

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 via video conference on Tuesday 21st April, 2020, at 7.00 p.m.

For security this meeting was closed to the public but residents were invited to submit written statements on issues of concern to any Councillor or the Clerk for presentation at item 20/37.1

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

Cllr L Harford (Cambs County Council), Cllr T Bygott (South Cambs District Council)

Mrs A Bonnet (Girton Town Charity)

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk)

20/34 Welcome from the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially County Councillor Harford, District Councillor Bygott and Girton Town Charity Trustee Mrs Bonnet.

20/35 Apologies and Reasons for Absence. None. Although Cllr Thorrold was unable to join the virtual meeting, the Chairman had checked that he was fine during lockdown.

20/36 Members' declarations for items on the agenda. None.

20/37 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:

1. Members of the Public. Written representations to be verbally presented by Councillors. The Chairman reported that a resident had been in contact regarding a damaged bridge in Girton Wood. This was the responsibility of Histon & Impington Parish Council and their Clerk had been contacted.
2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) Cllr Harford was asked about County Council assistance with setting-up food hubs. Guidance is primarily for the over-60s whilst the Parish Council is interested in younger families needing help. Cllr Harford will get back to us about this. Cllr Harford was also asked if there is data on the delays in payments to parents/carers of children eligible for free school meals. Back-up for these families, in terms of food parcels, would be good. Cllr Harford will check about this and come back to us. There would be data protection issues if we approached local schools directly regarding eligible families. The Chairman thanked Cllr Harford for her report.
3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Cllr Bygott has spoken with Girton care homes, and thanked Cllr Harford for her great work on keeping in touch with care homes too. Cllr de Lacey reported that there is new legislation on holding meetings which he will forward to the Clerk for distribution.
4. Police Report. No report this month.

20/38 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th March, 2020.

The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved with four abstentions.

20/39 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

Decisions delegated by the March Meeting were decided as follows:

1. To review the revised Emergency Plan for the village in preparedness for Covid 19 (details to be circulated). No decision needed
 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
 3. To appoint a website champion to help upload items as needed to the new website. Decision deferred
 4. To approve replacement goals for use on the Multi-Use Games Area at Girton Recreation Ground (*Appendix B*) Approved Pettitt Sports quotation.
 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
 6. To approve contractors to undertake Pavilion cleaning from 1st April, 2020, to 31st March, 2023 (details to be circulated). Details to be reviewed.
 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.
 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
- Noted by the Council.

20/40 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To approve a budget contribution to a food distribution hub should one be established in Girton. The Chairman proposed a contribution of £1,000 initially, to be incremented at a later date should demand dictate. Seconded by Cllr Cockley, and approved unanimously.

20/41 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*Appendix C*). The Chairman requested that the final payment for MUGA resurfacing be held back until notice had been received from Girton Tennis Club that the playing surface was to their satisfaction. The payment to Mr M Murphy was a replacement for cheques which Mr Murphy had not cashed when issued in 2017. The Chairman proposed that the payment schedule be approved, seconded by Cllr Hickford, and approved unanimously.
2. To note any significant variance from usual levels of monthly income/expenditure. None.

20/42 Correspondence (to be received) None.

20/43 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix D*) The Chairman reported that new regulations mean that we do not have to hold Annual Meetings. The Chairman had wanted to speak to the public about a crossing at the

Co-Op plus plans to extend The Pavilion. Such an extension would allow more space for sports such as badminton and a downstairs office, which would negate the need for a lift. Sports clubs etc could be consulted for their views. No reply had been received regarding the A14 Highways Legacy Fund.

2. Girton Town Charity Report. Mrs Bonnet reported that the coronavirus crisis had had a detrimental effort on Town Charity finances and remuneration for some local projects would be reduced over the coming 18 months.

20/44 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.

Cllr Rodger reported that a large tree branch had been dumped in Beck Brook, damming the brook. The Environment Agency could not deal with it. Residents should be reminded not to throw garden rubbish in the brook. The Open Gardens event will be postponed until the Autumn, although the floral phone kiosk will carry on through the Summer.

