

# Girton Parish Council

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## **Minutes of the meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, 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 20/15.1*

**Present:** (Cllrs) Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Cockley, Dashwood, de Lacey (until middle of item 20/15.3), Griffin, Hickford, Kettle, Mitchell, Rodger, Thomason (from item 20/15.3 onwards), Thorrold.

Cllr L Harford (Cambs County Council), Cllr T Bygott (South Cambs District Council) (from the start of item 20/15.1 until end of item 20/15.3)

Mrs A Bonnet (Girton Town Charity) (until the end of item 20/18.1)

1 member of the public

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

**20/12 Welcome from the Chairman.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially County Councillor Harford, Girton Town Charity Chair of Trustees, and the member of the public.

**20/13 Apologies and Reasons for Absence.** Apologies had been received from Cllr Godby. Cllr de Lacey apologised that he would need to leave the meeting early, and Cllr Thomason had sent apologies that she would join the meeting later because of a work commitment.

**20/14 Members' declarations for items on the agenda.** None.

Cllr Bygott joined the meeting at this point.

### **20/15 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**

1. Members of the Public. A member of the public spoke about issues with the A14 Integrated Delivery Team regarding noise, light and environmental pollution. One neighbour has sought legal help over protracted problems. The resident was concerned that a surveyor recently arrived at her home without appointment regarding a 14m strip of land on her property which is now not needed by the A14 works but which had been cleared of vegetation which could have acted as a sound/light barrier. Neighbours are also concerned that the noise-reduction fence has not been built far enough to protect properties from light and noise from the A14. A similar environmental barrier has been built on the opposite side of the A14 to protect housing on the Darwin Green site. The resident is unsure how to proceed, as sleep is being disturbed by lights from the road. Cllr Harford responded that she is very sorry that residents have been treated in this way, and it is unacceptable that there has been no acknowledgement of residents' approaches to the A14 team. The stakeholder funding department is there to manage stakeholder relations. If the DCO specifies a certain length of noise barrier it has to be that length and Cllr Harford will take this up on the resident's behalf, and share the planting schedule.

The Chairman thanked the member of the public.

The Chair of Girton Town Charity Trustees reported that Dencom are on the High Street/Michael's Close site dealing with asbestos then demolition. Building contractors

Godfrey & Hicks are on the Suffolk Terrace site in High Street. Gas pipe contractors Cadent asked if they could store soil or site cabins on sites owned by Girton Town Charity - Dencom need to go in and out so there's no room at present, but Cadent will be able to use the sites if either of the GTC contractors have space. A live gas main was found on the Suffolk Terrace site. The Chairman thanked Mrs Bonnett for her report.

2 County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) Cllr Harford is keen to support the parish council on how to access an application for part of the County Council's £5m Community Fund pot, and reminds the Council of the next round of LHI funding applications. Cllr Harford and the Chairman are meeting with a Cambs Highway officer on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February regarding feasibility of a crossing near to the Co-Op store. Regarding the road narrowing at Wellbrook Way, although it is on the drawing Cllr Harford needs to understand the rationale. She queried whether subsequent applications for Arlington Manor Care Home and William Collyn Community Centre looked to see if this was still relevant. Cllr Harford and the Chairman are to visit with Cambs Highway Officer.

Recent gas-pipe works in the village have left lots of mess and Cllr Harford will look into this, as it is SCDC Planning Enforcement/Cambs Highways responsibility.

Cllr Hickford raised the question of safe segregation of horse riders on Oakington Road. A simple remedy which will keep riders safe and allow dog-walkers a safer approach to the route they favour has been proposed by a resident horse rider and discussed with Cllrs Hickford, Harford and the Chairman. It was queried if SCDC Green Fund could fund this. Other infrastructure projects in the village need funding so it would have to be cost-effective. Cllr Thomason joined the meeting at this point.

3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*). Cllr de Lacey reported that following gas-pipe renewal works in the village, all verges are to be re-soiled and re-grassed by Cadent.

Regarding agenda item 20/18.1, although yet to receive costings, the Council may be able to agree wording for village signs at this meeting. Regarding management of the Country Park at Darwin Green 3, the Chairman suggested that the Parish Council would have less say on whether Darwin Green 4 is built on it if we didn't manage it. Cllr de Lacey would need to take advice and talk with SCDC about this. The Chairman thanked Cllr de Lacey, who left the meeting at this point.

