

## Girton Parish Council

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### **Minutes of the meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 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 19/61.1*

**Present:** (Cllrs) Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Dashwood, de Lacey, Godby, Griffin, Hickford, Kettle, Mitchell, Rodger, Thorrold.

Cllr T Bygott (SCDC) (until end of item 19/64.1)

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

**19/58              Welcome from the Chairman.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**19/59              Apologies and Reasons for Absence.** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Cockley and Thomason, and from County Councillor Harford. The Clerk gave their reasons for absence, which were accepted by the Council.

**19/60              Members' declarations for items on the agenda.** None.

**19/61              Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**

1. Members of the Public. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.
2. County Councillor's Report. The Clerk agreed to relay any questions to Cllr Harford.
3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix A*). Cllr Bygott spoke about the forthcoming unveiling by Baroness Hale of the blue plaque to the founders of Girton College, at the Girton 150 Festival. District Councillors Bygott and de Lacey have been invited to attend. Cllr Bygott explained his apologies for not attending the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr de Lacey had nothing he wished to add to his written report. He was asked about livestreaming of SCDC meetings, and will send the Clerk a link to these to be circulated.
4. Police Report. Cllr Godby is to attend the Neighbourhood Watch Executive meeting and will raise questions about PCSO duties. Ecops was a useful way to keep updated, and the Council would welcome it being brought back in its previous format.

**19/62              To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2019 (previously circulated).** The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Rodger, and approved with two abstentions.

**19/63              Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**

- 19/53.8 Virgin Media has been contacted regarding siting of cabinets at Wellbrook Way.  
19/53.9 Girton Bowls Club has been contacted about proposed signs at the Bowls Green.  
Noted by the Council.

**19/64              Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To approve submission of the Annual Return for 2018-19 to the external auditors. The Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet provide the numbers. The Return has been audited by people who do a lot of auditing of accounts but some shortcomings were unexpected and the Chairman had prepared a written response (circulated to the Council) to comments. Due to changes in Financial Regulations the car park refurbishment contracts should have been placed on the Contracts Finder website and this was noted as an omission. The Council recognise that the trim trail should be part of the inspection regime. An item is to be put in Girton Parish News asking whether the trim trail is useful or not, and the Council needs to decide whether it is better to renovate or to get rid of it, or remove, or replace. The approval of the Annual Return was proposed by Cllr Hickford, seconded by Cllr Griffin and approved with one abstention.

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Cllr Bygott left the meeting at this point.

2. To formally approve the parish council budget for 2019-20. This item was deferred to a subsequent meeting as the Council would like three years-worth of budget.

Allocated Reserves have increased over the years and need to be timetabled for use.

3. To approve charges for use of parish facilities during Feast Week. In past years, the Feast Committee have paid for environmental improvements (path hedge clearance etc) to the value of a couple of hundred pounds. The Chairman proposed this should continue with a nominal £50 fee being payable to ensure insurance coverage was provided, seconded by Cllr Hickford, and approved unanimously.

4. To agree a Parish Council approach to concerns about the bus shelter by St Andrew's Church. In discussion it was stated that the plans were not clear, do not appear to have been closely adhered to and that it does not function well as a shelter.

The avoidance of providing a trap for bullying is acknowledged but it is felt that improved shelter can be provided without this being a problem. Cllr Hickford proposed that the Chairman writes to Girton Town Charity to ask for their forward agenda for repair and maintenance, and invite them to discuss.

5. To approve additional safety inspections of play equipment at Girton Recreation Ground. Our former Health & Safety Officer, Mr G Clare, had checked the equipment weekly but since his retirement this does not now happen. Our Security Officer is to be asked to undertake this duty and offered ROSPA training. Alternatively, the Council could ask for volunteers local to each play area to carry out weekly visual inspections, reporting back for physical checks. Cllr Hickford proposed the former, seconded by Cllr Griffin. Our current Play Equipment Inspector is to be asked to quote for intermediate inspections.

6. To consider Girton Colts' proposal for storage in the changing rooms at The Pavilion (to be circulated). No proposals had been submitted.

7. To approve the remit and membership of a Task & Finish Group for Pavilion loft renovations. This had been reviewed at the Sports & Recreation Meeting.

8. To approve the remit and membership of a Task & Finish Group for replacement of the Multi-Use Games Area. This had been reviewed at the Sports & Recreation Meeting.

9. To consider new signage for Girton Recreation Ground. There should be a clear map of where dogs can be walked. How dog-walkers access from the churchyard to St John's Field needs to be revised.

#### **19/65 Finance and Resource Management**

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

#### **19/66 Correspondence (to be received)**

1. A14 Legacy Fund applications correspondence.

2. Correspondence regarding the road between Girton Glebe School and the Recreation Ground Car Park. It was reported that Cllr Harford hopes to have a third quotation soon.

#### **19/67 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix C*). The Chairman spoke about glyphosphate spraying in Thornton Road by SCDC or CCC, and Cllr de Lacey agreed to look into this.

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. Cllr Rodger reported that Beck Brook is still running freely in spite of the recent heavy rain.

6. Emergency Plan update. Cllr Mitchell reported that the group has met and the Clerk agreed to forward the Assets Register to her.

#### **19/68 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.**

The Council will review the Assets Register.

There will be a review of progress on the website, Cllr Thomason having set-up a meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey 11. 6. 2019**

It has been a busy month. I have been briefed on procurement, policing, enforcement, town centres and the Wellcome Genome Campus at Hinxton which is hoping to expand. I have been re-elected as Chairman of the Council and as such have judged a Bake Off competition for Mental Health Awareness Week.