Cllr Dashwood will write to the Chairman regarding issues at Woody Green.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

APPENDIX A

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report Girton Parish Council - 21 April 2020 meeting

As you might expect this month's report talks exclusively about the current Covid-19 crisis and the work being done by Cambridgeshire County Council [CCC] to deliver its responsibilities and to collaborate with other councils to achieve the best possible support for Cambridgeshire's communities. As the lead authority CCC is working closely with the District Councils and a hub structure has been established to coordinate the work that is being done at each level. Responsibility for supporting the 'shielded' group [the 1.5m people nationally who have been asked to shield for 12 weeks] remains with the County Council and the District Councils are collaborating with Parish Councils and other local groups to provide support to the even larger group who are self-isolating. That said, the quality of the data that has been supplied hasn't been particularly helpful and it is very likely that many of even the shielded group are actually being well supported by their communities. It is clear that it is the collaboration of councils at all levels that is providing the basis for establishing a support resource for all those who need it across the county. Locally the parish council is doing a great job of coordinating the various strands of support that have sprung up in the village. There is no doubt that this is going to be a long haul and the local services that are being set up in all our villages will need to plan for resilience. CCC is continuing to maintain its critical services effectively and those staff who can are working from home. Some staff have been redeployed to support services such as reablement where staff work in the community to support patients discharged from hospital. This is a vital service in the current emergency as hospitals seek to free up beds as quickly as possible to treat Covid-19 patients. The Council is taking the lead on commissioning additional care provision for both health and social care. It has purchased approximately 370 additional nursing, residential and interim beds which are being utilised to discharge people from hospital although financial reimbursement will be made by the local Clinical Commissioning Group. This provision has allowed for the discharge of all those who can safely be discharged and there are still some 150 plus

additional beds available for use. Work is ongoing to source additional domiciliary care capacity and the Council has been working with providers to maximise resource including through the provision of recruitment expertise and prompt training. The previously mentioned reablement team is also acting as a provider of last resort and will attempt to pick up care packages if providers become unable to deliver. There is no evidence of this at the moment and the service being provided by the home care sector and the Council's own staff is currently functioning well despite the fact that it is generally operating with 25% of the workforce off sick or self-isolating. Thanks must go to the volunteers and staff who have agreed to redeployment to support this. The Council also gratefully acknowledges the contribution being made by community volunteer groups who are doing things like shopping and collecting medication which frees up home care resource to focus on hands on personal care and other regulated care tasks. The Council is supporting care homes and home care providers with access to PPE. It had taken early steps to source PPE locally and together with somewhat sporadic deliveries by Government, this seems to have been adequately covering need up till now. Two deliveries of about 12,000 surgical masks have been received free of charge from contacts in China that were established by the Council last year. These have been distributed and the Council will continue to try and source more. The NHS is reporting that appropriate PPE has been available for staff to date, but only on a 'just in time' basis. CCC has also preempted the situation where a provider becomes unable to continue to deliver care packages to privately funded clients. The details of these people would not necessarily be known to the Council under normal circumstances so it has taken steps to identify those who would be vulnerable in such circumstances. Regular contact is being maintained with all providers to support them and thus avoid this situation arising. Arrangements have also been made to support those individuals providing adult social care at this very challenging time. The Council is monitoring closely any Covid-19 outbreaks in care homes including doing site visits, where they are felt necessary, to ensure that appropriate infection controls are in place. There has been a number of outbreaks and, very sadly Covid-19 related deaths in various locations, although none have been reported in Bar Hill Division thus far. The Council website has also been updated ensuring there is clear information and advice on Covid-19 issues.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus> An emailed update is also sent out each day to Parish and Town Councils and residents can subscribe to receive this. The Council's services for children and young people are coping well to date and, despite having to make adjustments to adhere to Government guidelines on social distancing, essential face to face visiting is being maintained in priority cases. The children of key workers and those who are considered as vulnerable have all been offered school places. Teachers and other school staff have done an amazing job, not just in keeping facilities open but also in helping the Council to stay in touch with vulnerable families who are self-isolating. School attendance by vulnerable groups has been low and the Council is keeping a close eye on this. Latterly the media has picked up on my own concern about how young care leavers are being supported to cope with the current challenging situation. Whilst nationally there may be some concerns about the quality of this support, I am reassured that locally this group is being well supported. Community donations have contributed to the relief hampers distributed by the Council to these young people. Limited by the current restrictions to essential face to face visits only, the Council's support team is contacting each young person at least once a week by phone or one of the virtual apps to put them in touch with other trusted support groups and with on-line educational resources. Funding has also been secured to ensure that each one has the technology to allow them to study and stay connected. Concern is building that recently people have not been coming forward early enough with symptoms of other serious

