

## **Girton Parish Council**

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The Pavilion  
Girton Recreation Ground  
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Cambridge CB3 0FH

### **Minutes of the meeting of Girton Parish Council held at Girton Glebe School on Tuesday 15th June, 2021, at 7.00 p.m.**

*Residents were invited to attend the meeting and to speak in the public open session at item 21/61.1*

**Present:** (Cllrs) Williams (Chairman), Dashwood, Godby, Griffin, Kettle, Rodger, Thorrold  
Cllr E Murphy (Cambs County Council), Cllr T Bygott (SCDC), Cllr C Garvie (SCDC)

**In attendance:** S Cumming (Clerk)

**21/58 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially newly-elected Cllr Murphy and Cllr Garvie. All attendees introduced themselves.

**21/59 Apologies and Reasons for Absence** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Buckler, Cockley, de Lacey and Mitchell, and the Assistant Clerk.

**21/60 Members' declarations for items on the agenda.** None.

#### **21/61 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**

1. Members of the Public. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.
2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) Cllr Murphy informed the Council that the East West Rail Consultation has closed, and it is very important that people have contributed. There are Boundary Commission changes proposed for this area, with another ten constituencies proposed for England with hopefully smaller numbers in each constituency. Girton will be part of the new St Neots constituency, which will also include Dry Drayton, Madingley and Bar Hill. The South Cambs constituency will be reshaped and called East Cambs. The results of the boundary changes will come into effect in 2023 for the general election after that. Regarding Covid-19, on 29th May there were eleven cases per 100,000 in South Cambs, well below the UK average. The County Council is working with health bodies on a summer holiday food and activities scheme for children eligible for free school meals. Girton footpaths 4 and 5 will not go forward now, but will be put forward for the next round of funding. This will allow more time to negotiate with landowners. Regarding Oakington Road bridge, there is concern regarding whether this is structurally sound. It was queried whether repair would be a false economy and if it should be replaced. The Water Management Officer suggested that the bridge wall is cracking and flood relief measures are needed. If something happened at Girton Corner, Oakington Road (together with the bridge) would be the only way out of the village. Cllr Murphy was asked if there are plans to improve pavements and the Chairman will write to Cllr Murphy regarding matters that need to be picked up from her predecessor as County Councillor. The Chairman thanked Cllr Murphy for her report.

3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*). Cllr Garvie reported that time-limited news is to be put on the Girton Village website. A Girton Road crossing is being put forward for funding feasibility. A resident has offered to run a Post Office if premises can be found. Residents are worried about children crossing Huntingdon Road at the Thornton Road junction where there is an unprotected crossing. There is a much safer crossing by the Travellers Rest. Histon has 15 acres of natural habitat which they've bought as a village and are increasing the biodiversity there. Regarding the Call for Sites, 8,500 people were engaged in a consultation last year suggesting sites for development. The Planning Department will now take into account these comments with another stage in the autumn, and only 10% of sites will be used. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council has filed objections to the sites we most object to. Regarding Huntingdon Road crossing, it was suggested that residents will need to justify usage at times other than school times. A possible solution could be to improve the crossing at Whitehouse Lane. The Chairman thanked Cllr Garvie for her report.

Cllr Bygott spoke about the 275 houses on Cambourne Business Park, which abandons the idea of having workplaces in a village, which will increase the level of commuting so employment growth will be elsewhere. The Milton Household Recycling Site will be closed, the works to take place in 2022, with a new site in the same location. There is no news on the Hotel Felix and he has requested this goes to the full Planning Committee. Cllr Bygott welcomed his two new colleagues and would like to go through the issues which he and former-Councillor Harford worked on such as Oakington Road bridge. The Chairman thanked Cllr Bygott for his report.

4. Police Report. There was no report this month.

**21/62 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th May, 2021.** The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Rodger, and approved with one abstention.

**21/63 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only) and review of action points**

21/53.8 An accountant has been approached regarding compilation of the Annual Return but it is not yet known if she will agree to undertake this for the Parish Council.

21/53.9 Cambridgeshire Fire Services have been consulted regarding fire risk in woodland around the recreation ground.