Cllr Bygott reported that he has been trying to help Dry Drayton to get their village sign gates repaired. These had completely rotted and the village sign had disappeared, so maintenance of gates and signs needs to be considered. Regarding the Country Park, planning and land ownership are two separate issues. There is always pressure to develop land and the only way to influence this is through ownership. Country Parks can be very expensive to run but there's no rule that it has to be so – biodiversity habitat would be much cheaper to manage. Regarding East-West Rail the preferred route is via Cambourne. It is not likely to go through Girton, more likely through Comberton. The Mayor has recently announced that the government may wind-up funding in the Greater Cambridge Partnership. The Chairman thanked Cllr Bygott, who left the meeting at this point.

4. Police Report. No police report this month.

**20/16 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2020** (previously circulated). The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Thorrold, and approved with three abstentions.

**20/17 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**

19/118.2 The Human Resources Committee have appointed an Assistant to the Parish Clerk to start work during March 2020, following Mrs L Miller's retirement at the end of February. The Human Resources Committee had been delighted with all the applicants and all those interviewed could have done the job. The Chairman thanked the Human Resources

Committee interview panel.

20/07.1 The precept request has been submitted to South Cambs District Council, the Finance Committee having endorsed the figures approved at the Parish Council's January meeting.

20/07.4 Application has been made for three free trees from South Cambs District Council, the trees to be purchased by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020, and Girton Youth Project would like to be involved in choosing the species and site of such. Cllr Griffin will liaise with Girton Youth Project so they can be involved in the planting.

Noted by the Council.

**20/18 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To consider the text and agree a budget for the erection of two new village signs at the boundaries on Huntingdon Road and Oakington Road. Although a budget for such cannot be agreed at this meeting, Cllr Hickford spoke of the possible installation of white gates to designate to drivers that they are entering a village. It was queried if these would get stolen, plus maintenance would be needed. Suggested wording could be 'Welcome to Girton Village. Please drive carefully'. This wording could be costed by Cambs Highways. Cllr Harford has been brought into this recently, Cllr de Lacey having been working on it for a long time. It was queried whether a Girton goose symbol could be incorporated.

Mrs A Bonnett left the meeting at this point.

2. To consider ideas/proposals for submission for support from Cambs County Council's £5m Community Fund. This fund has been set up for the 2021 financial year so that the County Council would be able to part fund projects of community value and impact where there are gaps in provision. Cllr Hickford suggested that disabled access and storage etc at The Pavilion would make it a more holistic venue. It was also queried whether there could be a log-cabin style café on the Recreation Ground. Planning considerations would need to be looked at, and professional advice which would cost money and time. Cllr Hickford proposed that £5,000 be put aside to explore feasibility of the various projects. Seconded by Cllr Cockley, and approved unanimously.

3. To agree a date, time and venue for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in May 2020. The Chairman proposed that the Annual Parish Meeting be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at Girton Glebe School, subject to the school hall being available. Seconded by Cllr Cockley. It was suggested that Committee Chairs speak to reports, with Councillors to suggest any talks for the meeting. The new website is to be reported on, and it was queried whether an update on Cottontails should be given too. Approved unanimously.

4. To agree the parish policies included on the new Parish website in preparation for the site launch. Cllr Thomason was thanked for all her work on the new website, and for writing a privacy policy. The finance policies would need revisiting. Approval of the policies was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Hickford, and approved unanimously.

5. To agree a launch date for the new Parish website. The Parish Council would need to check that all organisations are happy to have details of their website on our website. Regarding the GPN domain, Cllr Thomason will go back to them to say we're relieving them of costs and put in writing that it is to be a village website, rather than exclusively for the Parish Council. Written consent from GPN will be need regarding the domain. Cllr Thomason proposed a soft launch for the website on 1<sup>st</sup> March, seconded by the Chairman, and approved unanimously.

6. To approve a contractor for annual play areas inspections in April 2020 (*Appendix C*) The Chairman proposed that David Bracey Play Safety Inspections carries out the play area inspections, seconded by Cllr Hickford, and approved unanimously.

7 To agree a procedure for routine inspection of play areas. The Chairman proposed that quotations be sought for interim professional inspections to be made every three months, the playgrounds to be inspected visually every month by volunteers. This item will be brought

back to a subsequent meeting.

