

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 16th June, 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 20/59.1

Present: (Cllrs) Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Cockley, Dashwood, de Lacey (until end of item 20/61.4), Hickford, Kettle, Mitchell, Rodger.

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

Mrs A Bonnett (Girton Town Charity) (until halfway through item 20/59.3)

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk), L Lawrence (Assistant to the Clerk)

20/56 Welcome from the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the Chair of Girton Town Charity Trustees.

20/57 Apologies and Reasons for Absence. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Godby, Griffin and Thorrold, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence. The next agenda will address temporary suspension of the six meetings non-attendance rule in light of the coronavirus crisis, for those Councillors who are not able to access video-conferencing facilities..

20/58 Members' declarations for items on the agenda. None.

20/59 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:

1. Members of the Public. Written representations to be verbally presented by Councillors. Cllr de Lacey read a comment from a resident concerning problems the family was having with the neighbours, and the lack of help the District Council was giving. Mrs Bonnett reported that the almshouses development on High Street had been approved at SCDC's virtual planning meeting the week before. She thanked Girton Parish Council for supporting the plans and Cllr de Lacey for speaking on behalf of Girton Town Charity when her technology failed. GTC will progress the development as soon as possible, but it is unlikely that S106 requirements will have been worked through before Spring 2021. The Suffolk Terrace almshouses will be completed by Spring 2021. Mrs Bonnet also reported that Mrs D Macklin had been appointed as a Trustee in May, and was a very good addition to the Trustees. Cllr Dashwood thanked Mrs Bonnett for May's letter to residents regarding current works. Mrs Bonnett agreed to speak to contractors about the damaged footpaths outside residences. The Chairman thanked Mrs Bonnett for her report.

2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*). Cllr Harford reported that whilst the County's Community Fund had been oversubscribed there was still £5 million available. Regarding the non-motorised road parallel to the A14, funding could be requested from the second tranche of government monies. Although a right of way, the Local Highways Officer had queried whether Washpit Lane is adopted, which it is. The lack of access for cycles at the Girton end was queried. Whilst it would be good to make a cycling route out to Bar Hill, Councillors felt everyone needed to be taken into account. The Council would need to decide the funding to ask for, to resurface potholes in Washpit Lane and link up with the lane round the back of Weavers Field to the non-motorised route. The chairman expressed his exasperation that anyone should question the need for improvement to the connections to the new NMU and Washpit Lane road surface. Cllr Harford will talk to officers to put in a marker claim and expression of interest.

3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*). Cllr Bygott spoke about the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund for local businesses, which invites applications from small businesses who missed out on the first funding, to apply for the second pot of funding before 22nd June (Eligible businesses have a rateable value below £51,000). Cllr Bygott is to ask local businesses how SCDC has helped them. Cllr Bygott has prepared a map of cycle paths. The linking of the A14 track around the back of Girton College was discussed last year, plus joining up the busway via the existing bridge over the A14 through Darwin Green. The proposal for additional sliproads to the M11 and A14 at the Girton Interchange has been discussed with Anthony Browne MP, who is keen to take this up. The Chairman stated that the PC has long campaigned for the M11 link since 2015 when it was included in the abortive 'Statement of Common Ground' with Highways England. Cllr Bygott will bring this issue to the next meeting. The Chairman thanked Cllr Bygott for his report.

Mrs A Bonnett left the meeting at this point.

Cllr de Lacey reported that the Joint Development Control Committee will be disbanded, with a new much smaller committee of six members just for Cambridge City and South Cambs District Councils, and he will not be on this. The JDCC has done a tremendous amount of work on making developments around us as good as possible. The Chairman commented on the Northstowe Stage 3 development consultation. There are concerns that Girton and Oakington roads will be used as a rat run. Cllr de Lacey is to suggest a suitable response, and it was questioned if the University should be consulted as well. Cllr de Lacey reported that they believe the traffic calming measures they have are adequate for Eddington, and Storeys Way is about to be closed to through traffic as part of the new temporary cycling improvement measures.