**21/64 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To co-opt a new member of Girton Parish Council. The co-optee had withdrawn prior to the meeting.
2. To approve that by-laws prohibiting use of vehicles and marquees on the Recreation Ground be suspended for Girton Feast events on 9th-11th July, 2021. The Chairman proposed that the motion includes that visitors to Girton Glebe School for the swimming pool reunion may use the 10 Acre Field as an overflow car park. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Griffin and approved unanimously.
3. To review historical charges to the Church for graveyard grass mowing and approve future policy. The Rector has proposed later period billing only. It will be suggested that the Parochial Church Council pays from April 2020 to cover the year in which the present incumbent became Rector. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Dashwood and approved unanimously.
4. To approve the fitting of replacement boards on the rainbow play equipment at Girton Recreation Ground. The Chairman proposed that platforms be bought and fitted by the groundsman. Cllr Rodger

suggested that professional fitting is needed. The Chairman withdrew the motion and will talk with Cllrs Cockley and Rodger on Cllr Cockley's return.

5. To approve repairs to Pavilion playground seesaw. This item was withdrawn.

6. To approve the repair of rope walk equipment on the Trim Trail in 10 Acre Field. This item has been proposed by the Sports & Recreation Committee who suggest that the works are undertaken by Fenland Leisure Products. The new beam lift installation has met with widespread approval.

### **21/65 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve the payments schedule to date this month (*Appendix C*). Proposed by the Chairman and approved with one abstention.

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

### **21/66 Correspondence (to be received)**

Girton Town Charity's proposal of a community orchard can not be adopted as the land remains unregistered.

### **21/67 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix D*) Local Highways Improvements applications are later this year and the Council has until August to put together an application. Double yellow lines would be the most useful. There are problems with the new Gretton School site and taxis

2. Girton Town Charity Report. No report this month.

3. Water Management Report. Cllr Rodger reported that there had been an SCDC webinar for water management officers but regretted she had not been well enough to attend.

4. Pavilion Refurbishment Report. Cllrs Cockley and Mitchell to report at a future meeting.

**21/68 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.** None.

The meeting ended at 7.58pm

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Girton Parish Council report – County Councillor Edna Murphy**

#### Local cycling and walking infrastructure plan for Cambridgeshire – consultation

The County Council begun a consultation on proposals which had been suggested in January 2021 but which they would like to re-start and seek input.

This is an early stage policy document which seeks to outline new and existing walking and cycling routes and consider which routes should be created or improved, as and when funding becomes available. It may take time for funding etc to be secured but the County would like input now into the proposals.

The proposals can be found on:

<https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/cc-local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-consultation-2021>

It would be helpful if the Parish Council would be able to respond to the consultation – noting it concludes at **23.59pm on 13 July 2021**. If comments could also come to me I would find that helpful. The information will then be analysed and presented to the County Council's Highways and Transport Committee, of which I am a member.

### East West Rail

The consultation period closed on 9 June 2021. The responses to the consultation will now be reviewed by the Department for Transport and consideration given to the recommendations for the southern route. There has been pressure from various groups to reconsider whether the northern route could also be a viable candidate for the approach, despite EWR having recommended that it is not viable on grounds of cost and complexity. This is ultimately a Government project as East West Rail is an 'arm's length body' set up by the Government tasked with overseeing the delivery of a rail link between Oxford and Cambridge. We will have to await the outcome of the consultation and see what the proposals are.

### Boundary Commission changes

The Boundary Commission has reported a number of changes, proposing changes to boundaries based on a key principle of maintaining a similar number of votes per parliamentary constituency.

In Cambridgeshire there are some significant changes. Overall there will be an additional parliamentary constituency proposed – St Neots – which will include Girton, Bar Hill, Dry Drayton and Madingley. Other changes include the South East Cambridgeshire will be rebranded East Cambridgeshire and a number of adjustments made to South Cambridgeshire. The process is that there will be a series of consultations and reviews and then final proposals for constituencies will be proposed in 2023.