8. To approve replacement floor covering in the Parish Office (*Appendix D*). Cllr Cockley noted that the current carpet is in a poor condition. Following consideration of quotations for re-carpeting options Cllr Cockley proposed that Dentons provide carpet and underlay.

Possible repainting of the office was also suggested.

9. To designate two benches in the village as ‘Talking Benches’ (*Appendix E*) The Clerk explained the initiative. Half a dozen benches could have signs, with Patricia Johnston, Older Residents’ Co-Ordinator, to put these where appropriate. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Cockley, and approved unanimously.

10. To approve arrangements for a litter pick in Girton as part of the Great British Spring Clean campaign (*Appendix F*). The Clerk will speak with the new Assistant to the Parish Clerk, who’s been involved in organising litter picks in Oakington, then advertise a date and details for the Girton litter pick.

#### **20/19 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*Appendix G*). The payments schedule had been checked before the meeting by Cllr Cockley. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Cockley, and approved unanimously.

2. To note any significant variance from usual levels of monthly income/expenditure. None.

#### **20/20 Correspondence (to be received)**

1. Letters from Cllr Bridget Smith and Fews Lane Consortium regarding changes to the planning applications delegation process at SCDC. Received by the Council. The Council cannot comment on the matter.

#### **20/21 To receive reports**

1. Chairman’s Report (*Appendix H*). The Chairman has received complaints about speeding on Oakington Road since the A14 works

2. Girton Town Charity Report. A verbal report had been given earlier in the meeting.

3. Girton Youth Project Report (*Appendix I*).

4. Footpaths Officer’s Report. The Chairman reported that we are waiting for a response from the A14 Legacy Fund.

5. Water Management Report (*Appendix J*). Cllr Rodger was thanked for her report.

6. Kiosk Plans Report. No report this month.

7. Website Report (*Appendix K*). Cllr Thomason was thanked for her report.

8. Finance Committee Report. Cllr Hickford reported that the Finance Committee Meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> January had agreed the precept. Another Finance Committee Meeting will be held in March at which a three-year budget forecast will be presented. The process for next year’s AGAR submission is agreed with the accountant and internal auditor.

#### **20/22 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.**

Cllr Cockley will investigate a keypad for the Pavilion door.

Cllr Dashwood will investigate costings to register land at Woody Green.

Cllr Griffin is looking at paper recycling processes for the Parish Office.

Cllr Mitchell will review the Emergency Plan.

Cllr Thomason will bring an article on the new website for approval prior to submission to Girton Parish News.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

## APPENDIX A

### **Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report Girton Parish Council - 18 February 2020 meeting**

#### ***Finance***

The Council has now set its budget for the year April 2020/March 2021. The total budget is £612m excluding school grants and £158.8m in capital spending. Following the operating model that it has set itself of transformation, efficiency and income generation, the Administration's main objective in setting its budget is to balance any increase in council tax with the Council's funding requirements. Thus council tax will be raised by 3.59% which includes 2% for Adult Social Care.

Prudent financial management in recent years now allows the Council to start investing in things that matter to so many people.

To support its already stated position on the climate emergency, the Council will invest a total of £16m in climate action related proposals. £15m of this will be used to decarbonise the 69 buildings that it either owns or occupies. £500k will be used to support oil dependent schools and communities to move from oil to renewable sources of energy. It is anticipated that the business cases for all these schemes will show cost neutrality in the medium term. A further £200k is committed to bringing forward electric infrastructure to support the change to electric vehicles of the Council's small vans and pool cars fleet. This clear financial commitment supports the target of a 50% reduction in direct carbon emissions by 2023 set in the Council's recently published draft Climate Change & Environment Strategy.

To support this financial commitment the Council also acknowledges the need for clear leadership of the agenda and thus has also approved the creation of a new committee, the focus of which will be primarily on the environment in all its inter-related forms. There will be a reassignment of the functions of Highways & Infrastructure and Economy & Environment committees to ensure that the overall number of committees and the cost of running them remains unchanged.

To support the Council's aspiration 'to make Cambridgeshire a Great Place to Live' through use of some of the future capital receipts that are anticipated to come from its commercial activities, the budget also provides £5m to set up a new fund to help deliver a range of community based investments. Evidence that factors like community cohesion, employment, housing and social networks are as important in determining our overall health as is the NHS and the genes we inherit, is something that is increasingly influencing communities to take steps to improve the environment that they live, work and play in. This fund is aimed at helping communities to achieve some of their ambitions in this respect. The full terms of reference are still to be approved by Communities & Partnerships committee but in the meanwhile please do put your thinking caps on to see what you might want to apply for funding for.

