

## 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 meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 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 19/104.1*

**Present:** (Cllrs) Williams (Chairman) (until end of item 19/110.1), Cockley (Chaired the meeting from item 19/104.2 onwards), Buckler, Dashwood, de Lacey, Godby, Griffin, Hickford, Kettle, Mitchell, Rodger, Thomason, Thorrold.

Cllr L Harford (Cambs County Council) (until end of item 19/105), Cllr T Bygott (SCDC) (until end of item 19/104.4)

Dr R Hiley, Mrs A Bonnett, Mr M Aston (Girton Town Charity) (until end of item 19/104.1)

2 members of the public (one until end of item 19/104.1, one until end of item 19/105)

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

**19/101              Welcome from the Chairman.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the members of the public, Girton Town Charity Trustees, County Councillor Harford and District Councillor Bygott.

**19/102              Apologies and Reasons for Absence.** None, as all Parish Councillors were present.

**19/103              Members' declarations for items on the agenda.** None.

**19/104              Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**

1. Members of the Public. The Chairman of Girton Town Charity Trustees introduced new Trustee Mr M Aston, Mrs Y Higgons having stepped down. Mr Aston has expertise in land and development management. Mr Aston reported that GTC had had a useful meeting with neighbours of the proposed development on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and received useful feedback. The original scheme was turned down for the following planning reasons, that the visual impact was too much, lack of consistency with the character of the area and overlooking of a neighbouring garden. A major redesign has taken place. There are now three smaller blocks with a courtyard, which it is hoped will engender a feeling of community and social well-being. The proposed GTC Office could be made into a dwelling if needs-be. The original plans had 16 dwellings whilst the new plan has 15. The new plans try to balance the needs of future residents with those of existing neighbours. It will be a two-storey development with a single-storey office and a row of bungalows. There will be 12 parking spaces at the top of the site. Plans were circulated for the Council to look at and copies will be available in the Parish Office and on the GTC website. A proposed timetable for the demolition of existing buildings, submission of the plans and commencement of the construction was outlined.

Whilst no public consultation meeting is planned information will be provided to all residents via a leaflet to be included with the Annual Report delivered to all households.

Following questions from the Council, the Chairman thanked Girton Town Charity Trustees for attending. GTC Trustees and one member of the public left the meeting at this point.

**19/110.1 Chairman's Report.** This item was brought forward to allow the Chairman to attend another event. A deferred cost relating to the Bowls Green Construction in the Balance Sheet, which had been included in the Annual Return each year since the time of our previous long-term Finance Officer Mrs N Stone, had been queried for the first time this year with a request that it be handled in a different way. Our Accountants will make appropriate revisions to postings for the next Annual Return. The Chairman suggested that Cllr Hickford invite the Parish Council accountant to come to a Finance Committee Meeting within the next month to ensure the matter is resolved to everyone's satisfaction. If necessary we might request our 2019 Internal Auditor to review the resolution to the issue. The Finance Committee will need to formally finalise the current budget and prepare a budget for the next two years. The Chairman also explained that there is a £6k increase in cost for new lighting

request our 2019 Internal Auditor to review the resolution to the issue. The Finance Committee will need to formally finalise the current budget and prepare a budget for the next two years. The Chairman also explained that there is a £6k increase in cost for new lighting on the replacement MUGA, to meet the specification needed for Club tennis. The additional cost for replacement wiring will be £1.5k.

Cllr Williams left the meeting at this point, having handed over the chairmanship of the rest of the meeting to Vice-Chairman Cllr Cockley. The meeting resumed at item 19/104.2

**19/104 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**

2 County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*). Cllr Harford reported that the Local Highways Officer is currently on sick leave

3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*). Cllr de Lacey reported that although it has not been advertised there will be a Ceremony of Remembrance at Girton War Memorial on Armistice Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November, as well as the one on Remembrance Sunday. The second tranche of Community Fund monies have been released. The Chairman thanked Cllr de Lacey for his report.

