

## **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 on Tuesday 20th July, 2021, at 7.00 p.m. at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Girton**

*Residents were invited to attend the meeting and to speak in the public open session at item 21/72.1*

**Present:** (Cllrs) Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Cockley, Dashwood, de Lacey, Godby, Griffin, Kettle, Muston (from item 21/75.2 onwards), Rodger.

Cllr T Bygott and Cllr C Garvie (both South Cambridgeshire District Council)

2 members of the public

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

**21/69 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the members of the public, noting that it had been a long time since our last meeting at the Community Centre in March 2020.

**21/70 Apologies and Reasons for Absence** Apologies had been received from County Councillor Murphy, Mrs A Bonnett of Girton Town Charity, and the Assistant to the Clerk.

**21/71 Members' declarations for items on the agenda.** None.

The following item was brought forward to allow Cllr Muston to participate in the meeting.

**21/75.2. To co-opt a new councillor to Girton Parish Council.** Mrs A Muston introduced herself. Cllr Muston was duly co-opted and welcomed to the Parish Council. She signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

#### **21/72 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**

1. Members of the Public. Mr H Gelsthorpe spoke about the 9-10 cars parked on the corner of High Street/Cambridge Road, and residents' fear of a serious accident. He suggested that parking should be restricted by time, with 30 minutes allowed for dropping-off or picking-up students at Gretton School's Rectory Site. The Chairman has spoken to the School Principal, who has spoken to staff. If parking problems continue, regulations may need to be brought in.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gelsthorpe for his report.

2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) Cllr Rodger and Prof Irvine had hoped to meet with Cllr Murphy regarding Oakington Road Bridge, but this had not yet happened.

3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Cllr Garvie had suggested to Post Office Ltd that a post office could be accommodated at Cotton Hall, but they had not responded. SCDC is looking at tourist

destinations in the county and asking communities what's attractive about their village, and asks Cllr de Lacey if history tours of Girton are a possibility. St John's Field does not have enough dog refuse bins, and she has received a request for more bins in Wellbrook Way too.

Cllr Bygott said there had been an issue in Dry Drayton with asking for another dog refuse bin, and SCDC are now charging for such. SCDC has an initiative to engage young people to be vaccinated. The 100k Homes project is now closing with homes bought by Cambridge City Council for £155,100 each now being rented out. There's no news so far on Hotel Felix and new comments are still being allowed. There are 22 supporters and 47 objections. Cllr Bygott urged people to put in comments if they've not yet had a chance to do so. The Victorian Society might be making a film about Hotel Felix and it is also on their website. Cllr Bygott was requested to put things in his report which relate to the village, and he feels that he puts in items which are of interest to the community.

4. Police Report. It was queried why reports are no longer forthcoming. The village has lost our PCSO.

#### **21/73 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th June, 2021**

(previously circulated). A Councillor who had not been at the last meeting queried an item on which a decision had already been made. The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Godby, and approved with three abstentions.

#### **21/74 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only) and review of action points**

21/64.3 The Church has been informed of the Council's decision regarding churchyard cutting and is to be invoiced.

#### **21/75 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To approve the 2020-21 Parish Council Accounts for submission to the internal auditor (to be circulated). The Chairman explained that two people had offered to help but then not been able to, and he had then searched for local accountants. There are more bits and pieces to be tidied up with the accounts and it may be that the former accountants can help with this. The Clerk is to ask for an extension with the External Auditors until September.
2. To co-opt new councillors to Girton Parish Council. This item had been brought forward earlier in the meeting.
3. To approve the provision of office space during the Pavilion refurbishment works. Proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by Cllr Cockley. The Chairman and Clerk had met with the Manager of St Vincent's Close Community Centre, and would have exclusive use of a room at the Centre. We are awaiting confirmation of the rental charge. There would only be room for one person to work in the room at St Vincent's, but another room elsewhere could be found if needs-be. The Pavilion is likely to be closed from the end of September, and we wouldn't commit to a time period to rent the St Vincent's room. Approved with one vote against.
4. To approve a quotation for rainbow climbing frame repairs. If Fenland Leisure Projects will fit for relatively free we can approve the quotation for the boards to be undertaken at the same time as the repair to the see-saw. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Cockley and approved unanimously.
5. To approve the development of a Local Highways Improvements Application for double-yellow lines at Thornton Road, St Margaret's Road and Weavers Field. The Chairman explained that the only other suggestion is for speed restrictions on Oakington Road. Although there are already double yellow lines at