4. Police Report. No report this month.

20/60 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th May, 2020 (previously circulated). In item 20/48.1 the Minutes contained a statement regarding kissing gates which was not true and the statement will be removed. With this amendment, the Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Cockley, and approved unanimously.

20/61 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

20/51.3 The Parish Council's application to the Local Highways Improvements Scheme for 2021-22 has been submitted.

20/51.4 The Parish Council has submitted an Expression of Interest to Cambridgeshire County Council Communities Capital Fund.

20.51.5 The Annual Reports received are being posted on the Girton Village website.

Regarding item 20/51.2 Girton Parish News had self-funded distribution of the current edition.

Noted by the Council.

20/62 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To discuss a Parish Council response, if any, to the temporary cycle lane on Girton Road. The lanes are advisory only and it was questioned if there should be signage to make this clear. Cllr de Lacey suggested that the implementation of the lanes was tokenism and was concerned at the lack of consultation. Cllr Hickford suggested that the lanes are meant to be an encouragement for cycling. There are concerns regarding safety as there is on-street parking in the lanes, and two vehicles cannot pass. Following discussion, the Chairman proposed the following "Recognising the need for improvements to cycling provision, Girton Parish Council regrets the lack of consultation on the implementation of the temporary cycle lanes along Girton and Cambridge Roads and questions their effectiveness and safety. However, Girton Parish Council would welcome proper involvement and consultation in any future planning of improvements for cycling provision in the parish." Seconded by Cllr Dashwood and approved unanimously.
2. To discuss policy for re-opening of The Pavilion and sports facilities at Girton Recreation Ground. Guidance has been issued by Cambs ACRE and a protocol will be drawn up based on this. Formation of a sub-committee of Cllrs Cockley, Buckler and Rodger to be chaired by Cllr Williams was agreed.
3. To approve the replacement of a bench at Washpit Lane plus dedication plaque. Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by the Chairman. The bench has been donated by Cllr Godby many years ago in memory of her two young step-daughters. Approved unanimously.
4. To agree acceptance of conditions relating to use of traffic monitoring equipment provided under LHI finding. (Details to be circulated). The Chairman will approach Cllr Griffin to ask if he would be happy to help.

Cllr de Lacey left the meeting at this point.

20/63 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*Appendix C*). The high cost of outdoor hand sanitiser dispenser was queried. Assurance was given that this was the best price available under current high demand. Approval of the Payments Schedule was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Hickford and agreed unanimously.
2. To note any significant variance from usual levels of monthly income/expenditure. It was noted that income from facilities hire was effectively zero but this is offset by reduced utility expenses.

20/64 Correspondence (to be received)

1. Letter regarding water management concerns. Cllr Rodger explained that whilst the views expressed in Prof Irvine's letter are not her own she sympathises with his concerns, and would welcome assurances from the Environment Agency regarding management of Beck Brook footbridge. The Chairman stated that he and Cllr Harford are pursuing the issues raised in the letter and that Cllr Rodger is to determine responsibility for the 'footbridges' over Beck Brook near the golf course/Dodford Lane.

20/65 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix D*). The Chairman reported that the former Cambridge Academy of English site is now owned by Cavendish Education, who operate Gretton School. They will use the building for their older students, and have said they would be very keen to make use of an extended Pavilion Hall for regular PE classes.
2. Girton Town Charity Report. A verbal report had been given earlier in the meeting, at item 20/59.1
3. Water Management Report. A verbal report had been given at item 20/64.

20/66 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.

Concern was expressed about the proposal for the groundsman to repair the trim trail, and noted that there is a large amount of weeds to be cleared by him.

Cllr Dashwood will report about land on Duck End/Woody Green at the next meeting.