Cllr Bygott reported that he has been appointed to the Local Planning Advisory Group. The Chairman thanked Cllr Bygott for his report.

4. Police Report (*Appendix C*). A generic report has been provided this month. Although his patch no longer includes Girton, PCSO Mani is still concerned about the village and will let us know about any crimes which occur.

Cllr Bygott left the meeting at this point.

**19/105 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>**

**September, 2019** (*previously circulated*). In item 19/93, the word "decisions" should replace "applications" and regarding the contacts centre, the phrase "trying to contact" should be added. In item 19/100, Cllr de Lacey "wishes for other maps to be considered by this Council". With these amendments, Cllr Cockley proposed the Minutes as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Rodger, and approved with three abstentions.

Cllr Harford and a member of the public left the meeting at this point.

**19/106 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**

19/99.1 The External Auditors have signed off the Annual Return for 2018-19. Noted by the Council.

**19/107 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To approve dog-walking signage at Girton Recreation Ground (*details circulated*). Cllr Cockley reported that effective dog-walking signs have been needed at the Recreation Ground for some time. Five suggested signs were looked at by Councillors and Cllr Cockley explained the proposed locations and wording. It was suggested that two more signs are needed to welcome walkers to St John's Field, plus a sign stating that dogs are not allowed through the gate on the left of St John's Field on to the Recreation Ground. The Clerk is to check with Woodland Trust regarding signage in Girton Wood, and what the Parish by-laws say regarding letting dogs off leads. A good start has been made on this project but more work needs to be done.

2. To approve the purchase of a new wreath and to make a Parish Council donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Cllr Cockley proposed a donation of £25 for a new wreath plus a £75 donation, seconded by Cllr Buckler. Approved with one abstention.

3. To approve a supplier for Parish Council electricity supply at The Pavilion and Bowls Green (*details previously circulated*). Cllr Hickford proposed that a 3-year contract with British Gas be agreed, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved unanimously.

4. To approve a draft job description for the post of Assistant Clerk (*details tabled at the meeting*).

5. To approve a draft advertisement for the post of Assistant Clerk in Girton Parish News. Items 19/104.4 and 19/104.5 were considered together. The Chairman thanked Mrs L Miller for her service and said she will be a great loss to Girton Parish Council. At next month's meeting there will be a review regarding a celebration of her time with us. Regarding the Job Description, Cllr Cockley proposed that this be brought to the next meeting after more work has been done on it, seconded by Cllr Hickford. It was requested that anyone with Human Resources experience join the team and other parish councils be asked to give input.

Approved with one vote against and two abstentions.

6. To approve the specification and cost of new MUGA lighting (*details of two quotations were circulated*). A third quotation is to be sought for higher specification lighting and for rewiring, and brought to the next meeting.

**19/108 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*Appendix D*). The payments schedule had been checked by Cllr Buckler before the meeting. The invoice for the replacement bus shelter is to be forwarded to Skanska as they had agreed to fund it following

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*Appendix D*). The payments schedule had been checked by Cllr Buckler before the meeting. The invoice for the replacement bus shelter is to be forwarded to Skanska as they had agreed to fund it following their misplacement of one of the Parish Council's shelters during cycle path works on Huntington Road. The Clerk was requested to clarify the purpose of one invoice before paying it. Proposed by Cllr Cockley, seconded by Cllr Rodger, and approved unanimously.
2. To note any significant variance from usual levels of monthly income/expenditure. None.

**19/109 Correspondence (to be received)**

1. 15<sup>th</sup> October: Letter from SCDC regarding setting Parish Precepts 2020-21.  
Received by the Council.  
Regarding correspondence circulated by email from the CBWin campaign, the public consultation for the Waste Management Site proposal at Waterbeach, the Clerk is to re-submit the Council's comments made in support of Cambridgeshire County Council's rejection of the application.