the Gretton School's Rectory Site it was queried if these could be extended. There is not much time to consult before the deadline and this is a new problem caused by teachers parking for the school. Taxis for the school go down the lane and then turn at the bottom in the car park. Before we finalise the LHI bid the Chairman will bring this to a future meeting.

6. To formally thank and congratulate Girton Village Celebrations committee on a very successful weekend of Girton Feast festivities. The Chairman proposed that the Clerk writes to Girton Village Celebrations to thank them for their courage in holding the Feast which had been very well organised and well attended. Seconded by Cllr Cockley and approved unanimously.

7. To review Parish Council employee matters (members of the public and employees excluded). This item was moved to the end of the meeting - please see below. The Clerk left the meeting at this point.

### **21/76 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve the payments schedule to date this month (*Appendix C*). The invoice for village planters was queried regarding costs being met by sponsors, which is the case. A bankers draft will be made to the Pavilion project managers for the first three months' work. The Chairman proposed that the payments schedule be approved.

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

### **21/77 Correspondence (to be received)**

1. Letter regarding trees on the road between the car park and 23A Cambridge Road. This matter had been passed on to former County Councillor Harford and the Chairman will follow up with County Councillor Murphy.

### **21/78 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix D*). The Chairman spoke about grass management at Wellbrook Way and noted that the issue of road crossings at Huntingdon Road has been revisited.

2. Girton Town Charity Report (*Appendix E*) Girton Town Charity is appointing another Trustee which takes the full contingent to seven.

3. Water Management Report. Nothing to report this month, unless the afternoon's deluge had caused problems.

4. Pavilion Refurbishment Report. Cllr Cockley reported that Mr P Clare has been amazingly good at clearing the loft and gave thanks to the Girton Colts parents for helping on a very hot day too. The container will be used to store the office furniture. We now have a firm quotation of £3780 for the kitchen from Homebase. The tenders for builders have been out for two weeks and a meeting will be needed to select the preferred contractor. We have hopefully agreed we can stagger the work to do the internal and non-structural works. The groundsman can retain essential access for water provision and the storage room. Fees will stay at the present level until the new Pavilion is available. Regarding storage space, we are looking at how best to achieve this without compromising the usefulness of the hall space. Green energy options have been looked at, together with grants to support this. The Task & Finish Group for the Pavilion Refurbishment meets every week. Following the resignation of former Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Cockley proposed that Cllr Rodger joins the Task & Finish group.

### **21/79 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.**

The footpath at Dovehouse Close is badly in need of a major trim with the hedge to be taken back 2ft plus

ivy removal on a telegraph pole, and it was proposed that this work be given to a contractor at a subsequent meeting.

Concerns about the crown lifting of trees at Mayfield Triangle have been raised with the contractor who undertook the works and are to be revisited.

Open Gardens fundraising at Girton Feast means that the flower kiosk can be kept going for the next couple of years.

Thanks to be given to former Cllr S Mitchell, who contributed so much to the Parish Council.

**21/75.7 To review Parish Council employee matters (members of the public and employees excluded).** This item had been moved from earlier in the meeting. The Clerk and public left the meeting at this point.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **County Councillor's Report - July 2021**

#### Summer programmes for children – funding gap met by County Council

At the last Strategy and Resources Committee, the Council voted to support free school meals for children for the summer holidays. They will receive food vouchers. There had been a funding gap in the budget which we were able to bridge. Also there will be more summer holidays support for families who are disadvantaged.

#### Update on the Oakington Road Bridge

I have met onsite with County officers to understand the various issues relating to the works being contemplated for the bridge. We covered what are the plans or options for replacement or 'strengthening', funding and how can it increase roadspace allowed for cyclists.