All Committee Chairmen were asked to call meetings before the next full Parish Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

APPENDIX A

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report Girton Parish Council - 16 June 2020 meeting

Cambridgeshire County Council [CCC] is already preparing for the gradual exit from lock down. Whilst everyone hopes that there won't be a second wave of the virus, we have to be prepared that there may be new outbreaks as we all begin to enjoy the easing of the restrictions that have been in place since March. On the basis that prevention is better than cure, the Council is therefore already working on setting up an outbreak control plan. To lead the Test & Trace response work, a local Health Protection Board has been established. This will include specialist representation from Public Health England, local authority and health membership and representatives from other relevant bodies. The board is responsible for producing the Local Outbreak Control Plan [LOCP] by the end of June 2020. The plan seeks to achieve the following: Where someone is instructed to isolate and is also vulnerable: there is support for that person through existing community hubs in Cambridge and Peterborough and the districts of South and East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Fenland. Where the following up of contacts is more complex and cannot be achieved by national call handlers: contact arrangements will be handled by trained staff deployed in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. Ensure that Covid-19 outbreaks in care homes, schools and the community are prevented by clear measures identified in the plan including: supporting workplaces, communities and locations at higher risk. Where outbreaks do occur in care homes, schools and the community, they are effectively managed and controlled using already established infection control measures for outbreaks of infectious diseases. Ensure that there is sufficient local testing with results coming back in a timely manner to make it quick and easy to get a test for Covid-19 when needed. Ensure that all data from national, local and NHS sources are brought together to inform clear and decisive decision making that prevents, identifies and controls outbreaks. Ensure that sufficient staff and volunteers are trained and able to take on the responsibilities described in the LOCP including the setting up of community rapid response teams to take immediate action to prevent and deal with local outbreaks. A local member-led board will handle engagement and communication with communities to promote understanding of the actions being taken on NHS test and trace. It will also take feedback from communities to allow local issues to be addressed. Locally the work that has been done to create a support network for vulnerable members of the community is extremely impressive and this work is greatly appreciated by the County Council. I have the pleasure of joining the regular [and virtual] meetings of those in the 'engine room' of Girton's local support group. The work is led by the parish council and I have to congratulate them on the way in which they very quickly set up a network of volunteers. By working with others in the community to make use of existing provision, they have ensured that those in Girton who have needed support have been able to get it. As lock down restrictions ease, this group too is planning for the changes that may come in relation to demand for the services that volunteers have been providing over the last three months. There is a recognition that, whilst immediate demand may start to diminish, it would be wise to maintain contact with all those who have given of their time and energy so

that, in the event that there is a second wave in the winter, the basis of what has been created, will still be there to be called upon. Libraries: During the crisis many members of the County Council's staff were redeployed to provide Covid-19 related services. With demand for those services now lessening, many are now returning to their substantive roles. These include library staff who are returning in a planned way to facilitate the re-opening of libraries. Five hub libraries are currently planned for reopening as soon as regulations permit. The Ely archives building has also been risk-assessed for public access post lock down. Coroner's Service: Plans are now in place for inquests to recommence at Peterborough Town Hall and a risk assessment is due to be made of a second venue. Having two locations will allow more inquests to take place and help to reduce the inevitable backlog that there is. Consideration is being given to appropriately located provision to deliver a better service for families, jurors and professionals involved in inquests. Consideration is also being given to increasing coroner capacity to avoid the backlog increasing and deal with the current need as quickly as possible. Registration Service: Restrictions on birth registrations were lifted from 01 June and the service acted quickly to implement the measures necessary for registration offices across the county to reopen safely. Registration of births recommenced from 08 June and, whilst restrictions on marriage and civil partnership notices have also been lifted, commencement of these is being phased to allow the backlog of birth registrations to be dealt with first. The registration pages of the Council's website have been updated to reflect changes in legislation relating to birth registrations. The Community Capital Fund proved to be very popular but Girton Parish Council did manage to get in before applications closed. This application will be considered by the panel along with all others received before the deadline, prior to the Communities & Partnerships committee meeting of 02 July. The success of the limited reopening in early May of its nine Household Recycling Centres allowed the Council subsequently to reinstate the service for permit holders. Feedback from users has been positive about the booking system that supported the reintroduction of this service with users reporting that it is easy to use. Allocation of the second, bigger tranche of government funding for active travel facilities is now being considered. I had a very useful, socially distanced walk with your Chairman last week and am now working with him to allow me to make a bid for a project in Girton. I can confirm that community feedback on the temporary cycle lanes along Cambridge Road has been very positive. I forwarded to highways officers the request for cycle signs to be painted on the road that I picked up from social media and I received confirmation that these were being done. The first set of school data released by DfE shows that 195 of 198 Cambridgeshire schools were open on the 08 June; the deficit is accounted for by single site consolidation in a trust/federation. 189 schools were open to core year groups [EY, R, Y1 & Y6] and the total number of children attending in those year groups was 40.3% [20.2%; 37.6%; 32.7% & 36.6% respectively]. Following the recent announcement by government that the school meals voucher scheme will not continue into the summer holidays, I have asked for details of the alternative that has been proposed. Apparently £63m has been allocated for this nationally and CCC awaits hearing what it will get. Planning: the Inspector dismissed the Waterbeach WfE appeal and the Secretary of State

