

Girton Parish Council

Susan Cumming
Clerk to the Parish Council
Telephone: (01223) 472181
Email: clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk

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 19th May, 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 20/48.1

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

Cllr T Bygott (South Cambs District Council) (until end of item 20/48.3)

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk)

20/45 Welcome from the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

20/46 Apologies and Reasons for Absence. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Godby and Thorrold and County Councillor Harford.

20/47 Members' declarations for items on the agenda. None.

20/48 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 had received an email from a resident suggesting removal of a kissing gate on the Girton-Histonn footpath. Councillors variously supported retention of the gate to prevent motor-bike access, and removal as such gates discriminate against wheelchair access. The issue will be revisited once the A14 Legacy Fund has been sorted out.

2. County Councillor's Report. Cllr Harford had requested any questions or comments. Cllr de Lacey reported that the County Council had met on 19th May and agreed to leave the Joint Development Control Committee and JAC saying that they want the Mayor to make decisions. This means that the current JDCC will have to disband and re-form with City and South Cambs Councils. It was argued that over the past 12 years, only 10 applications have gone to the JDCC and Cambs County Council would be a statutory consultee going forward. The County Council has a two-month consultation with City and South Cambs Councils regarding how they withdraw.

3. District Councillors' Reports. Cllr Bygott spoke about the Northstowe Public Consultation on Phase 3B, closing on 23rd June and advised Councillors to look up the application on the SCDC website. Regarding planning delegation, Cllr Bygott supports a scheme whereby a District or Parish Councillor could recommend a planning application goes to Planning Committee.

Cllr de Lacey was thanked for the green bin collections recommencing. The pandemic had encouraged

take-up of residents requesting second or third blue bins and recycling rates had increased. Cllr de Lacey reported the sad news that a member of the Enforcement Team at SCDC has died, so asked for patience in processing enforcement cases.

Cllr Bygott left the meeting at this point.

4. Police Report (*Appendix A*). The Chairman reported an attempted theft of a Land-Rover vehicle in Church Lane.

20/49 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st April, 2020 (previously circulated). The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Kettle, and approved with one abstention.

20/50 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

20/ 43.2 Girton Town Charity has provided an update on work on the former-WI site, which is greatly appreciated by residents.

20/51 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. In light of the cancellation of the AGM, approval of the continued appointment of current Chairman/Vice Chair/Committee Chairs and honorary officers for a further 12 months. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, and approved unanimously.
2. Delegation of decision to fund delivery of future editions of Girton Parish News to Chairman or Vice-Chair and one other Councillor in consultation with the Clerk. This would be an ongoing delegation in case the Parish Council need to fund future deliveries. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Griffin, and approved unanimously.
3. Approval of a draft Local Highways Improvements application (details to be circulated). The proposal for a crossing on Girton Road would make the village less of a rat-run. There is need to discuss with Co-Op store management as the proposal would lead to loss of parking space. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Hickford, and approved unanimously.
4. Approval of a draft Cambs County Council Communities Capital Fund application (details to be circulated). The Council was not in a position to approve at this meeting. The Chairman explained that this extension plan for the Pavilion would offer a downstairs Parish Office with one or two changing rooms moving upstairs. More indoor sports and staged events could go ahead with an extended hall, and the plans would also allow more disabled access. There would be an external staircase to offer access to sports grounds. Costs are approximately £500,000 and we could make a reasonable case for County Council funding. The Chairman has written to users to gauge interest. An expression of interest is to be submitted, with delegation to two councillors and the Clerk for approval as the matter is time-sensitive. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Cockley, and approved with one abstention.
5. To approve posting of Annual Reports on the village website. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Hickman, and approved unanimously.

20/52 Finance and Resource Management

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

2. To note any significant variance from usual levels of monthly income/expenditure. Only to note that there had been no income, as a result of the closure of sports and Pavilion facilities due to the pandemic.
3. To receive a financial report for the financial year ending 5th April, 2020. This item was deferred.