Part of the problem seems to be that there are possible options for work which are contingent upon other work being done first. This has led to the appearance of vagueness or opacity, when in fact it is just that it is too soon to define the options more precisely. The funding identified in the budget is a provision assuming some work (yet to be precisely defined) needs to be done.

- The officers were clear that the bridge is structurally sound and there are no problems with its foundations. It supports 40 tonnes and importantly this is more than other bridges which have been replaced. The parapet is cracked and will need replacing but this does not affect the rest of the bridge's structure. The parapet could be repaired in a like for like way, and this would only take a portion of the provision that is earmarked for 'bridge strengthening'.
- Other work that could happen, but which is contingent upon prior work elsewhere, is potential improvements to allow water to be drained away more quickly, to avert flood risk. The work would involve lowering the level of the concrete slab under the bridge, thus increasing the space for water to flow. There had been a study done some years ago which exonerated the bridge in terms of creating flood risk to Girton, which the Parish Council should have a copy of, but the

current risk could arise depending on the impact of the A14 works and whether the balancing ponds in Bar Hill have mitigated risks.

- There could also be an additional drain inserted in the side of the bank to provide a way to siphon water off, if it is needed. The requirements for this work will be determined after the impact of the A14 works has been done as above. However given the impact of climate change it is likely both this and the increased water flow would be advisable anyway. But it won't be clear what the need is for this for several months.
- In addition, and separately, there is a question about whether and how to accommodate more space for non-motorised vehicles to cross the bridge. One option is to take the opportunity when repairing the parapet to move this further out, using a cantilever to effectively increase the available roadspace on the bridge. However this would be costly and could take some time to implement. Alternatively the pavements could be widened by reducing the roadspace for motorised vehicles, limiting it to a single lane. That would mean that traffic would operate on a give way basis. There are some potential positives to this including it would be helpful in reducing traffic speed. On the other hand there may be a risk of increasing congestion, although officers say there is nothing to suggest that this would be the case – and they point to other examples nearby.
- It is expected that cycling will increase, especially if there are dedicated spaces for cyclists. One further idea is that depending on various factors it might be possible to create a small NMU (eg a wooden bridge) to run in parallel with the bridge, providing non-motorised road users with a completely separate option for crossing at that point. These ideas are still being discussed and no formal evaluation has been undertaken.
- I have maintained that it would be sensible to keep alive the idea of replacing the bridge entirely, as this would as a minimum help establish a value for money baseline, but also importantly help to complete the set of options available to consider.

It may be an idea to invite the officers to the Parish Council meeting to discuss the different options and explain the contingencies and timescales to councillors, perhaps in September or October.

### Milton Recycling Centre redesign

Milton landfill site, including the area occupied by the recycling centre, is owned by the County Council, and leased to FCC Environment on a 99 year lease that expires in 2092. The lease contains a right for the County Council to occupy part of the site as required for use as a recycling centre. Planning consent for the existing recycling centre expires in 2026 and a fresh planning application will need to be submitted for a Centre to continue on that site. Plans within the County Council have been worked on for a considerable period of time and have now reached the point at which proposals are being put forward for consultation. The Council is taking the opportunity to rebuild the site to serve an increasing population, allow for expansion in recycling volumes, and improve facilities, access, and parking. Obviously this will require the centre to close for a period while it is rebuilt on its existing site.

The County Council has brought forward proposals which have been worked up over at least the last year and now are seeking to consult residents on the proposals for a new Centre. The consultation process opened last week and residents are encouraged to give feedback on the proposals. It runs until 11.55pm on Tuesday 27 July 2021.

The consultation period has been extended to allow everyone the chance to review the plans and have their say.

Features of the proposed new site:

- There will be increased capacity, it can deal with 30,000 tonnes per year versus 12,000 tonnes per year now
- It will operate at a split level (so don't have to go up steps or ladders), like the site at Witchford
- There will be better car parking, and also cycle parking
- There will be a covered area for a shop allowing re-sale

For more information about the proposals please see: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/milton-household-recycling-centre-consultation-document.pdf>

Also note there is a virtual exhibition at [www.miltonhrc.info](http://www.miltonhrc.info).