In anticipation of the late announcement by Government of highways funding for the coming year, the Council will use prudential borrowing [£6m] to invest £6.366m in highway infrastructure. The popular Local Highways Improvement scheme will see increased funding of £200,000 for the coming year. [NB recently announced earlier deadline for next round of applications.]

Agenda pack for Council's Budget Meeting: <http://bit.ly/39DFXzJ>

#### ***Education***

There has been quite a lot of media attention in recent months to national failings in the care of those with special educational needs and disabilities. The County Council's strategy - 'SEND is everybody's business' sets out its vision, principles and priorities for meeting these needs in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough's children and young people from birth to the age of 25:

<http://bit.ly/2OYmce3>

#### ***Health & Social Care***

The Wuhan Novel Coronavirus [now officially named Covid-19] is very much in the news and the County Council's Public Health Directorate is being kept updated by Public Health England.

Anyone who has travelled to China or other significantly affected area recently, or has been in close contact with anyone who has, and subsequently feels unwell should call 111 for advice and NOT go to either a doctor's surgery or hospital. Regularly updated advice and information for the public is provided by Public Health England at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novelcoronavirus-information-for-the-public>

Every year the County Council undertakes a self-assessment of its Adult Social Care service - a 'state of the nation' look at how the service is performing and delivering for users. A very accessible summary document [the Local Account] is then published on the Council's website. For those interested in how the adult social care service is doing in Cambridgeshire: <http://bit.ly/2vFObbM>

The Council has just opened consultation on the draft Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. This outlines priority areas and the way in which local councils, the NHS and community organisations aim to work together to improve health and reduce health inequalities. The consultation runs until 30 April 2020. You can respond at: <http://bit.ly/37BN6PE>

The Cambridgeshire Annual Public Health Report [2019] was presented to the Health & Wellbeing Board in January 2020. It reviews the new national Index of Deprivation [2019] and its relevance to health and wellbeing in Cambridgeshire: <http://bit.ly/2wpdoHX>

### **Libraries**

The Council has recently launched a new Reading Well for Children collection which is available to borrow from any of the county's libraries. Its aim is to support the mental health and wellbeing of children aged 7-11, providing them and their families and carers with information, advice and support for coping with feelings and worries. The collection contains 33 titles covering topics relevant to today's children such as grief, anxiety, bullying and staying safe on line. The materials have been chosen and endorsed by leading health professionals including NHS England, Mind and the Royal College of GPs and has been co-produced with children and families.

### **Transport**

The joint announcement by the Greater Cambridge Partnership and Stagecoach East that Greater Cambridge now has its first two electric buses comes with additional interest for Girton. The route chosen for their introduction is the Citi 6 which runs through the village.

### **Local Issues**

As we await the panel's decisions on this year's Local Highways Improvements scheme applications, I am keen to support the parish council in bringing forward a new proposal for next year's application. I have arranged a meeting for the Chairman and I to meet with one of the senior project engineers to discuss the options for a crossing near the Co-op as this was one of the priorities raised by residents at the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Chairman and I recently received details of an incident involving a horse and its rider on Oakington Road. I am currently investigating whether there is a simple, cost-effective way of avoiding a repetition.

Work being carried out for Taylor Wimpey prior to adoption of the roads at Wellbrook Way has prompted a few resident concerns. Some have been easily dealt with through what appears to be a collaborative approach by the contractor. One issue remains outstanding: the unexpected appearance of a speed restricting build-out outside the Hallmark care home. I have now requested a meeting with Highways Officers to discuss this and its impact in more detail.

I look forward to seeing you all at tomorrow evening's meeting.

