

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 Girton Annual Parish Meeting held at Girton Glebe School on Tuesday 14th May, 2019, at 7.30 p.m.

Refreshments and village societies' stalls available from 7.00pm onwards.

Present: (Cllrs) H Williams (Chairman), J Buckler, G Cockley, J Dashwood, D de Lacey, V Godby,
A Griffin, R Hickford, S Mitchell, M Rodger, R Thomason.

County Councillor L Harford

50 members of the public

In attendance; S Cumming (Clerk)

Welcome and introductions

The Parish Council Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and Parish Councillors, District Councillor, Cambridgeshire County Councillor and the Parish Clerk all introduced themselves.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Parish Councillors A Kettle and J Thorrold, District Councillor T Bygott, Revd M Maxwell, PCSO A Martin, and Mr A Hawkes.

Minutes of Girton Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd May, 2018

The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Parish Council Chairman, seconded by Cllr Griffin, and approved unanimously.

Matters arising from the Minutes

A14 Legacy Funding may allow for better lighting of the cycle route as it comes into Girton from Oakington.

Notified presentations from members of the public

A member of the public spoke about the new Girton Town Charity-funded bus shelter. Although visually-appealing, the shelter is not very weatherproof, in contrast to the previous shelter. Comments from residents have been passed on to Girton Town Charity. Dr R Hiley, Chair of GTC Trustees, responded that the charity had been requested not to provide a bullying-trap. The current shelter gives more shelter than other shelters and it accommodates more people. It would be difficult to do much to make it more-enclosed. It will have to be decided between GTC and the Parish Council if anything is to be done.

Chairman's Report on Parish Council activities

The Parish Council is still under strength and residents were encouraged to consider if they would like to join the Council. The Chairman thanked staff and volunteer officers whose sterling efforts are much-appreciated, including Ms C Garvie's work as Footpaths Officer and Mr G Thorpe's great work with Girton Green Team.

The Chairman thanked Girton Town Charity for re-siting the footpath alongside the Recreation Ground Car Park, and Cllr Harford is hoping to get the County Council road next to the car park resurfaced. Installation of the new CCTV system at The Pavilion has been a good improvement and means that individuals may be identified if they are up to no good. The redevelopment of the Parish Council website is nearing completion, and the MUGA surface is to be renewed this year - these works on the MUGA couldn't be undertaken last year because of uncertainty regarding when the car park works were to be undertaken. The Council is also looking at the cost of converting the Pavilion loft to a meeting room, and the installation of a lift. The Chairman reported that the Mayfield Road bus shelter will shortly be replaced, with road safety measures to be discussed later in the meeting.

The Holm Oak has still not been replaced, whilst trees at Duck End have been removed because of groundworks in a neighbouring property. The Chairman expressed his hope that the trees will be replaced eventually. The success of the Open Gardens kiosk was congratulated, with plans for an art gallery in the kiosk at Girton Corner.

A14 upgrade works continue to cause inconvenience. During the A14 Planning Enquiry, the Parish Council raised concerns about raised sections and four-way junction. A coalition of Parish Councils was in favour, but the Girton Parish Council Chairman's negotiated change in wording was then not included in their letter. The Chairman is to write to them to point out that Girton Parish Council has not supported it. Cllr Harford explained that Parish Councils to the west of Girton Interchange are keen to have the upgrade. The Chairman also spoke of the need for improved signage near the Language School corner of Cambridge Road, and the consideration of applying for funding to improve the war memorial. It would cost £5K to replace the memorial step in a more-suitable material.

Proposals for Road Safety Projects

The table enclosed in the meeting notes shows proposals arising from the public meeting about Road Safety held in March 2019, and the Chairman explained the proposals. A14 Legacy Funding is administered by Cambs County Council, with Cllr Harford helping with this, and this could be used to put in a proposed crossing by the Co-Op. Attention was drawn to the new 6ft-wide footpath from Thornton Close to Whitehouse Lane, which cyclists could use, and the need for an improved cycleway from Wellbrook Way to Darwin Green. Residents commented on careless parking in Hicks Lane and Church Lane, with hazardous parking on junctions. The police are made aware of bad parking and they look into this on their routine rounds. There was discussion of upgrading footpaths 4 and 5 to bridleways. The question of a strategic review of how the village will develop over the next decade was raised, with the suggestion from a resident regarding a crossing at Girton Corner. The first step will be to get transport infrastructure funding for these bigger projects.

Finance Report

Finance is slightly in excess of budget with a provisional surplus of £40K allocated to reserves. Car Park

works have largely been paid for through S111 payments. The car park seems to drain well, and soakaways haven't been replaced as planned, but £10K has been put in reserves for this in case. The Multi-Use Games Area refurbishment is to be paid for through reserves. The balance sheet's recast to redistribute funds to the new Pavilion Improvement Reserve. There were no questions on finance.

County Council Report

Cllr Harford reported that substantial savings will be made by the County Council's move to Alconbury Weald. The County Council wants to safeguard investments and are trying to invest to protect services. The Council is looking at collaborations with partners to make savings, eg joint Health and Wellbeing boards. Cambs County Council received additional funds from central government for road maintenance and have allocated this to footway works, eg the footway from Huntingdon Road to St Margaret's Road has been renewed, and the lack of footway outside Arlington Manor Care Home should be addressed. Trumpington and Babraham Park & Ride sites have innovative solar initiatives, and the County Council's also aware of climate change, and the need to protect air quality, particularly around schools. Cllr Harford asked for any questions to be emailed to her.

District Council Report

Cllr de Lacey reported that there is a large problem with staff recruitment and retention. The strategic review has given a different method and it is hoped to make staff feel motivated, eg through provision of a summer barbeque. South Cambs District Council has joined with Cambridge City Council for refuse collections. Provision of a second green bin will cost £35. The whole issue of joint activities is up for debate eg joint Planning, as there is a desperate need for more planners. There is also the joint Local Plan. Any questions for District Councillor Bygott should be relayed through the Parish Office.

Police Report

PCSO Martin had sent his apologies. A recent Policing public meeting at Girton Pavilion had been poorly attended. Cllr Godby reported that PSCO Mani has moved to Longstanton and Northstowe, and made a plea for more volunteers to join the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. There were five crimes reported in Girton during April.

Girton Town Charity report

Dr R Hiley reported that a precis of the charity's Annual Report would shortly be delivered to every household in the village. The William Collyn Community Centre has recently been opened. The building will cost £40k per year to run, and the charity will try to make hire costs affordable. The planned almshouses in High Street were rejected. It will cost a couple of hundred thousands in fees, but the charity will continue because there is need for affordable housing in the village for older residents. It is also hoped to have almshouses on the site of the former WI hall. Need is rising sharply in the village, although the charity cannot help with individuals' debts. The charity has produced a leaflet on managing debt in association with partners Citizens Advice Bureau and Cambridge Housing Society. Self-seeded scrub removal at Michael's Close has revealed rodent infestations. The site will be properly landscaped, and the charity will apply for demolition of the properties.

Questions and comments from the floor

It was suggested that there should be a map showing dog-walking routes at the Recreation Ground.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm