received)**

**19/56 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix D*)
2. Girton Town Charity Report. No report this month.
3. Girton Youth Project. No report this month.
4. Footpaths Officer. No report this month.
5. Water Management Report (*Appendix E*) Cllr Rodger was thanked for the report.

**19/57 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.**

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

**APPENDIX A**

**i) Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey 7. 5. 2019**

It has been a busy month, though not much of it of particular relevance to the Parish. I have attended the funeral of a former Chairman of the Council, attended a workshop on scrutiny skills, raised a flag for St George, and attended the 50th birthday celebration of the Farmland Museum.

The JDCC met to assess the plans for the Eddington hotel and some revisions to the Trumpington Park and Ride expansion. Unfortunately owing to IT problems we could not be sure that any objections had been duly received, so had to delegate the decisions to our Head of Planning, which is not best practice.

Cabinet has significantly improved the haphazard way in which various grants have been allocated in the past. For instance instead of an elite (and elitist) sports grant which has for instance paid for one boy to go to the USA for a shooting competition, sports grants will in future focus on community events. And on 1 May Cabinet approved a new pot for a Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme. This will give large grants (up to 15 000) to effective plans to reduce carbon emissions in our villages

boy to go to the USA for a shooting competition, sports grants will in future focus on community events. And on 1 May Cabinet approved a new pot for a Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme. This will give large grants (up to 15,000) to effective plans to reduce carbon emissions in our villages. My only concern was that to produce a proper business plan for such an application a community might need a little seed funding, and this was understood and accepted. Cabinet also received the proposals from our consultants for a restructuring of the way the Council works which although roundly condemned by the leader of the major opposition Group (who complained very reasonably that his Group had not been at all involved in the consultants' consultations) will now be progressed with some concrete proposals. Our major need at present is for stability so it is urgent that any decisions are made expeditiously.

On the evening of 1 May I attended the opening of one of Histon's new ventures: the opening the Worry Tree Café. The concept is simple: a 2 hour slot at the cafe in the St Andrew's Centre, specifically for people with any kind of mental health issue. As you go in there is a small tree on which you can place all your worries, perhaps by writing them on a label you can tie on to the tree. The concept has already been demonstrated to make a big difference to many people, so if you are within striking distance of Histon try it on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month 5--7pm.

Douglas de Lacey

## ii) District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott

### **Progress on the A14 and the A1307 local road**

Work continues on the A14 upgrade, which so far seems to be on track for completion next December. There have been inconveniences, and no doubt there will be more to cope with until then, but hopefully the new road will be worth the wait.

The local road parallel to the A14 has been designated an extension to the A1307, and the first section northbound from Huntingdon Road to the new roundabout on Oakington Road in Dry Drayton, has recently opened, and work continues on the southbound route.

During the works, and during the preceding period when the A14 has been operating at capacity, blockages and congestion have been one of the causes of rat-running through our villages. The additional lanes on the A14 to carry the long-distance traffic, combined with a parallel local road, will make this disruption much less likely in the future. This hopefully will be the case both for cars driving through Madingley and Dry Drayton to join the A14 at the Oakington junction, and those driving through to the A428 when the A14 is blocked or congested.

### **Tool kit to tackle loneliness**

A document called the tool kit to tackle loneliness has recently been published, which will guide Parish Councils and resident groups help residents suffering from loneliness and social isolation. Although South Cambs ranked last year as 322 out of 326 English district level local authority areas for multiple deprivation, isolation is one issue where we have a major problem. Statistics from Age UK state that half a million older people nationally go at least 5 days a week without seeing or speaking to anyone.

The toolkit provides a wide range of projects that are taking place across SCDC with a description and overview of each, how they got started, how they were funded and who helped with advice and guidance. There are some examples within the toolkit from other villages with case studies that have been used as examples of good practice. Clearly not every case study will fit every village but many of our parishes are already doing an enormous amount in terms of bringing communities together. This is done through a variety of different groups such as gardening societies, car shares, repair cafés, well-being groups, exercise clubs and art projects, all of which bring people together. It is worth having a look at the toolkit on the SCDC website if only to see what things other parishes are offering and maybe to give you new ideas of what else to consider.