**19/110 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix E*) This item was brought forward: please see above.
2. Girton Town Charity Report. No report this month.
3. Girton Youth Project Report (*Appendix F*) Received by the Council.
4. Footpaths Officer's Report. No report this month.
5. Water Management Report (*Appendix G*). The village had come close to flooding during heavy rains on 13<sup>th</sup> October. The Chairman thanked Cllr Rodger for her report.
6. Parish Council Website Report. Cllr Thomason had previously circulated the link to the new website to Councillors. A spam analyser has been installed and comments are moderated. The Twitter feed links to A14 information and to Gorgeous Girton. It was suggested that Girton could link up with another village's IT group, and this would be proposed for the next agenda. The current webmaster is also involved. All Parish Council policies are to be on the website, and it is hoped to go live by the end of the year. The Chairman thanked Cllr Thomason for all the work so far.
7. Adopted Kiosk Report. Cllr Buckler reported about a kiosk at Hardwick which had been painted with pink undercoat as she had wondered if this was to be the final colour, which would have been an example of alternative paint colour for a kiosk.

**19/111 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.**

- Local Plan to be looked at for February 2020's meeting.  
The problem of pigeons nesting under residential solar panels will be mentioned in Girton Parish News.  
It was noted that cyclists are continuing on the footway after the cycle path ends at Manor Farm Road.  
Concerns about parking at each end of Thornton Road are to be forwarded to Cllr Harford.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm

**APPENDIX A**

**Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report  
Girton Parish Council meeting - 15 October 2019**

I am pleased to be able to start this month's report with some good news although at the time of writing [Monday evening] I am still waiting for full details of the recent announcement about increased *school funding* and what it means for Cambridgeshire. I do though understand that the details have recently been received by the Council and there is optimism about their impact for Cambridgeshire Schools. Locally we have seen our primary school struggle with some really difficult financial challenges in the recent past and this will hopefully bring some welcome relief for the staff and governors. I'll update you on the details as soon as I have them.

The Government also recently announced additional short term funding of £1.5bn for *social care*. Whilst this is welcome news and reflects the hard work that has gone into lobbying, it doesn't address longer term budget gaps and the continuing underfunded position of Cambridgeshire. £500m of this allocation is expected to be raised locally through the extended option for local authorities with responsibility for care to raise 2% from the adult social care precept. It is expected that the County Council's share of this funding will be worth £9.6m and this will be used to support social care services for adults, children and young people. Meanwhile the Council continues to innovate to deliver quality services and manage its financial situation to provide value for money for all those needing care and support. It is continuing its successful piloting of a care in the community scheme called Neighbourhood Cares in Soham and St Ives and has produced a video showing how the scheme works:

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvyE1HqCMJk&feature=youtu.be>

The consultation on changes to the Council's Adult Social Care Charging Policy that I mentioned in last month's report is now open: <http://bit.ly/2n42AdN> It closes on 15 December 2019.

As part of its responsibility for **Public Health**, the County Council funds the free NHS health checks that are offered to residents aged 40-74 years. These checks help to detect health issues at an early stage - before they do any real damage - and include monitoring of blood pressure, weight, cholesterol level and lifestyle factors that influence health. They provide an indication of the individual's risk of suffering heart or kidney disease, diabetes or stroke and advice is offered to reduce that risk. Advice is also given to over 65s about the signs and symptoms of dementia.

20,500 checks were carried out across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2017 and March 2018 - an increase of 14% over the previous year. A check takes only 20-30 minutes and this small investment of time offers the opportunity to learn about the lifestyle changes that can make a big reduction in the risk of dying early as a result of these conditions. Those aged 40-74 not currently diagnosed with a long-term health condition are recommended to have a check every 5 years. Appointments should be made through your GP. Further information: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/be-well/resources-and-campaigns/nhs-health-checks-programme/>

The new **Household Recycling Centre e-Permit scheme** for vans and trailers is now operating. Almost a thousand applications for permits were received in the first few days of the scheme's launch and all 9 household recycling centres, using specially provided mobile devices, have successfully registered the attendance of vehicles under the permit scheme. The scheme seems to have started very smoothly and the only concern that is still being expressed is about it leading to an increase in fly tipping. There is though no evidence of a direct correlation. To help avoid fly tipping residents should always check the Environment Agency website to ensure that any contractor they use to take waste away, is licensed to do so. e-Permit applications can be completed online at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/hrc-permits](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/hrc-permits) or by telephoning the Customer Contact Centre, 0345 045 5207.

