

Girton Parish Council

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

The next meeting of Girton Parish Council will be held via video conference on Tuesday 19th January, 2021, 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 21/4.1, with video-conference details for the public open session available on request from the Clerk.

AGENDA

21/1 Welcome from the Chairman.

21/2 Apologies and Reasons for Absence.

21/3 Members' declarations for items on the agenda.

21/4 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

21/5 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th December, 2020.

21/6 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

21/7 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To approve a precept request to South Cambridgeshire District Council for the financial year 2021-22 (details to be circulated).
2. To approve additional costs for the Local Highways Improvements scheme to introduce speed restrictions in Girton (*Appendix B*).
3. To approve proposals for a Litter Picking Scheme for Girton (*Appendix C*).
4. To reconsider the possibility of accommodation of a 'Men's Shed' at the Recreation Ground.
5. To give preliminary consideration to the consultation documents received concerning development at the Felix Hotel site.
6. To approve an initial budget for the Rewilding Girton project.

21/8 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.

21/9 Correspondence (to be received)

21/10 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix D*)
2. Girton Town Charity Report
3. Water Management Report (*Appendix E*)
4. Pavilion Refurbishment Report
5. Recreation Ground Signage Report

21/11 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.

Susan Cumming (Parish Clerk)

13th January, 2021

APPENDIX A

District Councillor's Report from Cllr Douglas de Lacey

Christmas is always a fairly quiet period, though this year we had to cope with rapidly-changing Government decrees; so I have very little to report. On 11 December I planted a tree to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of the war -- a Magnolia species 'Heaven Scent'. My Executive Assistant Suzanne Roy organised our annual collection for Christmas presents for Fulbourn: normally we encourage Councillors to offer gifts but this year the Hospital said it could not accept these so we had to ask for money. Suzanne then in collaboration with the Hospital bought and wrapped presents over the weekend before Christmas. We have had very appreciative responses.

I have been informed of two Temporary Traffic Orders. The first is to close Girton High St from the Woodlands Park junction to Cockerton Road during the February half-term (15--17 February). The official diversion is via Histon, Milton and Chesterton. The second closes the far end of Washpit Lane from 1 February to 12 March. Although described as a road closure no motor vehicles can currently use that part of the road (which is still officially a highway). Again the diversion is pretty long, though the application says 'works may be able to grant access on an ad-hoc basis during the works' for cyclists and equestrians.

Like many others I am concerned at the effect closing Cambridge Market will have both on traders and on customers who will now have to use stores for their food shopping. My (very limited!) experience of the market square before Christmas was of people being sensible about social distancing and Covid Marshals

with nothing to do. I have written to the Portfolio Holder and to the Strategic Director expressing my views, asking for the data on which the closure decision was based, and asking for the decision to be reversed.

I have received reports of a pop-up coffee stall operating from the lay-by outside St Andrew's Church. I spoke to the owner who said she had applied for a licence; I informed her she should not trade until it was granted. However SCDC has no record of any application. If one is submitted the Parish Council will be consulted.

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX B

Correspondence from Cambs Highways regarding LHI costs

Dear Cllrs

I have received the Target Cost back from our contractor for the upcoming LHI works in Girton. We had agreed to increase the scope of the LHI from that originally approved by about 25% in area by;

1. Extending the 30mph on Oakington Road to the bridge
2. Additional area of 20mph zone on High Street to Manor Farm Rd
3. Additional area of 20mph zone on Cambridge Road (and any side roads) to the A14 bridge

The construction costs have increased to reflect this but as the a lot of these are fixed costs it has provided good value for money to do this. The costs of road markings can be absorbed into the resurfacing costs as there are still outstanding road sections of road markings to do. I had hoped to cover the majority of this within savings from the original feasibility by not having a full safety audit conducted on the new speed cushions, however this was not possible and this had to be completed. The additional signs that need to be installed will have to be funded by the Parish as we have gone over the maximum County Council contribution of £15000 for an LHI. The original contribution by the Parish was to be £5172, however to include the additional signs this will need to be increased to £8053.

Can you please confirm acceptance of this increased contribution to enable this to be progressed.