### Covid-19 update

For the week ending the 29 May there were 11 Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population, well below the England average of 32 and the regional average of 20. However the numbers have risen from the previous week, albeit overall the numbers are still low. The County has been working with public health bodies and has launched the application process for the summer Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) scheme for families dealing with disadvantage – to check if your child is eligible contact <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

### Girton Footpaths 4 & 5

One of the projects associated with the A14 development was to improve the footpaths above. Unfortunately the original Development Consent Order had omitted the footpaths so Highways England agreed to fund the improvement works for the footpaths and make them accessible by all non-motorised road users. Highways England provided grant funding, but because of subsequent difficulties in acquiring a small strip of land associated with the Footpath number 4) a paper was taken to the January 2021 Highways and Transport Committee at the County Council proposing to defer the work on Girton Footpath 4 & 5, and effectively re-apply for funding for these works in the next round of funding applied for from Highways England.

The deferral does have a knock-on effect on when the County Council may be able to deliver these works. Programme 2 has not yet been secured (although apparently discussions with Highway England are going well) until funding is secured the delivery of the work cannot be guaranteed. However I am told that at that point, when the County viewed the Footpaths 4 & 5 were not deliverable within Programme 1, they did substitute it with a scheme at Washpit Road, Girton to ensure funding wasn't left unspent and that Girton residents still received some benefits from the Programme 1 funding.

Having spoken with the officer, this seems a sensible approach as it allowed funding to be redirected and used to deliver alternative schemes (such the improvements to NMU connectivity at Washpit Road, Girton), without disadvantaging us in seeking ongoing funding to complete the work on Girton Footpaths 4 & 5 in a subsequent round of funding. On the other hand it could have been damaging to have unspent funding from one round of grants while trying to apply for subsequent rounds.

### Bridging to a new future?

The bridge at Oakington Road has numerous cracks and some years ago engineer reports have recommended that this bridge be replaced, as other bridges of similar age and design had been. More cracks have appeared recently.

The background is that this work was added last year to the schedule as there are ongoing issues with the north brick parapet wall cracking and moving due to the clay soil and poor foundations to this wall. Also it was identified that possible flood relief measures might be necessary. The options to be considered may include lowering the invert or adding a flood relief tube.

However the scheme has yet to be formally started, designed or evaluated. Officers report that there is a risk that the work may be delayed slightly due to other priorities, because in their view the bridge is basically structurally sound. The main bridge arch has 40 tonne capacity.

The position is that in April 2021 the County published a 3 year Capital Maintenance Programme and work to 'strengthen' the bridge was contained in it. At £382k this is a substantial piece of work, but it may prove to be a false economy in the longer term if it still needs to be replaced.

A larger problem is that this work is the **\*only\*** capital maintenance work scheduled for Girton, Dry Drayton and Bar Hill, for the next 3 years. Obviously this will have to change, but that will not be easy, and will take time to resolve.

### Extending 20 mph limits in Girton

In general there are several routes for funding extensions of 20mph speed limits. These can be found on the Council's website:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/speeding/alternative-speed-measures>

Extending 20mph would seem to be suitable for areas where there are the following:

- An established mean speed of traffic 24mph or less
- High traffic calming or similar to ensure self enforcement

There is an option for Private Funding. Given there is already successful 20mph speed limits, there should be a strong case for extending them. The Parish Council may wish to consider what 20mph zones would be suitable, and then consider whether to bid for the Local Highway Improvement scheme for funding.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns you wish to raise:

Cllr Edna Murphy on Edna,[edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or 01223 577005

## **APPENDIX B**

### **i) A view from the District by Cllr Corinne Garvie**

I became District Councillor on the South Cambridge District Council on the 6<sup>th</sup> May and replaced Douglas De Lacey who retired early. He is a hard act to follow. My patch covers Girton, Dry Drayton and Madingley. The district buildings are in Cambourne.

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me and I will endeavour to live up to the role and the trust you put in me.

I have not been to a council meeting yet; the first one is on the 20<sup>th</sup> May. The Government has said all councils must meet in person, so it is being held in a hangar in Duxford in order to maintain social distance.