Group Leaders have discussed the Council's goal of net zero emissions by 2050, a goal which we hope to build into the new Local Plan. The major problem with sustainability projects is that they are so conceptually difficult. The Chisholm Trail, which will make cycle journeys between the two stations so much easier and therefore entice people from cars, is clearly a great idea, but there is no doubt that it leaves a net loss of environment. The new Cambridge-Oxford rail route may also reduce car traffic, but it is planned to be driven by diesel engines. And so on.

Declaring a climate emergency is meaningless until it is given hard-hitting content. Meanwhile, though, we are certainly reducing plastic waste at SCDC to a considerable extent.

Council met on 16 May, and re-elected me as Chairman. We ran an experiment to live-stream the meeting which ran into problems as the camera equipment interfered with our microphone equipment and we were about to abandon the experiment when finally a re-boot of both fixed whatever had gone wrong.

As well as the normal list of appointments to committees and so on, we appointed a new Finance Officer, listened to the Major Opposition Group Leader's Annual Statement which turned into a personal rant against the Leader, and had 10 questions to the executive from members. [tinyurl.com/y4p74gsl](http://tinyurl.com/y4p74gsl) will give you the details.

On Sunday 19 May Milton Country Park celebrated Park Life, with a host of activities for all the family. I opened the event and then started an under-14 2km race with 200 competitors (plus a number of parents who were carrying or otherwise transporting some of the very young entrants). The Vice Chairman and I high-fived them onto the second lap and it was great to see 4- and 5-year-olds, dogged determination writ large on their faces, going the full distance. We then enjoyed some of the other activities from archery through paddle-boarding to zorbs. The only complaint I heard was the length of the queues for some of the events; everyone seems to have had a wonderful time.

On May 24 at Shepreth Station I helped re-launch the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership, with a ribbon cutting by Heidi Allen, and a train of cakes along the bar of the Plough. The Partnership already has an active programme of caring for the station and its planters, and they promise a session on composting soon.

The Civic Affairs Committee on 4 June had preliminary reports on two boundary reviews: an attempt to make the two electoral wards of Thriplow and Heathfield more equitable, and a request to move part of Babraham Parish to Sawston. More details are needed before we can decide either.

On 5 June Cabinet had a very full agenda. It received a report from the Scrutiny Committee; looked at performance figures; approved the Strategic Risk Register; reconstituted the Brexit Advisory Committee and agreed a draft SPD for Bourn Airfield which will now go out for consultation. On performance and risk I again argued for more information than just averages and it is now agreed that something like a standard deviation should also be given. Our target time for answering calls to the Contact Centre is 100 seconds: I was tempted to wait that long before speaking to remind Cabinet just how long that can feel -- and even so we are taking (on average over 3 months) 250--350 seconds. I'm very grateful that the major opposition group has made it possible for my independent colleague to have a place on the Brexit committee so that all our groups are represented; and the Bourn SPD should now explicitly mention my view that shared-use cycle/pedestrian paths are no longer acceptable in a high-quality development.

I had hoped that the prosecution of the ice-cream vendor would be well under way by now but our enforcement team has decided it needs more evidence. Meanwhile may I ask users of the Recreation Ground not to buy from him: he has no licence and no permission to use the car park and we have had many complaints about the air pollution he creates. Instead please give me full details of when he arrives, with photos if possible.

Douglas de Lacey

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Payments Schedule for June 2019** (circulated separately)

## **APPENDIX C**

**Chairman's Report  
13<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Following a further meeting of our Task and Finish group with Cllr Harford, we have progressed three grant applications to the A14 Legacy Fund. These are for improved lighting along Oakington Road, a zebra crossing at the Co-op and improvements to the footpath from the Church to the guided busway. Copies of these will be circulated with correspondence at this month's meeting. The first has been presented as two options to cover just Girton or to extend to Oakington. The second might only be feasible if some parking space is removed from the layby in front of the store. The third is to alleviate problems of rutting and mud in the middle section and has been only very roughly costed from on-line figures. We will not know if we have any chance of success until later in the month.

Our continued objection to the Waterbeach waste incineration planning application appeal was submitted to the planning Inspectorate and copied to CBWIN campaigners. I also alerted them to the likely illegality of the ALARP principle for air pollution control and they will follow up in their continued opposition

On more careful reading of the coalition of PCs letter campaigning for upgrade of the Girton Interchange I found that Girton concerns had been included but after considerable re-editing were less prominent. However they do not appear to have obtained support from all our neighbours which was a condition of our support. I am attempting to ascertain why Bar Hill in particular withheld support and if so for what reasons. Following this I will elaborate on Girton concerns in a separate letter to the same recipients.

After two attempts the manufacturers managed to supply replacement parts for the broken notice board in Wellbrook Way and I have now fitted these.

Following notification from a visitor to the village expressing concern about the condition of some items of the Trim Trail, the suppliers have carried out a survey and have condemned a number of items which have now been cordoned pending repair or removal. We await a detailed report before deciding a course of action. We certainly need to ensure this equipment is included in all future safety inspections.

We have also received a complaint about excessive use of herbicide along footway edges in the Thorntons. This appears to have been an SCDC activity and we are attempting to find out the rationale behind it.

As I write we appear to be on-track to approve the Annual Return at our next meeting. The internal audit is currently in hand and providing a question relating to an historical matter can be adequately resolved should be signed off this week.

**Haydn Williams**