20/53 Correspondence (to be received)

The Council has been approached by Girton Bowls Club and Girton Tennis Club regarding the possible recommencement of activities on Parish sports grounds and courts.

20/54 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix B*) The Chairman reported that the Cambridge Academy of English building will remain an educational establishment.
2. Girton Town Charity Report. No report this month.
3. Annual Reports and Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting. Received by the Council.

20/55 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.

It was queried whether or not the Girton Feast Fete will go ahead this year.

It was reported that there is lots of activity at Girton Golf Club but maintaining social distance.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

APPENDIX A
Police Report - May 2020

Motorists warned to be vigilant following break-ins

We are urging motorists across South Cambridge to be vigilant following a number of handbag thefts from vehicles over the past month.

A total of 22 vehicles were broken into between 19 April and 12 May including incidents in Stapleford, Sawston, Duxford, Great Shelford, Haslingfield, Grantchester, Swavesey, Milton, Oakington and Fen Drayton.

In the majority of cases purses, wallets and handbags have been targeted and in some instances the thieves have gone on to use the victims' bank cards in shops.

We're focusing our patrols in these areas but would urge all motorists to make sure their cars are locked and double checked when left unattended as we're seeing incidents when windows are left open and doors unlocked.

Also ensure all valuables, such as handbags, wallets, mobile phones and tools are removed from the vehicle.

Call 101 or go [online](#) to report any suspicious behaviour in your area.

Sergeant Emma Hilson

South Cambs Neighbourhood Team

APPENDIX B

Chairman's Report

13th May 2020

I would like to begin by again offering sincere thanks to all involved with the 'Helping Girton' response to the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent lockdown. We are particularly grateful for the efforts of Susie and Shahila who are the main points of contact for the help network in the village. They have more recently been joined by Julie in the development of a voucher scheme to provide emergency essentials to those in need. The scheme will initially be for vouchers for use at the Co-op but can be extended to other local supermarkets too.

As outlined last month some 600 leaflets were delivered to households identified by South Cambs. as being potentially vulnerable. These requested recipients to positively respond indicating that their needs were or were not being supported. The response has been extensive. Additionally we took the decision in our weekly conference calls with South Cambs. to underwrite the cost of professional distribution of the Parish News in early May together with an explanatory leaflet. All Councillors should be in receipt of a

copy. We need to decide circumstances which should prompt the PC to pay for any future edition deliveries.

We have received a request from the tennis club to allow use of the tennis courts by members. We have requested a detailed protocol for safe management of their use together with a risk assessment. Of particular concern is the potential knock on effect on adherence with non-use of the play area equipment. The Bowls Club have developed similar plans and following my questioning of the wisdom of such action in view of the age demographic of their membership, they are seeking clarification of advice from Bowls England. Again a risk assessment to include the effect on the nearby play area has been requested. Costings for the first plan for expansion of the pavilion building with relocation of the Office to the ground floor were prohibitively high, even allowing for the expected overestimation. A revised plan which provides an extended hall with the Office moving down stairs and some changing rooms moving in the other direction is now being costed and is expected to be more affordable. To this end a draft submission to the County Council Communities Capital Fund has been prepared and discussed with County Councillors Harford and Hickford. They both advise that we need to show community support and how the plans will give benefit to the disadvantaged of the village. All users of the Pavilion facilities have been written to asking for feedback on the benefits of the changes and any ideas for further improvements. I have also requested input on potential uses by disability groups from former Parish Councillor Mark Taylor who is the Cambridge City Access Officer. If possible an updated draft will be presented at this month's meeting.

No response has been received to my request for clarification of A14 legacy Fund project funding. A draft application for this year's LHI grant which is for a road width restriction and pedestrian crossing near the Co-op will be presented for review at this month's meeting.

A further incident of fly tipping, this time along the new non-motorised user road adjacent to the A14, was reported to South Cambs. This has thankfully been removed.

It is sad to report that we heard this month that the Cambridge Academy of English has closed its doors for good and the building has been sold. More news on this is expected shortly.

Haydn Williams