### **How to avoid your waste ending up on an illegal fly tip**

There has been a significant number of large-scale fly tips reported recently, including an estimated 30 tonnes dumped on private land near Fulbourn. It appears that a number of cases are likely to be commercial operations, with contractors who are hired to dispose of rubbish by householders - with the promise of disposing of or recycling the waste legally - instead dumping the waste to avoid paying the costs associated with lawful disposal. For example, dumping a 30 tonne load of waste as in the case mentioned above, could save the criminals posing as contractors £1,300 but, by passing on the bill to gather, clear and legally dispose of the waste, this will cost private land owners or councils considerably more.

The Council is running a programme to urge householders to be "Waste Aware", by being careful when employing a contractor to remove waste from their property, or engaging a company to provide them with a "skip" to dispose of waste in. It is quite common for householders to pay for a skip to be delivered, and then removed with its contents, when undertaking building works. Companies that provide this kind of service must be registered with the Environment Agency in order to be able to dispose of their waste. This enables reputable companies to carry out lawful operations, while companies who break the rules can be disqualified from being able to provide rubbish disposal

provide this kind of service must be registered with the Environment Agency in order to be able to dispose of their waste. This enables reputable companies to carry out lawful operations, while companies who break the rules can be disqualified from being able to provide rubbish disposal services. Criminals may pretend to be a legitimate company.

To avoid inadvertently employing a rogue company or criminals to dispose of your waste and finding that your waste is fly-tipped instead, it is possible to search the Environment Agency's list of registered waste carriers. This can be done on the agency's website:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>

**Erratum**

In my report to the Annual Village Meeting this year, I wrote that South Cambridgeshire District consists of 106 villages and no towns or cities. However, Cambourne voted on March 5th 2019 to become a town, so we now have 105 villages and one town in South Cambs.

Cllr Tom Bygott  
 cllr@bygott.net  
 07765 475 513

**APPENDIX B**

**Girton Bowls Club request**

I am writing to enquire as to whether Girton Bowls Club need permission to place advertising boards inside the Bowls Club fencing provided by future sponsors. We are holding our first open triples competition in June which will be very kindly sponsored on the day by Peasgood and Skeates who will be placing advertising boards inside the ground. Going forward it makes very good financial sense to approach other local businesses to ask whether they would like to advertise at the Club, this is a practice that is widely used at Bowls Clubs around Cambridge.

**APPENDIX C**

**Payments Schedule for May 2019**  
 (circulated separately)

**APPENDIX D**

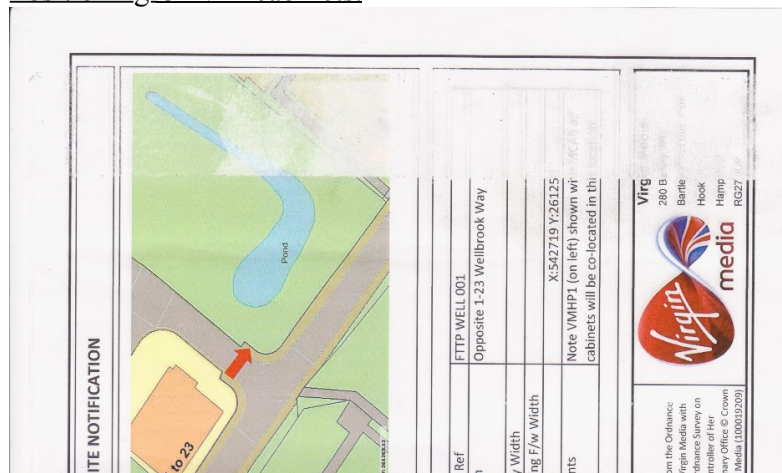
**Chairman's Report**  
**16<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

Suggestions for highways improvement grant applications were prioritised and presented to the APM. These will be progressed by the task and finish group along with Cllr. Harford. We were reminded of the consultation on the Waterbeach waste incineration planning application appeal which closes on the 21<sup>st</sup>. I have circulated our previous response for reaffirmation and will complete the on-line survey before the closing date.

The coalition of PCs campaigning for upgrade of the Girton Interchange submitted their letter to the Transport Minister and stated that Girton supported it. However they did not make the promised addition/changes which would allow our support! I am writing to the instigators protesting at this and will follow up with a letter to all the recipients of the letter.