As work starts on a new local plan I have been appointed as the reserve County Council member on the newly constituted **Joint Local Planning Advisory Group**. We have good local representation on the group as Tom Bygott is one of its District Council members. The group is non decision making and will offer a steer at member level for the development of land use plans integrated with transport strategy. It will aim to find shared policy positions to support timely development of the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan and other key planning policy documents within the Greater Cambridge area. This is the first local plan being jointly prepared by South Cambridgeshire and the City councils and the group will make its recommendations to them. It is they, in their roles as Local Planning Authorities, who will make decisions through their own existing democratic processes. Those democratic processes include consultation and it is acknowledged that, despite a good level of responses being received to consultations on previous local plans, engagement with that process has not been particularly representative of our communities. Previous experience shows that statutory consultees, active community organisers/campaigners, major landowners and planning agents are among those that most actively engage. There is less understanding on the part of the wider, diverse community, small businesses and even officers in other local authority services, of progress on the developing plan. This wider engagement is very important as the local plan has such an influence on the lives of all of us and I hope that you will contribute both as parish councils and individual residents as the process of developing the plan slowly progresses.

As the lead County Council member of the **Joint Development Control Committee** - Cambridge Fringes [JDCC] and a member of the County Council's own planning committee, I found September's meetings for both to be somewhat unusual.

The JDCC meeting was quite extraordinary both in the length of time taken to debate the first agenda item and in the way in which it was conducted. The item was an application for a new primary school and nursery on the Wing development. Members raised a number of concerns about conflict between pedestrians, cyclists and cars and, against the officer recommendation of approval, voted to refuse the application. What happened next was something I have never previously experienced at any planning committee meeting. Officers took legal advice and set aside the first decision so that members could consider voting to defer the item for amendments to be made to the design. However, during the ensuing debate, a second objection was raised making a deferral inappropriate and, on a second vote, the application was again refused. This was an application by the County Council [a Regulation 3 application] and there is no right of appeal.

The County Council Planning Committee had just one decision item which should really have been decided under delegated powers. However, the rules are that, if there is an objection, the application must be heard by committee. The application was for retrospective approval of a *replacement* office building on the Cemex site at Barrington. South Cambs District Council, as the sole objector, wanted any permission granted time limited to either the end of the remediation works or to 2 years from date of consent, whichever is the sooner. The existing approval for the

application must be heard by committee. The application was for retrospective approval of a replacement office building on the Cemex site at Barrington. South Cambs District Council, as the sole objector, wanted any permission granted time limited to either the end of the remediation works or to 2 years from date of consent, *whichever is the sooner*. The existing approval for the remediation work sets an end date of 2035 and includes safeguards to ensure that the land will be restored to its original state [including the removal of buildings]. Prior liaison with South Cambs by both Officers and the local member had proved unproductive and the district council declared itself unwilling to withdraw what was clearly an irrational objection. Members approved the application and a letter will be sent to South Cambs pointing out the cost of convening an unnecessary meeting.

### **Local matters**

Concern has been expressed about the proposed length of time that the well-used **Footpath 48** [Girton/Huntingdon Road, adjacent Felix Hotel] is due to be closed [possibly till March 2020]. It now seems that the work may be completed by Christmas. I will continue to monitor and, if work is still required after Christmas, renew my request that it is made safe for use during the holiday break. I'm afraid that I have no progress to report on the adoption of roads at **Wellbrook Way**. As you know I reported last month that the original contractor for the necessary works had pulled out and Taylor Wimpey were seeking an alternative. As soon as I have news about what point this process has reached, I will let you know.