#### **What do the District and County councils do?**

District Councils provide core local services including economic development, planning, housing, leisure and environmental services for local communities.

County councils have the roles of providing schools, social services public transport, highways, waste disposal and trading standards.

#### **Green to the Core**

One of the main priorities for the present administration at SCDC was a commitment to being 'Green to the Core'. This is important to me so I will recount some of the initiatives the District council is doing.

All SCDC street lighting is being replaced with low energy LED lights. This is nearing completion and should give a reduction of 60% of energy usage and a commensurate saving in street lighting energy bills.

SCDC has completed an audit of the energy efficiency of council housing stock and will soon begin a campaign of improvement beginning with insulation of the poorest performing properties.

The 'greening' of South Cambs Hall has been delayed by Covid but should be finished in the coming year. This will retrofit renewable energy generation and saving measures with the objective of reducing by up to 50% the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> associated with its heating and lighting (with cost savings too).

The zero-carbon Communities Grant scheme has been very successful and so it will be extended. This is to help local communities with carbon reduction and energy efficiency measures.

I am very pleased to see in the Parish Council's minutes that the Girton Green Team are re-wilding areas, aided by the Parish Council.

#### **The results of talking to people on their doorstep during the election campaign**

I enjoyed visiting people on their doorstep before the election to find out what their concerns were. There were potholes and broken pavements reported in Woody Green, the High street, Bandon Road and Cambridge Road. There were concerns about the need for a crossing on Girton Road so that families, mostly on bikes, can safely get to the pedestrian crossing on Huntingdon Road and then to Eddington. I have spoken to the County Council and Edna Murphy, our County Councillor, about this and will send them the data I have collected. There was concern about the fate of Hotel Felix and about the old bridge in

Oakington Road. We discussed a Post Office for Girton and where to site it. I have found out that some villages use a mobile Post Office so I will investigate this. It may be our best option.

I was alarmed about a tall wooden fence leaning over on Bunkers Hill, which looked about to break and presented a hazard to people cycling past. Andy Griffiths from the Parish Council kindly got on the case and now the fence posts have been replaced and the fence is upright again.

It has been a steep learning curve!

You can contact me on 01223 276184 or 07780 932267 or at [cllr.garvie@scams.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.garvie@scams.gov.uk).

## **ii) District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott - 15th June 2021**

**Houses to be built on the Cambourne Business Park** When Cambourne was being planned in the 1990s, one of its key principles was that it would be a place where people could live, work, shop and enjoy their spare time without necessarily having to travel to other towns or cities to do so. The idea of new planned settlements containing a mixture of houses, workplaces and shops, goes back all the way through the New Town Movement to the Garden Cities first proposed by Ebenezer Howard in 1898. The plan for Cambourne was that there would be a Business Park providing local employment and a High Street containing a range of shops to cater for a range of different products and services. Cambourne was never intended to be a dormitory suburb, with most residents commuting to Cambridge or London for work. In theory, the role of South Cambridgeshire District Council as the planning authority should be to restrain businesses from building offices where houses are planned, during times when building offices makes more profit, and to restrain developers from building houses where the offices and other workplaces should be, at times when housebuilding is more profitable, in order to maintain a balanced mix. It is more environmentally sustainable for houses, shops and offices to be located near one another, as large scale long distance commuting generates a lot of traffic and uses considerable energy. When the pandemic is over and travel gets back to normal, the environmental effects of not reserving space for local employment will become more apparent. The current leadership of the District Council has not only abandoned its proper role in keeping space for jobs in Cambourne, but has formed a 50:50 Investment Partnership (SCIP) with a major housebuilder, Hill Group, in order to profit from the project. While the press release praises the fact that 40% of the 275 dwellings will be "affordable housing", it fails to mention that 40% is the expected minimum that any developer would have to provide under the current Local Plan. The District Council is behaving as a developer for profit while at the same time policing itself as the planning authority. This is clearly a conflict of interest. My group at the Council opposed this decision. If South Cambridgeshire's new towns are in fact nothing more than dormitory suburbs for Cambridge and London, why are we building over our beautiful countryside when it would be more environmentally sustainable for these houses to be built in Cambridge or London?

