

## **Girton Parish Council**

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The Pavilion  
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### **The next meeting of Girton Parish Council will be held via video conference on Tuesday 17th November, 2020, at 7.00 p.m.**

*Residents are invited to submit written statements on issues of concern to any Councillor or the Clerk for presentation at item 20/120.1, with video-conference details for the public open session available on request from the Clerk.*

#### **AGENDA**

**20/117 Welcome from the Chairman.**

**20/118 Apologies and Reasons for Absence.**

**20/119 Members' declarations for items on the agenda.**

**20/120 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**

1. Members of the Public. Written representations to be verbally presented by Councillors
2. County Councillor's Report
3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix A*)
4. Police Report

**20/121 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20th October, 2020.**

**20/122 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**

20/112.3 A virtual initial meeting of the Rewilding Task Group was held on 29th October.

20/112.6 A virtual meeting regarding Pavilion procurement was held on 27th October.

20/112.7 The Parish Council's donation has been doubled this year to mitigate Covid-19's adverse effect upon the charity sector.

**20/123 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To agree the Parish Council position on changes to public rights of way relating to the A14 upgrade. (Background information to be circulated.)
2. To approve a contractor for tree works alongside the Recreation Ground Car Park. (Cost quotations to be circulated.)
3. To approve a contractor for installation of bollards alongside the footpath at the Recreation Ground Car Park (subject to quotations being received).

4. To agree new signage for dog walking at the Recreation ground.

#### **20/124 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (to be circulated).
2. To note any significant variance from usual levels of monthly income/expenditure.

#### **20/125 Correspondence (to be received)**

1. Letter to Parishes from SCDC regarding Parish Precept requests for 2021 (forwarded separately)

#### **20/126 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix B*)
2. Girton Town Charity Report

#### **20/127 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.**

Susan Cumming (Parish Clerk)

11th November, 2020

### **APPENDIX A**

#### **District Councillor's Report from Cllr Douglas de Lacey**

I was startled to read Cllr Bygott's report in the last Girton Parish News: under a sensationalist headline 'District Council unlawfully withheld Parish Precepts' he wrote 'It has been confirmed by South Cambridgeshire District Council's Administration that in April this year, when parish councils were contacted to be told that the District would need to delay some of the payments to the parishes, the District Council had no legal powers to do so'. This is nonsense. Because covid-19 caused us severe cash-flow problems (we were trying to save lives and livelihoods), Parish Councils were asked (not told!) by officers whether they would allow us to defer payments. Those which were not willing were immediately paid: all the others were paid almost immediately. Nothing was withheld, nothing was done without parish agreement. I take a very dim view of this sniping at our hard-working officers when they have no right of reply.

It was exciting to see my blue bin emptied into our first all-electric waste lorry. Its purchase is part of our drive to reduce emissions and air pollution. At £400,000 it is more expensive than its diesel counterparts but the whole-life costs should be lower, quite apart from its other benefits. We hope to replace the rest of the fleet in due course.

The consultation on the planning white paper has now closed and as well as endorsing the Council's response I submitted my own, which I shall forward on request.

The University is proposing to disband the Board which manages the Eddington site and replace it with a new Board to manage all the University estates. I spoke at the formal Discussion on the proposals: it was an opportunity to expose some of the many failings of the current management, and I hope that whether or not the new Board is approved the University will address them.

The Civic Affairs Committee on 3 November gave very close scrutiny to the proposals for a new Parish of Northstowe, a highly contentious issue for the parishes around the development. There has been much consultation and we were able to approve the most popular option and satisfy most of the parish councils' concerns. This now goes to full Council. We looked at the bullying issue remitted to us from Council and I am pleased that the Tories and LibDems had worked together on a proposal acceptable to all sides.

As Chairman I was due to plant a memorial tree to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of the second world war; This has had to be postponed at least until December, and possibly indefinitely.

Douglas de Lacey

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Chairman's Report**

11<sup>th</sup> November 2020

We have received an unofficial report that our planning application is progressing well, does not need to go to the Committee and is hopefully to be decided this week. The Task and Finish group have met to progress the procurement process and Shahila is drafting a detailed project specification. Cllr Harford has identified a possible source of funding for the project and this will be followed up as soon as planning permission is in place. It may be necessary to separate some elements of the project into a separate project to take advantage of this.

The reintroduction of 'Lockdown' on November 5<sup>th</sup> meant that plans for the Remembrance services had to be curtailed. Our Rector, Reverend Bigg, took responsibility for conducting a brief service on the 8<sup>th</sup> which was live streamed via You Tube. Wreaths were laid informally and these were mainly in place before the ceremony.

Cllrs, Harford and Hickford have liaised with the County Council and the tenant of the land adjacent to Manor Farm road to progress the provision of an off-road equestrian route from the Gretton School entrance to the bridleway at Oakington Road bridge. It is anticipated that this can be achieved at fairly low cost. Development of the widened cycle/pedestrian path from New Road to the Oakington Road bridge is also progressing. Completed designs are said to be imminent.

A further road traffic incident near the former Language School, (now Gretton School, Rectory Campus), has alerted us to the planning application relating to changes to the site. We shall discuss these at our Planning meeting next week with particular reference to the need for improved vehicle access.

It is good to be able to report that repairs to the artwork fence and path are now complete. Thanks to the Town Charity for all their efforts in achieving this. A new quotation has been received for installation of bollards along the car park footpath which while less attractive than the verbal one which could not be

confirmed, is nevertheless cheaper than that previously submitted by Mead. A promise of a quote from a local fencing company has not yet materialised. It is being pursued and will hopefully be received in time for resolution at next week's meeting.

We have received from a parishioner a comprehensive summary of the changes to Girton footpaths/rights of way as a result of the A14 upgrade works. The control orders relating to these expire in December and he has urged that we should press for reinstatement wherever possible. Cllr Harford is looking into this and we shall discuss at next week's meeting.

Haydn Williams