illnesses - heart attacks, strokes, cancer symptoms - as they are concerned that there is not enough capacity in the system due to Covid-19 or may be worried about becoming infected. People are urged to seek help with these symptoms at an early point, just as they usually would. The capacity is there and protective arrangements are in place. It has become clear that the extra Government funding for the Council's response to Covid-19 will not cover the extra expense it has incurred. However, this is a discussion for the Council to have with Government in the future and for the time being the County Council will do everything it can to help Cambridgeshire's residents through this difficult time. There have been interesting reports about the improvement in air quality seemingly resulting from the travel restrictions that are in place currently. The County Council has asked the Greater Cambridge Partnership how traffic volumes and flows are being monitored now and how they will be monitored in the immediate aftermath of the virus to establish how much continuing change there is on travel habits and working from home. In order to help manage your virtual meeting may I invite you to contact me with questions or comments by email: lyndaharford@icloud.com or phone: 01954 251775/07889 131022 Please look out for each other, take care and stay safe.

APPENDIX B

i) Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey

14. 4. 2020

Paradoxically the lockdown has meant that I have become much more involved in the Council, now that almost everything is being done remotely. Less than a month ago we were only issuing general advice about working from home (WFH); a week later almost all of our staff were WFH. Many of course were also in self-isolation, and we had to make major cuts to our waste collection service as a result. We hope to continue blue bin collections but black bins must be our first priority. Social distancing for the team of 3 in the cab of the waste vehicles is of course impossible. On 23 March we tried to set up an emergency Council meeting, aware it would be the last time we could possibly meet together to put emergency measures in place -- but even then we were too late; after a frenzy of electronic contacts we had to admit defeat. From then all physical meetings of Council, Cabinet and Committees were cancelled, though it would be a while before central Government would pass legislation permitting remote meeting, and we are still working on the practicalities for that. Our Chief Executive meanwhile has full powers to keep the Council running.

Officers have risen to the challenge of a completely new way of working and most of our services seem to be working well. We have also been busy exploring ways in which we can help to ease the problems which the lockdown has produced. I hope the list below will be of use to you.

Waste services

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We are stretched almost to breaking but will do our best to maintain fortnightly black and blue collections. Please do try to minimise your waste to help our staff, and ensure that only recyclables go in the blue bin. A tip for food waste: keep it in a sealed container in the freezer until the day of the black bin collection.

Planning

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The Government wants us to continue to assess planning applications in a timely way. However, we cannot do the normal advertising at the site or even post details on Parish noticeboards. However our planning website has details of recent applications: the weekly list is at applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/search.do?action=weeklyList&searchType=Application or tinyurl.com/we4vz3o. Officers will continue to assess straightforward applications; others may have to wait. If you have planning problems please contact me directly.

Money

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You should, even as I write on Easter Monday, have received your council bill and no doubt have noticed the increases. Please, if paying the bill will create hardship for you, let us know! Both our Council and the national Government have schemes to help. See the contact details below.

We can also offer grants to help community groups support people in their villages particularly hit by the crisis.

See the contact details below.

Businesses

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You should have heard directly from the Council, but if you do not pay business rates we may not know that you exist. We want to do all we can to keep you afloat. See the contact details below.