**Replacement of Milton Household Recycling Centre** Plans have been announced for the household recycling centre (HRC) at Milton to be replaced. The existing HRC, off Butt Lane at Milton, must close by 2026 under its current planning consent. Cambridgeshire County Council is proposing an upgraded, permanent facility at the site which will offer increased capacity. To find out more about the proposals, residents can visit a virtual exhibition where information and site plans can be viewed, questions asked and comments made. The exhibition opened today (Tuesday 15 June) and closes at 11.55pm on Tuesday 27 July. The proposals include changes to traffic management on site to reduce queueing, and the separation of public and operational traffic on site to improve safety. Additional facilities would include an enclosed reuse shop, access and parking for cyclists and the provision to allow small businesses to

deposit waste for a small charge. The site would also be split-level, enabling residents to dispose of their waste without needing to climb steps to access the containers. During the construction phase, local residents will have to travel to other Household Recycling Centres in Cambridgeshire, such as Bluntisham, Thriplow and Witchford. If approved, the works are expected to take place between May and December 2022, with the site reopening in January 2023. More information about the proposals can be found at the virtual exhibition [www.miltonhrc.info](http://www.miltonhrc.info), or questions can be asked by emailing [consultation@miltonhrc.info](mailto:consultation@miltonhrc.info) or telephoning 0800 156 0114. There is a survey that can be taken at: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/miltonhrc](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/miltonhrc)

Cllr Tom Bygott [cldr@bygott.net](mailto:cldr@bygott.net) 07765 475 513

**APPENDIX C**  
**Payments Schedule for June 2021**  
(circulated separately)

**APPENDIX D**

**Chairman's Report**

**9<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

The Pavilion refurbishment project continues to progress. The County Council Grant contract has been signed and returned with the proposed payment schedule prepared by LXA. Some 16 applicants to the tender process have been screened and Cllr Mitchell and I attended interviews with a shortlist of 6 with a view to selection of 4 to be taken forward to the first stage of tender. Good progress has been made in clearing unwanted items from pavilion storage. The most energy efficient means of providing heating and hot water are being explored and costed with a view to a SCDC Zero Carbon Fund Grant application.

Cllrs. Dashwood and Mitchell and I attended the East West Rail consultation and were disappointed that no assurances could be given that the choice of route into Cambridge would not change in the face of vociferous 'noise' from southern approach villages. I have submitted the Council's response as agreed last month with the addition of a request that any move to reconsider the route must be subject to a further full consultation with all stakeholders. The SCDC Parishes meeting was a disappointing exercise in trumpet blowing. The proposed response to the rail consultation is to do little more than question the rigour of the route selection process.

I have also submitted our agreed response to the A428 DCO enquiry.

Having discovered that the deadline for this year's LHI applications is now in September we advertised for more input in this month's GPN. Responses have included an impassioned plea for a crossing at Girton road short of Girton Corner, on which I have requested a view from Highways, and speed restrictions along Oakington road which will probably need supporting speed information following completion of the current cycle lane road works. Complaints have also been received about removal of the



second crossing point along New Road. Highways solution of narrowing the entrance to New Road to improve visibility seems not to have satisfied users.

Little progress has been made on the appointment of a new accountant. Attempts to set up a meeting with a very suitable candidate have foundered for various reasons but are still being pursued.

The trim trail log lift has at last been replaced and costs for replacement of other items and of play area equipment and surfacing are being obtained. Replacement platforms for the climbing frame are being vigorously sought!

I met the County Highways Health and Safety Officer to review the alternatives for improving safety of the car park footpath. He felt that the likelihood of a serious incident was remote and that either of our proposed solutions of bollards or wheel stops would be acceptable. Preference would be for bollards but whatever 'obstacles' are employed must have reflective strips to ensure visibility at night. I will endeavour to obtain precise details of the position of all underground 'beams' and plan positioning of bollards accordingly.

The commemorative bench in Washpit lane seems to have finally fallen apart. I have rescued the dedication plaque and am searching for a suitable replacement bench as agreed by the Council many months ago!

**Haydn Williams**