I am told that County Estates is coming close to having all the relevant information for a decision to be made about the work needed on the **road adjacent the pavilion**.

May I just make you aware that our excellent Local Highways Officer [LHO] is off sick at the moment. His line manager and another LHO are doing their best to cover but it is making it a bit slower to get things done. Please continue to report any highways issues on the County Council's website, <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-andpathways/roadworks-and-faults/> and encourage residents to do the same, and let me know if anything doesn't seem to be progressing as it should.

One of the complaints that I have been trying to resolve for a Girton resident over the past few months relates to the relocation of the bus stop that serves the crematorium. It seems that the Development Consent Order [DCO] for the A14C2H improvement scheme didn't go into such details as who is responsible for providing the same facilities as were previously provided when something like a bus stop is relocated. I have now established that the A14 team is responsible for providing a lay-by for the bus to pull into with appropriate road markings [box ticked] and a pole with bus stop flag attached [I've chased them to do this]. However, bus users visiting the crematorium currently make the not inconsiderable walk back to the bus stop and must wait for the bus without any shelter from the elements. I have a long list of those who might be considered to have responsibility, almost all of whom are passing the proverbial. I have not quite exhausted my list and will do everything I can to bring this to a successful conclusion but, in the meanwhile, if anyone complains to you, will you please let them know I'm on the case.

Please may I remind you that the 2019 **Conference for Cambridgeshire Local Councils** is being held on Friday 08 November at the Marriott Hotel, Huntingdon. The full day event will continue the conversation about how everyone works together to improve things for local communities. Over the last year public sector partners across Cambridgeshire have been developing 'Think Communities', a new approach that puts communities first and builds on existing local strengths and there will be an opportunity to hear more about this. The event is aimed at local parish, town, district and county councillors and clerks as well as representatives from local supporting organisations across Cambridgeshire. To book places please complete the online booking form at:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/conf19/>

I look forward to receiving any questions or comments that you have about the items in this report or any other matters either at your October meeting or by email.

lyndaharford@icloud.com;  
01954 251775 or 07889 131022

Follow me on Twitter: @2Whit2Whoo

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey 9. 10. 2019**

The JDCC has had its annual site visits which were interesting and informative. At its meeting on 18th we had an update on Darwin Green which is at last under construction. We looked at the current proposals for Phases 2 and 3 which bring the development into South Cambridgeshire, and indeed will include one small field in Girton which is currently intended as school playing-fields and part of the Country Park. We then assessed the plans for a Primary School at Wing, the Marshalls development north of Newmarket Road.

There were a number of aspects which worried members including the main accesses immediately off a busy major route through the development and the location and quantity of cycle and scooter storage. On the issue of the effect on other local schools we were assured that the lessons of Eddington have been learned and would not be repeated. Through the lengthy debate Members grew ever more dissatisfied with the proposals and eventually we rejected them.

storage. On the issue of the effect on other local schools we were assured that the lessons of Eddington have been learned and would not be repeated. Through the lengthy debate Members grew ever more dissatisfied with the proposals and eventually we rejected them.

It was a delight on 20 September to award trophies at our annual Best Kept Garden competition. Entries were disappointingly down on last year but the quality remained very high and a welcome new category of Community Garden clearly encouraged much interest.

The Local Plan is moving apace and we had another workshop on 23rd; it is a disappointment that only about half the Council's Members took part. It will be increasingly important as the Plan develops that Members are there to speak for their communities. At present we are still looking at issues and options, and the hundreds of developer proposals for new sites have not yet begun to be assessed. As a result I do not even know what sites if any in our parishes have been proposed. If you are a member of any community group which would like to have input do let me know: we can arrange a briefing and discussion for you. Please get involved!