Taxi companies should have heard directly from the Council: we have extended your ability to drive for 3 months, and postponed the implementation of the CCTV which was agreed at the last Council meeting.

Community Support

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As noted above we have funds you can apply for. The Parish Council is co-ordinating support within the village, but if you have concerns or a problem please contact me directly. If you want to volunteer to help, please contact the Parish Council.

Fly Tipping

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As the recycling centre at Milton is closed please store material you would have taken there until the restrictions are lifted. Sadly, we anticipate an increase in fly tipping; please report any you see directly to me or (preferably) on-line at scams-framework.egovhub.net/ENVIROCRIMEREPORTINGFORM/launch or tinyurl.com/sarudvj.

Scams

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Sadly, we have already seen criminals take advantage of the current situation. Please note that valid agencies will **never** door-knock or cold-call you. Any purported vaccines, cures, or preventatives for covid-19 are sham; if any is discovered it will be global headline news. If you are worried please contact me or the Council: see the contact details below.

One ongoing scam is people offering to clear your rubbish for you. Please remember it remains your responsibility to see that it is properly disposed: if it is fly-tipped it is you, not they, who will be fined.

Contact options

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You are always welcome to email me <Cllr.deLacey@scambs.gov.uk> or phone on 565219.

The Council has many pages of advice and information but as these may change over time, I suggest you start at <www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/> and choose your options from there

The Government has an automated `chatbot' on WhatsApp with information on topics such as coronavirus prevention and symptoms, the latest number of cases in the UK, advice on staying at home, travel advice and myth busting. The service will also allow the government to send messages to all opted-in users if required. To use it simply add 07860 064422 in your phone contacts and then message the word `hi' in a WhatsApp message.

Most advice will doubtless be out-of-date by the time you read this; but this won't be: keep isolated as far as you possibly can; stay at home; practice maximum hygiene, and stay safe.

Douglas de Lacey

ii) District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott – 21 Apr 2020

Coronavirus pandemic preparations

Last month I wrote that we are very fortunate to live in a village such as ours, and that if we all work together and take care of one another, we will get through this crisis. I am pleased to say that the people of Girton have risen to the challenge. The whole village has been doing the right thing, following Government advice and doing everything required to limit the spread of the virus. There is a strong group of volunteers working hard and helping others. Every village in South Cambridgeshire has been appointed a 'patch co-ordinator' from amongst the District Council staff. Your District and County Councillors, and the Parish Council, are in regular contact with our patch co-ordinator. The Parish Clerk has been appointed the 'data controller', to keep a list of vulnerable residents and assign volunteers to help them. You should contact the Parish Council if you need help or wish to volunteer. Staying happy and healthy during the lockdown For January's issue, I wrote that the New Year should be a time for optimism and provided a list of things to look forward to this year. So far, the year hasn't quite matched the vision that was in my mind as I was writing before Christmas. The pandemic and its lockdown are one of the

