

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 20th April, 2021, at 7.00 p.m.

Residents were invited to submit written statements on issues of concern to any Councillor or the Clerk for presentation at item 21/37.1, with video-conference details for the public open session available on request from the Clerk.

Present: (Cllrs) Williams (Chairman), Dashwood, de Lacey, Griffin, Mitchell, Rodger, Thorrold
Cllr L Harford (Cambs County Council), Cllr T Bygott (South Cambridgeshire District Council)
Mrs A Bonnett (Girton Town Charity)

2 members of the public

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

21/34 Welcome from the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

21/35 Apologies and Reasons for Absence. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Buckler, Cockley and Kettle.

21/36 Members' declarations for items on the agenda. None.

21/37 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 members of the public present at the meeting did not wish to speak.
2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) Responding to questions on her written report, Cllr Harford agreed to discuss with the Local Highways Engineer how to make it more clear when coming out of the 20mph zone on the way into Cambridge. The speed indicator at Manor Farm Road confusingly flashes 30mph and Cllr Harford has asked for this to be adjusted. The Parish Council should put in a response to the East West Rail Link consultation as there is a legal obligation to backcheck on work done to discount the Northern Route. We should look at sections which show why the Northern Route has been rejected and to endorse those reasons. Cllr de Lacey suggested that the Council says that the East West Rail Link should not go ahead unless electrified to minimise ecological impact. The cut off date is 9th June.

Action: Cllr Harford will circulate details, and the Chairman and Cllr Dashwood will look at the Northern Route.

Similarly, it would be wise to make a contribution to the A428 Consultation. County Council officers are looking carefully at adverse impacts on Girton Interchange.

3. District Councillor's Report. Cllr Bygott noted that 180 people have joined the Hotel Felix Facebook group and hopes that they will go online and hopefully object. Regarding East West Rail there are lots of documents available online but it will be complicated to notify people how to comment on paper. Electrification needs bridges the right height and could be electrified without interruption whilst being built. Cllr Bygott fully agrees with Cllr de Lacey that it should be electrified, and Anthony Browne MP is onside with this. To get across the A14 on the Northern Route the plan was to make it sub-surface and build an overpass. Cllr Bygott suggests we have to be vigilant and mount a campaign against the Northern Route. Cllr de Lacey went to the most recent SCDC meeting but there was nothing to comment on.

4. Police Report . No report this month.

21/38 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16th March, 2021.

On the second page of the Minutes, the Mayor had a budget of £100m to spend on housing but because of his management the second tranche has been withdrawn. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Dashwood and approved unanimously.

21/39 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only) and review of action points

21/29.1 The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on April 27th and the Annual General Meeting on May 4th, both via video-conference.

21/29.2 The used shipping container has been purchased and sited on the Recreation Ground Car Park

21/29.5 The Chair of GTC Trustees has an address for former-Councillor Ray Gordon.

The Chairman has written to former-Councillor Hickford

Cllr de Lacey has sent observations on the Local Plan submission of sites to individuals who requested them.

The Chairman is to contact the Social Club regarding the bikes for sale outside the Village Institute.

21/40 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To discuss timings for the re-opening of Pavilion and sports facilities following the reduction of lockdown restrictions. We are able to reopen the Hall for socially-distanced activity, with use of the toilets but not the changing rooms or showers. We will want to close the building at the end of July for building works, and all were happy with this.

2. To consider the parameters of the 'Helping Girton' volunteer project as lockdown eases. The Council expressed gratitude to the Clerk and Cllr Mitchell for the Helping Girton volunteers project. Unless we do something now this will become institutionalised and there is need to remind residents about other agencies. The Chairman proposed that we stand down the volunteers on the proviso that they might get reactivated, and ask permission to keep their data on file. Also, to put in June's Girton Parish News about other ways to get help. Seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved unanimously.

3. To discuss financial assistance provision for the end of year and new financial year. As our current accountants are stepping down, we need to find another accountant to complete the Annual Return. We could approach Ben Stoehr regarding charges or look for another small accountancy firm, with views welcomed. Following Cllr Hickford's departure as Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was decided to

hold off until the AGM to appoint a successor. The Assistant Clerk suggested that better accounting software would be useful for future years.

4. To consider measures to be taken regarding replacement of vandalised dog walking signage. The stolen sign was only fixed to the post with an adhesive strip and needed to be bolted in place. It was agreed that following the removal of our new sign saying 'no access with dogs walking to the churchyard', we should consider allowing access to the churchyard by repositioning our existing sign from the gate to a post on the recreation ground. **Action;** The Chairman will speak to the PCC. It was also questioned why the model aircraft club have access to the 10 Acre Field and explained that this is a hiring agreement that has been in place for many years

5. To review financial arrangements. The two signatories rule offers security. View and submit authority for the Clerk can be given but two signatories are required to authorise. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved unanimously.