Lynda lyndaharford@icloud.com; 01954 251775 or 07889 131022; Follow me on Twitter:  
[@2Whit2Whoo](#)

## **Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey 6. 2. 2020**

The JDCC was given a briefing on the current state of the City Deal, which is the major part of the Greater Cambridge Partnership's brief. We were told that peak rush hours are spreading with more flexi-time available, but this does not offset either the congestion or capacity issues. GCP is pressing for a South Cambridge station and upgrades to all traffic lights, to help priority for the top levels of the transport hierarchy (public transport, pedestrians, cyclists). There was some fairly aggressive questioning; I noted that there was still no awareness of the difference between fast and slow cyclists (exacerbated by the rise of electric bikes), and no reference to the meteoric rise of invalid buggies which clog both highway and cycleway. Other comments were that, for many commuters, waiting for a bus is a miserable experience without adequate shelter; that buses need to accommodate more cycles if cycling is really to be encouraged; and that buses cannot scale up to the level of our problems. But we were told 'it is all about trade-offs'; so cycle lanes will not always be up to recommended standards, shared-use cannot be outlawed, and the emphasis is still heavily on buses to solve our woes.

There was then a presentation on noise, with specific reference to the developments around the airport; two interesting things I learned were that the very first WHO publication on noise was as recent as 1999, and that the majority of vehicle noise is from tyres and not engines.

That afternoon there was a JDCC Development Control Forum. These are comparatively rare events when significant local objection has been raised to a planning application, and our officers attempt mediation. The objections focused on six specific concerns over the Darwin Green development: namely the inaccuracy of the drawings (they did not show the most recent other developments); proximity to current dwellings; the density of housing; plans for the existing pavilion; drainage; and light pollution. The developer began with what seemed a fairly uncompromising statement of the way the development had been planned and the objectors then detailed their concerns. In the ensuing discussion it seemed to me that real compromises were reached and the developers will look again at their designs. A worthwhile event.

On Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January) there was a presentation at South Cambs Hall, when Cllr Martin Cahn and his family, themselves Jewish, gave us the results of their study of the effects of the war on a small, largely Jewish, settlement in Myslenice, Poland. It was a moving session and I felt privileged to be asked to light the memorial candle and pronounce the traditional blessing.

Our Liberal Democrat administration has moved from a model of Portfolio Holders, able to make decisions with or without consultation, to a collective cabinet which makes decisions in public meetings at which all Councillors may speak -- and meetings where I have been able to influence the decisions. And before this the Scrutiny committee will have gone through the items with a fine-tooth comb. But it is an expensive model:

Scrutiny meetings are very long, and between them they and Cabinet take up a lot of officer time. So after 18 months they are holding a review of the meetings calendar and may decide to move from monthly to six-weekly meetings. I hope also that Scrutiny will relinquish some of this work to enable them to do some post-scrutiny reviews, and to invite holders of public office to attend and be questioned.

The Constitution review group has put a huge amount of work into revising our constitution and has now produced a draft version which looks very good. It has removed many anomalies, but also to my sadness the description of the Chair (it has decided to move from 'Chairman') as the conscience of the Council. It may be difficult to define this role but it has enabled me to do many things which may otherwise have gone unheeded. I attended its final discussion of the current draft and made a heartfelt

plea for its restoration -- successfully, I am delighted to report.

One anomaly relates to our planning scheme of delegation which appeared to place the final decision (to delegate decision-making on a planning application to the case officer) into the hands of the Chair of the Planning Committee. This would be illegal as a Council may not delegate power to an individual Councillor apart from members of the executive, so the power is now placed in the hands of the Senior Planner. (In fact if the Chair, Vice-Chair and Senior Planner cannot agree such a delegation the application automatically goes to the Committee.) The change has created waves, among those who perhaps do not understand the protocols, and the media suggest it is the reason for two legal cases against the Council. In fact the constitutional change simply brings the Constitution into line with practice, and the Council will robustly defend the case (I confess I do not know the precise details).

You may hear quite a bit about 'Zero Carbon Communities' from now on. Our Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC) is working to ensure that SCDC becomes net zero before 2050. To help achieve this, CEAC has set up a ZCC fund from which grants up to £15,000 are offered to groups with a well-founded proposal to educate or promote lowering our carbon footprint, and the first winners have been announced. Cambridge Carbon Footprint and Cambridge Sustainable Food were both awarded the full grant, with 17 others receiving lesser grants to encourage cycling, plant trees and hedges, install LED lighting and pursue other projects. There will be a workshop at Cambourne on 7 March to encourage a second round of applications -- whether you could attend that or not, put your thinking-caps on!

In this the coldest quarter of the year many residents will have received a letter from Cadent Gas informing them that their gas supply will have to be cut off for a while. If anyone contacts you I am happy to help.

Douglas de Lacey

## APPENDIX C

### Quotations received for Play Area Inspections in April 2020

#### David Bracey Play Safety Inspections

Sites at Girton Recreation Ground, Ten Acre Field, Weavers Field and Wellbrook Way. I assume that all 4 would be needed to be inspected and my fee for all 4 would be £240 plus VAT - Total £288.

The reports will be sent via email within 7 days.

I can inspect unaccompanied and during April 2020.

#### The Play Inspection Company

£75 per site plus VAT - £352.50 total

#### Kompan Playground Inspection and Maintenance

Awaiting quotation

## APPENDIX D

### Quotations for replacement floor covering in the Parish Office

1. Chesterton Carpets Ltd: £575 for glue and carpet tiles, plus £120 for fitting (plus VAT)
2. Dentons Carpets £500 for glue, carpet tiles and fitting (plus VAT), £400 for fitted carpet.
3. Floor Covering Company, Dry Drayton: £700 plus fitting



## APPENDIX E

### **‘Talking Benches’ signage for village benches**

Suggested wording for the sign is ‘Happy to chat bench. Sit here if you don't mind someone stopping to say hello’. Suggested benches for this initiative are at each end of the village – at the Pump Garden in High Street and by the bus stop on Huntingdon Road at the junction with Thornton Road.

## APPENDIX F

### **Great British Spring Clean in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

We can all get involved to make a difference and make sure our local community, parks and streets are clean and free of litter. We need to protect our environment and wildlife by stopping the escape of plastic and other litter entering our watercourses that harm nature, oceans and marine life.

Why not get involved in this year’s Great British Spring Clean from 20 March to 13 April by hosting your own community clean-up, joining someone else’s or by pledging to pick up litter while you are out and about.

We are here to help and you just need to [visit our website](#) where you will find links to your local council who can supply you with the things you need. Last year, more than 560,000 people took part in the country’s biggest mass-action environmental campaign. This year Keep Britain Tidy are aiming to get 600,000 #LitterHeroes out there. Let’s help them reach that goal.

Tom Horn, SCDC Communications Officer

## APPENDIX G

### **Payments Schedule – February 2020**

(circulated separately)

## APPENDIX H

### **Chairman's Report**

#### **12<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

As reported verbally at last month’s PC meeting County Councillor Lynda Harford and I met the representative of a contractor to the A14 Legacy Fund to evaluate feasibility of our fund applications. While the projects seemed to meet with a positive reaction there has been no further feedback received.

My January response to Mike Evans of Highways England concerning access to the M11 from the Oakington Road/Dry Drayton Road has met with a deafening silence. Lynda has offered to press for a reply. I have separately been informed that there are permanent traffic monitoring points on the Oakington/Dry Drayton Road and the Oakington/Girton road. I shall endeavour to obtain data to see how traffic volumes are changing over the recent years and months. A letter received from a resident has complained of speeding and increased volume of traffic entering the village along the Oakington Road.

Another resident has reported a ‘near-miss’ vehicle collision while riding her horse along Oakington Road as it passes Manor Farm road and approaches the Beck Brook Bridge. We met to consider her proposals for provision of an off road path along the field edge from Manor Farm road to the bridleway near the bridge. Lynda is progressing with County Farms who are the owners of the land.

A follow up complaint has been received about the state of the Weavers Field Play area and Cllr Griffin and I have inspected and authorised a spruce up. We need to revisit our procedures and timetable for play area inspections.

Correspondence has also been received relating to the new road narrowing at Wellbrook Way, Coach parking in Hick's Lane and the need for a tea room/coffee shop in the village. The first is being addressed by Lynda and the second has been resolved by the resident. I have met the resident concerning the third issue to discuss possible options but there is no likelihood of immediate resolution.

Following last month's discussion over SCDC proposals for changes to the Planning Delegation procedure I have been in correspondence with the organisation that alerted us to the change and Cllr de Lacey. It appears that in reality little has really changed, there being disagreement as to whether the new arrangement meets legal requirements any better than the one it replaces.

At his request I met with the chairman of Histon and Impington Parish Council to discuss matters of mutual interest. His main concern relates to the status and management of Darwin 3 development and he raised questions about potential for further development on the proposed Country Park area and how we can avoid this becoming a reality. We will need to consider our options.

