

Girton Parish Council

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The Pavilion
Girton Recreation Ground
Cambridge Road, Girton
Cambridge CB3 0FH

Minutes of the meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th March, 2020 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Girton, at 7.00 p.m.

Following the coronavirus outbreak, notice was given that this meeting would be closed to the public to reduce risk of spreading the virus.

Participants were seated at 2m distance of each other, following government guidelines.

Present: (Cllrs) Williams (Chairman), Cockley (from item 20/33), de Lacey, Griffin, Hickford, Mitchell.

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk)

20/23 Welcome from the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the meeting would be on a curtailed, emergency basis.

20/24 Apologies and reasons for absence. Apologies had been sent by Cllr Godby. The Chairman had previously suggested that a 'core' of Councillors attend this meeting as members aged over 70 were required to self-isolate.

20/25 Members' declarations for items on the agenda. None.

20/26 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:

1. Members of the Public. None.
2. County Councillor's Report. None.
3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix A*). Cllr de Lacey reported that the District Council will let Parish Councils know how to run Council meetings during the crisis.
4. Police Report. None.

20/27 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th February, 2020 (previously circulated). Proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Griffin, and approved unanimously.

20/28 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

20/15.2 Cambs County Council Highways Officer is looking at the logistics of a crossing near the Co-Op store. Co-Op management would need to be consulted regarding the loss of parking spaces outside the store. The village will be consulted on this issue at the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

20/18.1 County Councillor Harford is getting costings for the village signage.

20/18.2 The Chairman, Cllr Hickford and the Clerk met with architects Cook & Cook to discuss possible plans for the Pavilion on 17th March.

20/18.3 Booking has been made for the Annual Parish Meeting at Girton Glebe School on 12th May.

20/18.4 and 20/18.5 The new website was launched on 1st March.

20/18.6 The playground inspections will be undertaken on 28th /29th April.

20/18.7 The Clerk is awaiting quotations for professional quarterly inspections.

20/18.8 Cllr Cockley and the Clerk are meeting with the carpet contractors on 12th March regarding fitting the Parish Office carpet. Volunteers are sought to assist with getting the office ready for the new carpet laying.

20/18.9 Girton's Elderly Persons Co-Ordinator has been given the locations of all village benches and will designate six as 'Talking Benches'.

20/18.10 Organisation of a village litter pick will be discussed with the Assistant to the Parish Clerk when she starts work with the Council on 16th March.

Noted by the Council.

20/29 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To review the revised Emergency Plan for the village in preparedness for Covid 19 (details to be circulated). The Emergency Plan had been received and measures for dealing with the coronavirus crisis were in process of development. Two notices are to be put on the website, one for helpers and another for those who need help. Contact should be via Clerk's or Cllr Mitchell's email addresses or phone numbers.

An emergency motion was proposed that the Clerk can make decisions in consultation with two Parish Councillors one of which is the Chairman or Vice-Chairman. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved unanimously.

Decisions delegated by the March Meeting were decided as follows:

20/29.1. To review the revised Emergency Plan for the village in preparedness for Covid 19 (details to be circulated). No decision needed

20/29.2. To approve provision of sanitiser dispensers at the Pavilion entrances plus to receive any other suggestions the Parish Council may wish for preparedness for Covid 19. Approved

20/29.3. To appoint a website champion to help upload items as needed to the new website. Decision deferred

20/29.4. To approve replacement goals for use on the Multi-Use Games Area at Girton Recreation Ground (Appendix B) Approved Pettitt Sports quotation.

20/29.5. To approve a one-year extension of the grass verge-cutting contract from March 2020 to end of February 2021, following annual review. Approved

20/29.6. To approve contractors to undertake Pavilion cleaning from 1st April, 2020, to 31st March, 2023 (details to be circulated). Details to be reviewed.

20/29.7. To approve annual insurance coverage for Girton Parish Council from 1st April, 2020 – 31st March, 2021. Approved with proviso that GTC be asked to obtain additional cover for the artistic fence to reflect its true replacement value.

20/29.8. To approve that by-laws regarding prohibiting use of vehicles and marquees on the Recreation Ground be suspended for Girton Feast Fete Day on Saturday 11th July and the Feast Film Night on Friday 10th July, 2020. Decision deferred

20/30 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*previously circulated*). Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved unanimously.