Before Council on 26th we had a briefing on the Local Transport Plan. We were assured that 'as far as possible' it would reduce carbon emissions and improve the quality of our villages; a phrase to which I objected. With the money being talked about they could reduce carbon emissions to zero at a stroke, but in fact the prior goals are economic growth and speed of transport; always coupled with the use of buses as transport of choice. I noted that for the kind of modal shift they advocated there would need to be the ability to transport not only passengers but also their bikes, and wondered why there was no concept of significant cycle carriage either on the buses or in the trains. There was no answer. We were given preliminary analysis of the consultation responses: 'On average, respondents considered social and environmental objectives as more important than economic objectives'. It will be interesting to see how that one plays out. Meanwhile it is limpidly clear that the Plan takes no account at all of the national 2050 carbon-zero target -- in stark contrast to the goals of our Local Plan.

If the JDCC was difficult it was nothing compared to Council. From the start the atmosphere was politically charged. We have consistently rejected the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) proposals for large increases in Councillors' allowances agreeing instead an increase in line with officer pay; so this year that is what the IRP proposed. Even so senior opposition Members objected, showing a surprising ignorance of both the proposals and the procedure.

Then came questions, mainly on planning. The Lead Member for Planning became quite heated, repudiating accusations based on a misleading press article rather than on the facts, and when we came to debate the five motions tempers were already frayed. One motion asked for the publication of detailed average figures of the activities of the planning department, data which is already available; but it still sparked a half-hour debate. The final motion was to request a change in the National Planning Policy Framework to allow for small-scale wind proposals (5MW or less) to be treated like any other planning application. Opposition Members immediately began talking of wind farms and the iniquity of imposing them on our residents; one argued that saving the future of our climate lies in increasing coal use. It was a miracle that the meeting was over very shortly after 5pm but that was still far later than need be.

Although the new ice rink has been in use for some time the official opening was over the weekend of 28-29 September. My role was minimal but I watched the arcane art of ice hockey and some splendid figure skating.

Cottontails Preschool has received £648 from our Community Chest 'towards the purchase of equipment to promote intergenerational and environmental learning'. I'm always pleased to encourage applications from this source, but it is good to be forewarned. If you are putting in an application please let me know and discuss your ideas with me.

It was good to see local resident Stephen Tomkins headlined in the Cambridge Independent recently, not just once but twice. Not quite such good news is the story behind the headlines: his warning, as Chairman of the Cam Valley Forum, that the Cam is drying up as a result of our ever-increasing water extraction. Read the stories at [tinyurl.com/y2utdfzq](http://tinyurl.com/y2utdfzq) and [tinyurl.com/y56m54fc](http://tinyurl.com/y56m54fc)

Did you know that you can now recycle crisp packets? The nearest locations are Dry Drayton Primary School, the Madingley Rise Site (but I'm afraid I don't know precisely where in it), Orchard Community Centre, Shire Hall and South Cambs Hall. You can also recycle contact lenses at Lion Yard Boots and DH Thomas. If you know of other recycling projects please let me know.

Finally, if you are planning a picnic, please take your litter home. A bag of coke cans, crisp packets and a takeaway container was left on the Washpit Lane in Girton a few weeks ago: our keen enforcement officers traced the culprit who has paid a fixed-penalty fine. Be warned.

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Douglas de Lacey

## APPENDIX C Police Report for October 2019



### **Beat Car Thieves and Crooks – Keep your belongings safe.**

Hi everyone, I am one of your neighbourhood officers that covers Girton. Over the last nine months we have had an unusual increase in vehicle crime in our area. Therefore I have decided to put together some crime prevention tips on how to keep your vehicle and belongings safe.

Vehicle theft is on the rise again in England and Wales. Since 2017 there has been an increase of 15%, that's a dramatic 40% over the last five years and the convenient keyless entry system has played a big part in this.

Thinking like a criminal can keep your car and belongings safe. Keeping your car secure is a big worry for motorists. It doesn't matter what kind of vehicle you own from a Mini to a Rolls-Royce. So here are some tips on keeping your car and valuables secure.