6. To approve Girton Town Charity's offer of benches for the rewilding area at Mayfield Triangle. Cllr Rodger reported that Mrs Bonnett had approached informally and asked if the Rewilding Group would be interested in benches. A plan is needed of where the benches are to be sited and how they will be fixed, and Cllr de Lacey asked for the item to be deferred. The Chairman proposed that the Council approves in principle with precise details regarding fixing and position to be given when available. Seconded by Cllr Dashwood and approved unanimously.

7. To approve re-appointments of Girton Town Charity Trustees. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved unanimously.

8. To approve an agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting. The agenda was read out by the Chairman. It is proposed to reproduce the 2019 agenda with a road safety update and could also have an item on Pavilion refurbishment, with Cllrs Cockley and Mitchell to give the report. Cllr Rodger is to give a written and verbal report on rewilding. There is an option on zoom to allow voting.

21/41 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*Appendix B*). Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Rodger and approved with two abstentions.

2. To note any significant variance from usual levels of monthly income/expenditure. None.

£. To receive the end of financial year accounts. These were not available but will be compiled by the accountant by the end of the week.

21/42 Correspondence (to be received)

Regarding a letter received from Girton Bowls Club, it was queried whether the Bowls Club could lend their newly acquired vertidrainer for use of the groundsman. The Chairman suggested that it would not be adequate for large scale use. The Chairman reported receipt of an email questioning the ownership of the Bowls Green. This had arisen from the erroneous inclusion of the Green in the rating assessment of the WCC.

21/43 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix C*) Nothing to add to the written report and no questions.
2. Girton Town Charity Report. Residents have moved into Suffolk Terrace and settled well. The stopping up order at Michael's Close will progress over the next days and weeks. Regarding Dovehouse Court on High Street, planning conditions on raised roofline for increased insulation and the bin store, there has been one letter from a resident in Duck End which was not a material concern. The Chair of Trustees has given information to High Street neighbours about the change of conditions, and they were happy about them. A decision should be made on 14th May, barring other comments. Cambridgeshire Archaeology will be on site for two weeks from the end of the next week or the week after. GTC will communicate with GPC regarding traffic management on the site. There has been a good amount of interest in trusteeships but none have followed through with an application. The Charity is having a rethink about how to progress in future. They are in conversation with the Almshouse Association who suggest a review of how Trustees are appointed. The Chair of the GTC Trustees would like a conversation with the Parish Council Chairman to look at changing the way they appoint Trustees and are looking at the churches and school. The PC chairman questioned how the means of appointment would make any material difference to the recruitment process. People are concerned about the time commitment and it is maybe this that needs addressing. The Chairman thanked the Chair of GTC Trustees.
3. Water Management Report (*Appendix D*). Nothing to add to the written report.
4. Pavilion Refurbishment Report. Interviews have been held and a Project Management company appointed. The first meeting with them is to be held on 21st April and they have sent provisional questionnaires to 6 contractors.
5. Illegal Encampments Report. The Chairman has concerns about the way this is being brought to our attention and will bring to a future agenda.

21/44 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.

Regarding broken fence rails at Wellbrook Way, Cllr Griffin will map out and bring to a subsequent meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.28pm

APPENDIX A

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report Girton Parish Council - 20 April 2021 meeting

Following the sad news of the passing of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the chairman of the county council sent a letter of condolence to Her Majesty the Queen on behalf of the people of Cambridgeshire. You can read its content at: <https://bit.ly/3uPGvgB> Covid-19

The gradual relaxation of the lockdown rules is such good news and reflects the hard work that the vast majority of people have put in during lockdown to allow us to reach this point. Despite the weather being, shall we say, somewhat variable and maybe not too encouraging for sitting outside when the sun isn't shining, we are still being reminded to continue to stick to the rules that are in place and to follow the 'hands, face, space and fresh air' guidance. Covid-19 incidence rates remain relatively stable across all areas of Cambridgeshire. South Cambridgeshire remains below the national average. You can view the latest case rates for Cambridgeshire on a daily basis using the Government data website:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases?areaType=utla&areaName=Cambridgeshire> The number of patients being treated for Covid-19 in our hospitals has reduced greatly [Addenbrookes has just one currently] and the number of people dying from the virus is now, thankfully, much lower than earlier in the year. An important recent change is that anyone who records a positive LFT [lateral flow test] will now be required to take a follow up PCR [polymerase chain reaction] test. This provides an additional check in the effort to control the spread of Covid-19. More details about tests can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/3fNOMHf> The roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme is continuing to progress well. The latest statistics on vaccine delivery for local authorities in Cambridgeshire are available under the 'weekly data' heading on Statistics » COVID-19 Vaccinations (england.nhs.uk) Financial support is now available to parents who need to take time off work to look after children who are self-isolating.