upheld his decision and refused permission. I look forward to seeing you all at your meeting when I can answer any questions you may have. Please do though contact me at any time with questions or comments about the content of this report or indeed any other matter relating to the work of the County Council. Lynda lyndaharford@icloud.com; 01954 251775/07889 131022; follow me on Twitter: @2whit2whoo

APPENDIX B

District Councillor's Report by Cllr Douglas de Lacey

11th June, 2020

This has been a very busy month. Now everything is on-line I can attend most of my meetings, but I find virtual meetings more concentrated, and much more tiring, than face-to-face.

The Scrutiny Committee has assessed the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan proposals: a blueprint for the development of the area currently dominated by the Milton water treatment plan. I have two major concerns: the first that this was largely completed before covid-19 struck, and it may well be that it is already out of date. But in so far as it is a working blueprint I think we still have to come to terms with the great changes in transport created by electric bikes and scooters, and by mobility carriages. I asked if shared-use paths could be outlawed, and clear guidance given for differing modes of non-motorised transport. We also scrutinise our performance reports for all our services; I once again asked if we could have more data than meaningless average figures, and at last the administration is seriously looking at providing something like standard deviations to help us understand the significance of the figures.

Between these we had our first full Council meeting since February. As I said last month, this should have been the meeting at which I handed over the chairmanship and then resigned; instead the Council approved my staying in the Chair.

The agenda was massive. The major item, and the majority of the paperwork, was a major revision of our Constitution. This included a revision of our planning scheme of delegation, which has been a great bone of contention. We discovered that for years we have been technically in breach of the law by allowing the Chair of the Planning Committee the say in deciding which planning applications should be decided by officers and which by the Planning Committee; but a non-Executive Councillor is not permitted to take executive decisions. The model which the administration came up with did not please the opposition and there was a sharp and highly politicised debate. The opposition wanted every application to go to Committee if either a Parish Council or a Local Member objected; the administration wanted the Chief Planner to be able to decide if such objection included good reasons in planning law.

That apart, we had other weighty matters to decide. We approved variations to the Constitutional regulation of our procedures required by the lockdown; we adopted a Zero Carbon Strategy designed to make the Council carbon-neutral by 2050; we appointed a Chief Operating Officer; we approved a grant to Milton Country Park.