**1. Cars and Vans.** Cars and vans are sometimes stolen because the thief can see items, tools and equipment inside the vehicle. A professional car thief will target newer cars and often go for high powered cars such as BMW, Jaguars, Mercedes and Range Rover. Cars and vans are often stolen to be used for certain jobs. High powered cars are often used for getting away from burglaries and ram raiders want vehicles with tow bars or oversized bumpers. White vans are used for multiple purposes such as bogus utility worker, home maintenance or courier fraud and for moving stolen goods around as they appear anonymous.

**2. Security measures.** It's always a good thing to have some kind of security measure because the thief doesn't want to spend time trying to remove them. Instead, they will move onto the next car. Criminals will avoid vehicles that have visible devices and deterrents such as steering locks, gearstick & handbrake locks and internal front and rear dash cam with sensors. These are all relatively cheap to buy, but in general, the more you pay, the better the security. Although not impenetrable to a seasoned car thief, the real value is as a visual deterrent.

**3. Hide any valuables.** It's not just car thieves you have to worry about, there are plenty of crooks out there who are simply after your valuables. The most common mistakes car owners make are leaving things on show such as phone leads, rucksacks, jackets, handbags, laptop cases, sat nav holders and paperwork. This means there might be something of value left in the car. Never leave expensive goodies out on display. They are all fair game and just too tempting for the opportunistic thief.

**4. Untidy vehicles attract car thieves.** Remember portable sat navs leave a circular mark on the screen and if you don't wipe the screen it's obvious that you could have one in the car.

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5. **Lock your car.** This may seem like a no-brainer but double check you have locked your car. Try and get into the habit of checking the door handles every time you leave the car. Modern cars are harder to steal but the problem is we forget to lock them or leave a sunroof or window open because we are in a rush. This is what the car thief and crook are looking out for. Even if you are only leaving your car for a short while your vehicle or any valuables left on a seat are at a very real risk of theft.

6. **Keep your keys secure.** Remember to take the keys out of your car and don't leave them inside the car. Also don't leave them on a table near to your front door as thieves have been known to pop a coat hanger through the letterbox to hook the key ring. I also need to mention here, keyless cars and the "relay attack". This means two criminals use an electronic signal relay device to intercept a key fob signal from within the victim's home. The relay device then sends the signal to the car which unlocks the vehicle and the car can be entered and driven away. There are some simple steps you can take to avoid the signal being hacked, by simply putting your keys into a metal container such as a biscuit tin or microwave. There are also metalised signal blocking pouches available.

7. **Left unattended with the engine running.** Don't leave the engine running. Worse than leaving a car unlocked is leaving a car unlocked with the keys still in the ignition and the engine running, that's just making a car thief's job too easy. Also remember if you do this and your vehicle is taken you are not insured, so you will lose your vehicle and be out of pocket. Also if you leave your engine running while your motor is stationary on the road, it could land you in hot water. Stationary idling is an offence under section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, which means you could be given a fixed fine.

8. **Parking your car.** How and where you park your car can deter thieves. If you have a garage or driveway, use it. Always drive in rather than reverse in as the thief has to come closer to you to take the car and they don't like to do that. Cars parked off street are far less likely to be stolen than those parked on the road. When away from home, try to leave your car in a secure car park – one with a ticket barrier or attendant or one that has been approved by the police. If you have to park on the street, do so in a busy, well-lit area, and if possible beneath the gaze of a CCTV camera.

9. **Vehicle number plates.** This has been on the increase by crooks who want to use your number plates to put on a vehicle with the same identity, make, model and colour for use in criminal activity such as fuel theft from garage, burglaries and ram raids. You can stop this by using secure theft resistant number plates which will make your plates less attractive to thieves. You can also get anti-theft number plate bolts.

10. **Documents.** Never leave anything with your name and address in the car. If you do, you put yourself at risk of burglary as the thief knows you are not at home, especially if the car is taken from the town centre or Supermarket car park, and it could leave you open to other types of fraud.

Just remember to **keep the inside tidy, the car locked, the windows shut and everything out of sight.**

It's also very important to remain vigilant around your street and to look out for anyone acting strangely on your street as they could be looking for an opportunity to steal a vehicle or contents.