I have met a representative of Virgin Media to learn of their plans for installing their Services in Wellbrook Way. They will need to position cabinets in various locations and I will request our comment/agreement to this at our meeting. Attached shows proposed positioning of the main cabinets. Two further smaller green boxes will be positioned on the corners of green space opposite the play area and beyond Abbeyfields.

Positioning Of VM cabinets.



**VIRGIN MEDIA - PROPOSED CABINET SITE NOTIFICATION**




**Cabinet - VMHP1**  
 Dimensions:  
 Width - 1200mm  
 Height - 1200mm  
 Depth - 400mm  
 Material: Steel Sheet (R0389 2 / L4063 (R213))  
 Powder Coated: Gloss Grey / Textured Finish

<b>Cabinet Ref</b>	
<b>Location</b>	
<b>Footway Width</b>	
<b>Remaining F/w Width</b>	
<b>Co-ords</b>	
<b>Comments</b>	

<b>Project</b>	Wellbrook Way	<b>Originator</b>	Guy Llewellyn
<b>NBU Ref</b>	TBC	<b>Contact Number</b>	07769 741952
		<b>Issue Date</b>	29/04/19
		<b>Office</b>	Peterborough
		<b>Line Manager</b>	Steve Payton

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**Haydn Williams**

## APPENDIX E

### Water Management Report, May 2019

I met with Prof Robin Irvine to discuss the current situation regarding water management within Girton, specifically the Beck and Washpit Brooks. The following matters were raised:

- In the main the brooks are coping well with the rainfall experienced since the last major flood in 2012, though due to increasingly dry weather they have not been properly tested.
- It is believed that the removal of utility pipes from the Oakington Road Bridge has helped, but again this has not been adequately put to the test. I visited this site during heavy rain two years ago, and found the water running smoothly under the bridge, with around 12 inches clear.
- The Environment Agency has cleared much of the scrub-like vegetation along the bank on the Histon side of the Oakington Road Bridge, which will aid the flow of water. However, the retaining structures which they put in place are collapsing into the brook, leaving crevasses behind them, which may cause trouble in the future. They appear to be making frequent inspections of this part of the brook.
- Run off from the A14 road works is apparent by the change in colour of the water in the brook, which often turns an opaque muddy brown. The final effect of the newly widened A14 has yet to be seen, but concern is expressed about possible pollutants entering the brook during the construction works and after, including run off from the Cambridge Burial Ground.
- (Added by Robin Irvine) Some remedial work could be done quite cheaply and with significant effect on the Beck where it runs alongside the Golf Club's practice field (and alongside the next field upstream). Here what was once a low raised bank on the south side of the Beck (probably originally formed by ploughs turning at the field edges) has degraded over the years so that at an early stage of high rainfall the Beck overflows to flood the two fields mentioned. This flooding spreads to the Golf Club Car Park and in turn impacts on the Washpit upstream of Dodford Lane, and thus it is a contributory factor to the flooding of houses there. Restoring this bank would ensure that the Beck flows more efficiently past the Golf Club and on downstream of the now cleared Oakington Road Bridge (see above).
- (Added by Robin Irvine) The creation of the Washpit Brook Flood Prevention Scheme by the Eddington

- (Added by Robin Irvine) The creation of the Washpit Brook Flood Prevention Scheme by the Eddington Development (Cambridge University) appears to have had a significant impact on the flow of the Washpit after heavy rain, and is to be warmly welcomed, although as with the Oakington Road Bridge (above), it has yet to be put to a full test. Ironically, this scheme may also be reducing flow in the Washpit during periods of low rainfall (e.g. this last winter), which is not desirable for river structure nor for removal of pollutants (above). Some discussion with the Eddington developers would be useful to ensure that the outflow of water from the holding pond is reduced only following high rainfall

I must declare an interest in the last item, being a close friend of the family involved, and would prefer not to be a part of any discussions regarding this:

- The deck structure over the brook from No. 27 Fairway was built without Environment Agency approval, and it is feared that this may cause problems when the water levels rise. As No. 27 was badly affected by flooding this is particularly inexplicable. Prof Irvine and some other residents of Dodford Lane feel strongly that the structure should be removed and only rebuilt with due Environment Agency permission and approval.

Cllr Mary Rodger  
8 May 2019