Kind regards

Highway Projects

Cambridgeshire County Council

APPENDIX C

Resident's Note re proposed Litter Picking Scheme

I think that a formal resolution should be made soon by the Council that a litter picking scheme for the village should be set up even though not implemented in practice until COVID regulations so allow. Much if not all of the organisation of that could be done any time now; publicity asking for volunteers, getting a street map marked up showing who's volunteered for which streets/areas (I think Susie has that) and asking for a volunteer to run it (needs very little running! But good to have an 'open day' when volunteers get together for a 'pick' with tea and buns in a village hall afterwards— works well in nearby villages). I think Cedric from Histon briefed your Council on all that's needed.

APPENDIX D

Chairman's Report

13 January 2021

The planning permission for our new Pavilion refurbishment and extension arrived between the writing of my last report and our December meeting. I mention it here for the sake of completeness. We have subsequently agreed that we should follow a two stage develop and construct procurement process appointing a Project Manager to oversee and provide staged sign off on the project. We are also seeking tenders for a Construction Traffic Management Plan which is a requirement of the planning permission. The project brief has been largely completed but does require additional sections on the refurbishment of the kitchen facility and provision of the stage and necessary accoutrements. If necessary these will be costed as provisional sums initially as it is possible that they will need to be funded separately from the overall project. Users have been requested to provide details of storage requirements so that use of the space available can be suitably optimised. We have yet to sign the draft contract as we are not happy about the details of circumstances under which the County Council could default on the grant payment. Cllr. Harford has obtained verbal reassurance on these, but written confirmation is awaited.

Progress on bollard installation along the carpark footpath has again been delayed by uncertainty of the position of the concrete beams, (supporting the artwork fence), under the path. These need to be avoided to retain the integrity of the foundations and to avoid the excessive cost of drilling through them.

At our December meeting we were told about the aspirations for a 'Men's Shed' to be established on the Recreation ground, but when it was stated that the space required was 20m by 20m we agreed that this would not be possible. Since then we have learned that the figures were quoted incorrectly and the area needed is in fact 20 feet by 20 feet! This could be accommodated in the area behind the basketball court between the tennis courts and the MUGA. We shall discuss again in our January meeting.

Cllr Harford and I have continued our attempts to have the proposed three day closure of the High street changed to simple traffic light control but to no avail. The Water Company are adamant that the main must be laid at a point close to the entrance to the new Gretton School and that the only way of safely doing so is by full closure.

Cllr Rodger has reported separately on the high water levels experienced in the village on Christmas Eve. I attach some photographs I took of the bridges at Oakington Road and Washpit Lane on the 24th and of our 'Pond and Scrape' at Town End Close on Christmas Day.

Happy New Year to all

Haydn Williams



APPENDIX E
Water Management Report, January 2021

Following on from the problems experienced on 4 December as reported in last month's water management report, on 20 December I walked the NMU with Councillor Lynda Harford, in order to look more carefully at the flow of water via the various drains and ditches. We were both concerned about how much water was still lying in the ditches. We hope to meet with one of the flood team officers in due course to discuss this further.

On the night of 23-24 December, a much more significant event occurred, due to heavy and consistent rain. At 7.30 p.m. on the evening of 23 December, I had a phone call from Harry Chalk (Environment Agency) saying that they were very concerned about the rising water levels, and expecting to issue a flood warning. This came at midnight. At first light I checked with vulnerable neighbours in Fairway and Dodford Lane. The water was very high indeed (see attached photo from my own garden). The recorded levels at Washpit were the highest since the monitoring equipment had been installed. I was advised by Harry Chalk not to go to the Oakington Road Bridge to check, due to safety concerns, but I imagine that the water had reached the capacity of the bridge, which then started to act as a dam, and sent the water back up the Beck.

One house in Dodford Lane immediately bordering Washpit, had water in their garage, and I understand a garden wall has collapsed. Thankfully no-one had water in their homes, bad enough at any time, but so much worse on Christmas Eve.

I have not had any contact with the Environment Agency since then, but I believe they have been working hard on our behalf, and this is much appreciated.

Mary Rodger
13th January, 2021