**Haydn Williams**

## **APPENDIX I**

### **Summary of Girton Youth Project Report for January 2020**

We have embraced the new decade at Girton Youth Project and have seen numbers maintained, and even slightly increased. This is reassuring and the positive start we needed for the new year. We still have a long way to go, but we are confident that we are delivering a great service and offering choice to the young people of Girton.

We have a solid group of Monday members regularly attending who are the driving force of Girton Youth Project. We have also seen the return of a couple of old members. It is reassuring to see that young people still feel they can return and drop in whenever they want. This is a credit to youth group and the staff for providing a supportive and welcoming environment. The bad weather has meant that we cannot always play games outside. This has meant we have introduced inside activities. We have set up activities as an option for young people. They all got stuck in with T-shirt decorating and there was a good selection of knock off Nike and Gucci designs! From this craft we thought it would be good to get some cheap plimsolls and spray paint them. We will organise this craft for February as we are just in the process of collecting everyone's shoe sizes!

As well as the Monday group, Thursday members have taken full advantage of our new nerf toys. This has been great fun and injected some energy into our, usually quiet, Thursday groups. I now feel full prepared for when we next go paintballing! Myself and the team have met to and are planning activities including pancake making, St Patrick's Day crafts and of course an Easter egg hunt over the next couple of months. We are led by the young people's suggestions so are in a continuous dialogue re. what they would like to do.

Frances Roach

## **APPENDIX J**

### **Water Management Report, February 2020**

You will realise there have been no reports in recent months. This is not only because I have been 'out of action', but also because there has been very little to report. This is, of course, a good thing! The Beck Brook has not risen to worrying levels, over even the most challenging of conditions. Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis have both dumped serious amounts of water on the area, and the brook has dealt very adequately with all of this. A substantial period of rain around a month ago had more impact, but nonetheless was still not alarming.

Professor Irvine and I concluded that the removal of utility pipes from under the Oakington Road Bridge has proved a very successful strategy. Also the clearance of vast amounts of vegetation along the brook on the Histon side of the bridge will have helped. We are not complacent, but the signs are encouraging.

Professor Irvine has been in touch with our Environment Agency contact, Jenny Gough, to alert her to increased cracking on the parapet of the Oakington Road Bridge. Her response is quoted below:

"I think the parapet falling in would be something they would be very concerned about, not least the hole within the highway directly into the brook, as well as the blockage it would cause. The Highway Engineer I liaise with, also worked with us on the pipe removals, so he is very aware of the flooding concerns. As you say, if it was found to be causing a problem to the entire bridge, then they would have to have a rethink, but we will 'park' that until they come back to us about the cracks."

There appears to have been a positive effect on the brook at Washpit, due to the carefully managed water control systems at Eddington.

Mary Rodger  
16 February 2020

## **APPENDIX K**

Parish website report - Girton Parish Council meeting, Tuesday 18 February 2020  
By Rachel Thomason

Website preview available here: <http://www.girton-cambs.org.uk/wp/>

With the Parish Council's approval and agreement at the February meeting of the policies on the website and any final last changes or comments on the overall site, we are ready to make the new website live by 1st March 2020 at the very latest.

The policies can be found here: <http://www.girton-cambs.org.uk/wp/policies/>. All of these policies have been lifted from the old website, except for the privacy policy that I have drafted. Please would the Parish Council please kindly read and feedback on these policies so that they can be approved at the upcoming meeting.

I contacted Girton Parish News, Andrew Haylett (Girton Parish News webmaster), and Alison, who have all expressed an interest in continuing to contribute to the site, although Alison is quite busy with a new job at the moment. Andrew is still happy to provide website support too, and will be assisting with making the website live.

Regarding additional charges and costs, Andrew has very helpfully clarified that there are two costs associated with domains. The Parish Council currently pays a charge to Mythic Beasts annually to provide the girtonparish.org.uk domain (although I notice this is not used as a website or on emails). However,

Simba Hosting hosts the web site, email and domain name registration for girton-cambs.org.uk and this has always been paid by Girton Parish News, not from the council. I am liaising with Andrew and have asked what the feeling is to continue paying this as I imagine it would make more sense for the Parish Council to cover this cost now. I should be able to report back at the meeting.

Consideration points for future would be a discussion around who forms the website working group alongside the Clerk and Assistant Clerk as key users.

I look forward to making the website live within the next couple of weeks