Details at: <https://bit.ly/3fJi7Jc>

Adult Social Care Looking to the future and trying to anticipate what the world may look like post pandemic, one thing seems clear. There will be rising demand on adults' services with an increasing complexity in needs. The decades old unresolved national issue of how to fund social care doesn't appear to be anywhere nearer to being resolved and firm proposals from the Government are still awaited. In recent years Cambridgeshire has been particularly successful at investing in prevention but it remains to be seen if there will be the same level of opportunities in the future, to continue this very worthwhile work. It is surely to the benefit of all of us as we age, to be able to maintain a good quality of life and to continue to be able to live independently. Personal investment in our own health is crucial to that. As a member of Health committee, I have supported the investment made from the public health budget to support work on preventing falls [a major cause of health deterioration in the older age group] and health checks for the over forties. More recently I have been a member of a working group of councillors monitoring the council's progress on a strategy to invest in Care Suites. This concept provides independent living and the opportunity to access care at the appropriate level for each individual according to the progress of their needs.

Highways & Transport The news that East-West Rail [EWR] has moved to its next stage of consultation adds some certainty to planning for the future of the county. However, at the same time it has been met with different emotions by areas to the north and south of South Cambridgeshire. On the face of it, it appears that the northern route, which would have a disastrous impact on our immediate area, has been discounted. However, there is determined pressure from the south of the district for its reconsideration. At a recent briefing that I attended I raised the issue of the mixed messages that seem to be coming out of the consultation. It is not, in my view, fair to create a feeling of relief in one area and yet seem to leave the door open to the possibility of bringing the northern route back onto the table. I believe that this is how the devastated residents of the south of the district are interpreting the opportunity to comment on the northern route through the consultation. The explanation for this seeming ambivalence is that EWR has a legal obligation to 'back check' on the work it has done to dismiss entering the city via Cambridge North, and must continually take into account any new information that may become available. You should by now have received a brochure from EWR and I would encourage local response to the consultation either as individuals or as parish councils. More information:

https://communityhub.eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation-feedback/survey_tools/feedback The news about EWR comes on the back of confirmation that the dual-ing of the A428 from the A1 Black Cat roundabout to Caxton Gibbet will go ahead. Highways England's development consent order application has now

been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/frequently-asked-questions/#pre-exam> Again I would encourage local responses to the consultation particularly supporting the county council's vigilance to ensure that Highways England delivers a scheme that limits any consequential adverse impacts elsewhere. Girton's long awaited 20mph zone has now been installed. The traffic regulation order was implemented at the end of March and is now enforceable. I'd like to thank the parish council for its efforts in achieving this. I have noted that at least one other village is somewhat envious of this success. It has, I understand, been trying for a long time to achieve a similar scheme - without similar success. I very much hope that the scheme will have a marked effect on road safety in Girton. Its design has been carefully engineered with a combination of roundels, repeater signs and additional speed humps to restrict speed. There is one location that could perhaps still be improved - around the Co-op. Here it is extremely difficult to install engineering features due to the number of property accesses. This impediment caused the parish council's most recent LHI bid to be revised and regrettably it wasn't successful. This location could be considered for a future application, should the parish council wish. The important thing now is to measure the success of the new scheme. The mobile vehicle activating sign that was supplied as part of the successful LHI bid, can be used to monitor speed and traffic volumes throughout the village. However, a volunteer is needed to manage its deployment. I was recently asked about the cost of the work that was done at Washpit Lane as the report to Highways & Transport committee showed an estimated cost of £100k which seemed somewhat excessive for the actual work done. I have checked with officers and am advised that the anticipated spend for the year to end March 2021 is approximately £47k. There will be further costs of around £10k to be added for matters such as the stopping up order.

Household Recycling Centres From 1st April until 30th September all sites will be operating for the longer summer opening hours. Details: <https://bit.ly/3uoJhcc> Management of the sites continues to require maintenance of two metre social distancing and the booking system for all users remains in place at Alconbury, Bluntisham, Milton, St Neots and Thriplow sites. Information on booking: <https://bit.ly/3fM1ite> Some monitoring of the time residents actually spend at the sites has, where possible and safe, been taking place and this has led to the ability to increase capacity for bookings. Every week approximately 1,100 residents book a slot and then don't use it or cancel it. 300 - 400 residents still turn up each week without making a booking. This currently allows site staff to apply a light touch with regard to enforcing the booking rule but this may not always be the case, and the safest way to ensure against a wasted journey, is to book a slot. Residents are also asked to ensure that they do cancel unwanted appointments to allow them to be reused.