strangest and most disturbing experiences that many of us will experience during our lifetimes. However, it is in times of adversity that we most need optimism. I write this during the Easter weekend; a time of rebirth, renewal and a celebration of new life. Whatever troubles that we face during this period, including illness, bereavement, unemployment or loneliness, there is new life waiting for us. One thing that we can do is to keep happy and healthy, improving both our physical and mental wellbeing. Key to this is eating healthily, getting good exercise and sleeping well. Staying busy and using our time productively are also important; there are only so many funny cat videos and handwashing song videos that people can watch, and we should try to focus our activity on things that will be of more long-lasting benefit. In 1665 and 1666, England was in the grip of a bubonic plague outbreak, the worst since the Black Death three hundred years earlier. Just as this year, Cambridge University sent its staff and students home to limit the transmission of the disease. Amongst them was a young man at Trinity College, who returned to his home at Woolthorpe Manor, Lincolnshire. Whilst there, he witnessed an apple falling from a tree, and formulated his theory of gravitation. He also worked intensely, experimenting on optics and writing three scientific papers on ‘fluxions’, which we know today as calculus. Not all of us have the intellectual potential of Sir Isaac Newton, but we can follow his lead by using our time productively. Some things that we can do include: teaching our children, tidying, decluttering and improving our house and garden, organising and analysing our personal finances, planning our careers and how to respond to future trends in the economy, learning languages, writing books, researching and outlining ideas, thinking about what we want from life, and how to improve our lives in the future. Grant funding for local businesses on the way Businesses in South Cambridgeshire, that are eligible for grant funding under two Government Coronavirus assistance schemes, are being contacted by the District Council and invited to apply. In response to the Coronavirus outbreak, the Government announced there would be support for small businesses and those companies in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors. This support will take the form of two grant funding schemes: • The Small Business Grant Fund. This fund provides a one-off grant of £10,000 to eligible businesses that already pay little or no business rates to help them meet ongoing business costs • The Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund. This fund provides businesses in these industries with a rateable value of under £15,000 with a grant of £10,000. Businesses with a rateable value of between £15,001 and £51,000 will receive a grant of £25,000 The Council estimates that a total of around 1,700 businesses in South Cambridgeshire are eligible for one of the grants. These companies are being emailed with instructions on how to apply for the grants online. If the Council does not have an email address for them, they are being sent a letter containing details about applying. Any business owner who does not receive an email or letter within the next week – but believes they are eligible for one of the grants – should first check the criteria in the ‘Coronavirus information for businesses’ section of the Council’s website, then follow the links to contact the Council if necessary

APPENDIX C

Girton Parish Council Payments Schedule for April 2020

(circulated separately)

APPENDIX D

Chairman's Report

15th April 2020

As you will no doubt expect this month's report will centre on the Girton response to the Covid-19 Lockdown. With the help of Andrew Haylett, the village webmaster we set up a system on the village website for calling for volunteers and putting them in contact with those who request help. See www.girton-cambs.org.uk/helping. Contacts are Susie and Shahila. I am sure all will join me in offering them our sincerest thanks for their efforts in support of this. The system allows for anyone with concerns for the welfare of someone who may not have access to the internet to print off a leaflet and post this through their door. We identified that residents of the sheltered housing in St Vincent's and Orchard Closes may fall into this category so I have delivered leaflets to all of these properties.

Additionally South Cambs. have provided a list of some 650+ residents who are aged over 70 and we are in the process of identifying likely candidates for assistance and delivering leaflets to these asking them to indicate their needs or otherwise. Hopefully this will ensure that no-one slips through the net.

Susie has been participating in daily Conference calls with South Cambs. and additionally District Councillors and County Councillor Harford and Susie, Shahila, Gill and I have been similarly involved in a weekly call to South Cambs. The greatest task facing the latter is to establish a local food distribution hub and identify parishioners who will become needful as the consequences of lockdown have an economic effect. We are in need of guidance on the logistics and financing of such an operation. An offer to distribute surplus food from the Co-op has been taken up by David Adamson (who also administers food bank collections), who we have advised to deliver to the various Care Homes/Sheltered living complexes in the village.

In addition to the closure of the Parish Office and Pavilion/Recreation ground facilities we have closed the three children's play areas.

On non Covid-19 related matters we at last received a response from the A14 Legacy Fund but the wording was so vague as to make it impossible to tell what projects are to be funded. I have requested clarification but answer is there none!

An invitation to apply for LHI funding has last been received and we shall progress this in due course.

We have also received notice of invitation to apply for the County Council Communities Capital Fund. We have already received an outline plan from our architects for a large extension to the Pavilion to provide a larger hall and ground floor Office and storage. We have asked them to provide a cost estimate for this and provided the figures are not too enormous we will file our expression of interest forthwith.

Finally an observant parishioner alerted me to the dumping of rubbish bags adjacent to our trade waste bin. I investigated and from the contents of one bag of largely recyclable materials, I was able to identify the address that they came from and request that the residents immediately take back possession. This they did. I will be writing to the resident to re-emphasise how seriously we take such antisocial behaviour and the severe penalties available for fly tipping. .

Haydn Williams