The JDCC on 27 May had first to approve conventions for our virtual meetings; we then assessed an outline application for 1200 dwellings and ancillary facilities for land north of Cherry Hinton owned by Marshalls. Although the application states 'all matters reserved except for means of access' we effectively approved the main routes through the site including one past the frontage of the proposed school. Since we had rejected a school proposal elsewhere on precisely these grounds, there was some opposition; but we were told we could not do that here: it would have to be left until the detailed plans for the school came in. So we approved the outline. The next JDCC meeting is in July and it looks as though it will be the last, because the County wishes to withdraw. We shall therefore probably have to disband and produce a new joint committee just between the City and District.

On 10 June the Planning Committee had applications in Madingley and Girton on the agenda: the Girton one being the Town Charity's plans for Michael's Close. I spoke in support and unlike the previous application this one drew unanimous approval, to my relief.

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX C

Payments Schedule for Girton Parish Council - June 2020

(circulated separately)

APPENDIX D

Chairman's Report

10th June 2020

I will again begin by recording our thanks to Susie, Shahila and Julie for their efforts in support of the volunteer and voucher schemes in position to manage the continuing Covid-19 virus lockdown. We shall be discussing plans for reopening the Pavilion facilities and any scale down of the 'helping Girton' program at our June meeting. We have already agreed procedures and precautionary measures needed to reopen the Tennis Courts and Bowls Green for Club members use and for IVC Model Aircraft Flying Club to resume flying on the 10 acre field. An antiseptic gel dispenser is being sourced and will be positioned at the Tennis Court gate.

Our Accountants have been requested to prepare this year's Annual Return and will plan to be able to present at the July meeting.

The response to my consultation email to all Pavilion Users requesting feedback on the proposal to provide a larger Hall at the Pavilion met with a poor response. Fearing that such a blind copied communication had been condemned to many Spam files, I resent the email individually to each user and got a much better response. All were in favour from the point of view that it would allow larger classes, provision of indoor sports and with the addition of a stage could be suitable for much larger events such as annual meetings, conferences, concerts and productions. An enquiry to Gretton School received a very enthusiastic response that they would very much welcome the possibility of regular use for PE classes and indoor sports. (See letter in correspondence file). The draft submission to the County Council Communities Capital Fund was refined accordingly and following agreement with Gill and Roger submitted by County Councillor Harford. A copy is circulated to all the Council for information.

A further prompt for information on our A14 Legacy Fund applications did eventually yield a response but only to say that no information is yet forthcoming. We wait with bated breath.

A complaint was received of a fallen Ash tree near a property in Wellbrook Way and following consultation with a tree surgeon a quotation was accepted for removal of three trees in total which were dead or dying. The decision was taken in consultation with the Clerk and Vice Chair as the situation was potentially quite dangerous. Two other stricken trees near the Recreation ground were also removed as previously agreed. Two other incidents of overgrown trees causing problems to neighbours have been revisited. One along Mayfield was approved for crown lift last year and the other in Weavers Field will be rectified by volunteers.

Fly tipping of garden waste over the fence to Wellbrook Way Wood was addressed with the resident. If this is not removed it will be reported to SCDC. Concerns from a resident in Wellbrook Way about noise in the evenings was relayed to Abbeyfields management and Wellbrook Way Residents association.

We have received a critical report relating to the drainage from the new NMU route adjacent to the A14 upgrade local road. Cllr Harford is investigating the validity of the complaints and following discussions on the connections of the NMU to Girton village is to determine what is proposed in terms of improvements to footpath 4 and Washpit Lane.

The appearance of the new cycle lanes has met with a mixed response and were introduced without consultation. We shall debate our response, if any at our June meeting.

The provision of speed management equipment under the provisions of last year's LHI funding application comes with quite onerous conditions which will be discussed at our June meeting. This year's LHI grant for a road width restriction and pedestrian crossing near the Co-op has been submitted. This further seeks to justify the width restriction as a means of discouraging use of Girton as a through route now that we have the availability of the A1307 as an alternative to the A14.

The former Cambridge Academy of English building has been acquired by Cavendish Education who own Gretton School and we understand will be used as an expansion of their provision of Special needs education for older age groups.

Haydn Williams