I look forward to seeing you all at your meeting. Meanwhile please do contact me at any time with questions or comments either by email or phone.

Lynda Harford

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Follow me on Twitter: @2whit2whoo or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lynda.harford>

APPENDIX B
Payments Schedule for April 2021
(circulated separately)

APPENDIX C

Chairman's Report

14th April 2021

Following Zoom call interviews with 4 candidates for the role of Project Manager for the Pavilion Extension Project, the Task and Finish Group unanimously agreed on the appointment. Details of the decision process will be included in a report to next week's PC meeting. A detailed project timeline is in preparation and the construction tender process set in train. A room offered for use as a temporary Parish Office proved to be unsuitable but alternative options are being sought and will be considered. The storage container and rubbish skip have been delivered and the latter is being filled with redundant material from the loft and the grounds man's store. The delays in progression of the project mean that we shall probably be able to allow Pavilion Hall use until the end of the summer term. A decision on reopening of the changing facilities will be considered at next week's meeting.

Our latest LHI application, originally for a pedestrian crossing near the Co-op but modified to two informal crossings near the A14 Bridge and Pepys Way, with double yellow lines at Weavers Field, did not receive a high enough score to be progressed. In the light of the recent introduction of the 20mph zone and the limited nature of the improvement it is not surprising that it was deemed to provide insufficient added value. Cllr. Harford and I are pressing for reinstatement of the pavement bollard at the junction of Weavers Field. We need to consider what should be the content of this year's LHI application and should perhaps discuss at the APM. A number of complaints have been received this month relating to traffic speeds on Oakington Road, the limitation of the 20mph zone to not include Thornton Road and the presence of 20mph roundel road markings in front of a resident's property.

In late March we received the disappointing news that Coles Accounting are no longer able to continue with current arrangements for managing our accounts. We have been promised that they will bring matters up to date for year end and collaborate with whoever is appointed to complete the Annual Return. They will also continue to handle payroll as long as needed. Our next steps to resolve this situation will be discussed at next week's meeting.

Following Cllr Shahila Mitchell's attendance at an SCDC workshop on illegal encampments on March 11th she has been directed to cascade this information to the PC with a list of things the PC must do in anticipation of illegal encampments being set up. To me this seems to be a massive exercise in 'buck passing' and we shall need to explore the drivers for this activity before we agree to be directed to any course of action.

The new dog walking signage was installed this month only for two signs to be vandalised and a third removed in the face of objections from the PCC. One sometimes wonders why we bother.

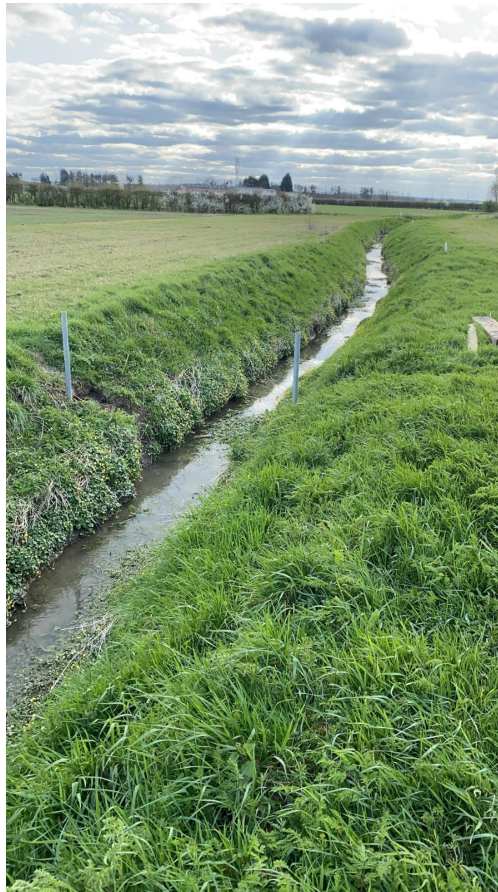
Haydn Williams

APPENDIX D
Water Management Report, April 2021

There are no water management issues to report, but our Environment Agency contact, Harry Chalk, has sent the following message:

You will be pleased to hear that one of our enforcement officers has been in touch with the relevant landowner regarding the structures crossing the Beck Brook.

The new footbridge was installed without the necessary permit so it has now been removed, photo attached, the posts have also been removed. We have also asked for the vegetation around the older structure to be removed so flow is not impeded, this should be addressed shortly.



I have responded to Harry that we are grateful for anything that aids the flow of water along Beck Brook.

Mary Rodger
13 April 2021