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

20/31 Correspondence (to be received) None.

20/32 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix C*)
2. Girton Town Charity Report. None.
3. Girton Youth Project Report. None.
4. Footpaths Officer's Report. None.
5. Water Management Report. **None.**
6. Kiosk Plans Report. None.
7. Update on land at Woody Green. None.

20/33 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting. None.

APPENDIX A

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey 11. 3. 2020

For family reasons I have had to step back a little from Council activities, but I have helped to steer the revised constitution to a form which, with a few tweaks, should be ready to present to Council for approval in May. I mentioned last month the issue of delegating planning decisions, and we need to ensure that our practice as enshrined in the constitution is clear, fair, and entirely in accord with the law. So that is a tweak which our lawyers will decide; the rest of the constitution has been discussed by both the Scrutiny Committee and the Civic Affairs Committee.

Scrutiny as ever had a very full agenda: we were given a review of the Community Safety Partnership (formerly the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership). The committee was a little sceptical as to its value but we were assured that its job was not to hold the police to account but to assess how decisions were made, to promote best practice, and to investigate why certain crimes happen and to address the causes. We also looked at the provision of community land at Northstowe for faith-based activities and the criteria which will be used in assessing applications for it. Finally an interesting statistic emerged during our monitoring of the budget -- the fuss over charging residents for a second green bin has publicised the possibility of asking for one and this has proved very popular.

We have asked the Centre for Public Scrutiny to assess the workings and value of our Scrutiny Committee and I have been subject to a searching interview. The results will be revealed at a Scrutiny workshop which should be interesting.

The Combined Authority has been consulting on the Cambridge Autonomous Metro scheme (CAM). It looks like an absurdly expensive non-solution to our problems since in both options there is a major

bottleneck at its heart, and it uses buses which simply cannot scale.

The Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership are at each other's throats again. The CA's Mayor dropped a bombshell on the GCP's plans for a commuter route between Cambourne and Cambridge (C2C), effectively vetoing them, and indirectly putting the whole of the new Cambourne and Bourne developments on hold -- and with them our 5 year housing land supply. The GCP has refuted the claims that the CA was not consulted and that C2C would not fit with the CAM proposals.

On 11 February I had a meeting with Heather Topel, the head of the Eddington development. We discussed the Local Plan and the University's likely moves over Eddington Phase 2; and also the problems which disabled drivers are having at Eddington, and the replacement of the Girton boundary sign. I wait to see how the discussions develop into active changes.

Owing to my family situation I had to miss the Council meeting on 20 February, with its over-full agenda and some complex issues. With the usual 2pm start it ended at 8.15pm; the minutes will be published at tinyurl.com/wdu52ln where you can also find the agenda.

I was able to chair the 3 March Civic Affairs Committee, which as well as the Constitution looked at a governance review for Northstowe. A consultation in all the affected villages had been rather spoiled by a well-publicised rumour claiming that the issue had already been decided and including a pro-forma response which did not help our decision-making.

Homes England also complicated the issue by submitting a very late proposal different from those we had suggested. With the help of a pre-meeting phone call to an aggrieved Parish Chairman I managed to bring some consensus to the meeting and we agreed the options to go forward to a second consultation, together with an offer to mediate between Homes England and the parishes.

I have enjoyed using Stagecoach's new buses, but am disappointed that the Thornton Road stop is advertised as being in Cambridge. I am told that this is because they use the County's GIS data, and am investigating.

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX B

Quotations received for replacement goals and nets for MUGA

Pettitt Sports:

1 set x PS FBL-SUN – 4.88m x 1.22m Heavy Duty Steel 5-a-side Football goals with Kee-Klump Corner Joints and 3mm White 5-a-side Goal Nets £625.00 (excl VAT)

Carriage charge for the above goals £65.00 (excl VAT)

Fitness Sports:

Classic freestanding steel five a side football goalposts. (Non folding). Junior 3.66m x 1.22m and Senior 4.88m x 1.22m. Manufactured with 48mm x 3mm heavy duty steel crossbars, backbars and side frames. Zinc phosphated corners with a baked on white powder coated finish. Complete with lock-on synthetic net hooks. Optional nets FBL-031

(<https://www.fitness-sports.co.uk/footballgoalposts/REPLACEMENT-FOOTBALL-GOALNETTING.html>). Meets BS8462. 132kg per set. (Price per pair). FBL-140. £683.88 Price + VAT. Includes standard delivery.

NB: Price does not include cost of nets.

MH Goals Ltd:

16x4 Heavy Duty Fixed Goals 5v5 Package: 5-A-Side Freestanding Steel Extra Heavy Duty goals designed to withstand the harshest of environments.

- 60mm steel used on both the crossbar and uprights
- Welded steel corner joints for extra strength
- Designed to withstand heavy outdoor use
- Durable powder coated finish
- Pair of white 3mm poly twisted standard nets
- BSEN16579 compliant

Fits Standard Nets for 5-A-Side 16x4 Football Goals

£816.00 pair (excluding cost of nets)

APPENDIX C
Chairman's Report
11th March 2020

I am unable to attend our upcoming meeting due to business commitments. Please let me have any questions or comments via email.

The new MUGA lighting has been installed and as soon as the weather improves the final additions of sand to the new carpet will complete the renovation of the facility. When this is done we shall have a small opening ceremony to mark this significant improvement to our Sports provision.

As previously reported there is still no feedback on our A14 Legacy Fund applications following our meeting with the contractor to review feasibility. Neither has Mike Evans of Highways England sent any response to our concerns about access to the M11 from the Oakington Road/Dry Drayton Road and the appalling new road layout at the Bar Hill junction.

The chairman of Oakington PC has written to me and to our Longstanton counterpart inviting co-operation in campaigning for road repairs in our villages. I have responded enthusiastically and we plan to meet to develop possible ideas and to include other villages. Our proposal to provide an off road pedestrian and horse rider route alongside the Oakington Road near Manor Farm Road is progressing. Provided the tenant is in agreement, which we believe he is, then the project can go ahead. The only issue remaining is whether we can proceed to a low cost solution or be forced to get bogged down in red tape and escalating cost.

I have received an update on plans for widening the cycle/pedestrian path along Oakington Road and have responded with a plea for improved lighting to this dangerous facility. Cllr. Lynda Harford and I met with a County Highways Officer in late February to review options for a pedestrian crossing near the Co-Op. This would be feasible provided the road is narrowed to single lane traffic and the lay by reduced to parking for one disability space only. The likely cost would be £20,000, and we might expect to obtain 75% as an LHI grant. The road width restriction would have the added benefit of slowing traffic and discouraging rat running but the loss of parking spaces is likely to be more controversial. Proper consultation with all the village will be necessary. I have also responded to a resident's concerns about the broken bollard in this vicinity at the entrance to Weavers Field. See the correspondence file.

Our investigation of the need for the road narrowing 'build out' at Wellbrook Way has revealed that this was a requirement of the original planning application. However it does not appear to have been included in any of the further development applications in the immediate area. A site meeting with the relevant Officer is planned.

Cllr Roger Hickford and I met with CHS Architects, (the original designers of the Pavilion) to review options for extension and improvement of the building. Their view is that extension beyond the current footprint to expand existing usage would be permissible. They have provided an initial sketch with a proposal to develop more detailed plans for a doubling of the hall size and development of the first floor space. We are considering how we could move the Office to the ground floor to obviate the need for a lift and will progress matters accordingly. The documentation for the transfer of the land at Wellbrook Way has at last been correctly rendered by our Solicitors. This has been signed by the Vice Chair and me and hand delivered back to their offices. I also provided written instruction for forwarding to GTC subject to all our costs relating to Land Registry and Legal charges being met in full.

I have been in correspondence with a resident concerning a fallen fence bordering the Bowls Green. There is lack of clarity regarding ownership of the land and fence and this is being looked into by South Cambs. Officers. Thanks to Cllr de Lacey for assistance with this.

GTC have informed me that they have authorisation from insurers to undertake repairs to the artistic fence and that these will commence shortly. We have received a quotation for installation of protective bollards from Mead. The cost is £4080 so further quotations are being sought. We may need to consider less costly but more unsightly alternatives.

The new website has been launched successfully but regrettably Cllr. Rachel Thomason who was most recently leading this project has tendered her resignation due to pressure of work. We shall be seeking to appoint another Councillor to step up to take responsibility for nursing the site to optimise its potential and utility. I am sure all will join me in thanking Rachel for all her work for the Council and wishing her well in all her future endeavours.

Haydn Williams