If you witness a crime or even if you just see something suspicious – let us know! Call 101, report it online at [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk) or contact Crime Stoppers. The information that you provide is invaluable to us and we greatly appreciate your time and effort.

PCSO Tony Martin



**APPENDIX D**  
**Payments Schedule for October 2019**  
(circulated as a separate document)

**APPENDIX E**  
**Chairman's Report**  
**9<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

As agreed at last month's meeting I have written to the A14 Legacy Fund administrators complaining about lack of communication and decisions on our applications. No response has yet been received. Cllrs Hickford and Harford have also been chasing this.

Following agreement and Signature of the new lease for St John's Field with Savills's we have then received duplicate documentation for signature from the solicitors! Charges are clearly in inverse proportion to competence.

There is no progress to report on finalisation of the land transfer at Wellbrook Way or the meeting with GTC to discuss various matters including the new St Michael's Close development.

Progress to finalise the agreed contractor for the MUGA lighting replacement has been very slow, hampered by inability of a third contractor to provide a quote for enhanced lighting suitable for tennis.

In response to a question on box 7 and 8 reconciliation in the Annual Return, from the external Auditor we provided the following response:

"The figure of £90,479 is an accrual for expected costs for developments at Wellbrook Way, (rather than 'deferred income' as you suggest). This figure has been a reconciling item for at least three years and so has not been shown within reserves for that duration. We can confirm therefore that the same amount was excluded from the reserves at the start and end of 2017/18. To resolve the issue we propose to release this sum to the P&L, probably over the next three years."

The Auditors report states that this is an historical miss-posting (of S106 funds used to pay for the Bowls Green) and suggests a more appropriate way of handling the figure and requests we amend in next year's AGAR. The report is published on the village website.

**Haydn Williams**

**APPENDIX F**  
**Summary of Girton Youth Project Report – September 2019**

We have had a really positive start to the new academic year. We had a great turn out for Jamie's last session and it was great to see so many of the young people come along. It was also a really good opportunity for us to 'check in' with some old faces who don't come so regularly. It was reassuring to be told that these young people still think of youth group as a safe and welcoming place and try to drop in when they can. We are already aware of the increasing strains of academic work, but we are always here to support. We have also seen some of our Monday cohort moving up to Thursday groups as they take the leap into secondary school. It's been amazing to see the change in them (and a little scary), they have all embraced the change and are well on their way to being little teenagers.

Monday group numbers have been consistent. We have had three new young people join us this September. They all attended bouncy castle day and are very happy they can begin youth group now they have turned 8 years old. Their parents also know a parent of an existing young person, and so it's really positive to know that youth group is being recommended and word of mouth is effective. We have been making the most of the last of the nice weather and have spent most of our time outside playing games. We know that we will have to adapt when the weather stops us from being outside and will discuss this over the next couple of weeks.

Members of GTC, YMCA and myself had a productive meeting in September. This gave the opportunity for us to review the project and discuss plans for the future. We were able to give clarification regarding an additional finance charge. It was really beneficial to have face to face discussion. We agreed on ways that GYP can be promoted in the community including; GPN, social media and leafleting in school. We have scheduled another meeting

give clarification regarding an additional finance charge. It was really beneficial to have face to face discussion. We agreed on ways that GYP can be promoted in the community including; GPN, social media and leafleting in school. We have scheduled another meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> December where we will be able to review progress.

**Frances Roach**

## **APPENDIX G**

### **Water Management Report, October 2019**

Despite heavy rains at times over the past month, Professor Robin Irvine and I are pleased to report that the watercourses, particularly Beck Brook, have coped well with the additional flow. This is very encouraging.

A resident of Fairway mentioned informally that the Environment Agency had been in touch with her, regarding her shed which is collapsing into the brook. I have not heard any further developments.

Professor Irvine intends to contact the Environment Agency at some stage in the near future, to follow up on the discussions we had earlier this year. I will of course keep the Parish Council informed.

Mary Rodger  
10 October 2019.