Please use the link to [comment on the proposals for Milton HRC on the Survey Monkey website](#).

### Making a difference to the road and cycle network

The problems with road maintenance, especially potholes and blocked road gullies is high on the list of priorities for the new Joint Administration at the County Council. Residents are painfully aware of the short-term nature of much of the remedial work - within a year it has failed again. A more fundamental rethink to the approach is required. There is a big backlog, and the new administration cannot promise to rectify the problems overnight, but the new team is going to look critically at contracts and quality of work and drive improvements as soon as they can. Doing more inadequate repairs will only increase costs without fundamentally improving the situation.

The administration has convened an improvement initiative to identify the key ways in which Highways could work in a more joined up way, and provide more comprehensive reporting to Councillors (as opposed to receiving piecemeal reports on different aspects of road and cycle works being done by different groups within the Council). In the meantime residents are kindly reminded to report any problems on Highways using [Highways Reporting](#) but we hope to have more to say about how to introduce more efficiency and a more resident-responsive approach after the summer.

### LHI applications – deadline extended

Recently at the Highways and Transport Committee we extended the deadline for submitting applications to 30 September, and also reflected that it would be helpful to offer some training to councillors and that this should be extended to Parish Councillors too.

This came about because several applications in the last round were not funded because they did not meet the criteria, and we want more to succeed. I am not sure when this is being arranged for, but it is likely to be virtual, perhaps a short webinar for example. I will let you know when I hear more, but I think this could be helpful.

### Contact me

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you have a query or concern. My details are below.

01223 577005; edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

## **APPENDIX B**

### **District Councillors' Reports**

#### **i) Cllr Corinne Garvie**

South Cambs District Council

##### South Cambridgeshire Growth fund

The South Cambridgeshire Growth fund is opening for applications on 1st July 2021. It is for micro and small businesses operating in/from South Cambridgeshire. Priority applicants will include those who have not previously received government backed (covid related) funding. A one-off grant of between £1,000 to a maximum of £50,000 will be awarded to eligible applicants. The Growth Fund scheme is designed to support businesses' growth and expansion plans in the district. Eligible applicants for the scheme must be South Cambridgeshire based start-ups who are looking to scale and grow quickly, or they can be established South Cambridgeshire based companies who can clearly demonstrate ambitious growth plans in the District. Businesses in any sectors can apply, including, sole traders and partnerships. One-off grants of between £1,000 and £50,000 may be awarded to successful applicants. The scheme will end when all funds have been allocated.

Business Plan Update The update on the business plan is here:

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s122476/Appendix%20B%20-%20Q4%20Business%20Plan%20Actions%20Update%20Cab.pdf>

Zero Carbon Grant Scheme— Community groups can bid for grants between £1000 and £15000 for projects to tackle climate change.”. Go to <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/applications-open-for-cash-for-climate-change-projects/> to read more about the grant, how to apply and how to register for the webinar. Closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 30 July 2021

##### Local Transport Plan

As trailed last month, the consultation on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Local Transport Plan is now live. You can find about the plan and how to contribute to the consultation here: <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/about-us/programmes/transport/ltp/>

There are many consultation events scheduled throughout July, and a few in September – see the link for details. The consultation closes on 27th September.

#### Waste Services Campaigns

The shared waste service is launching campaigns to increase public awareness on fly tipping and recycling contamination.

The fly tipping campaign aims to educate residents about the problem and how it can be prevented, highlighting legal ways of disposing of waste and how to report fly tipping. The SCRAP action check list (Suspect, Check, Refuse, Ask, Paperwork) will be a key message.

The recycling campaign's aim is to reduce the amount of non-recyclable material put into blue bins. The contract for recycling has a threshold of 7% contamination so it is important that the council maintains levels below this. Textiles, sanitary products, black bags and food/liquids are the main items that are being found to be contaminating blue recycling bins, and the campaign will lead on these.

### Northstowe Local Centre and Enterprise Zone: Have you had your say yet?

There was a press release earlier this month about the engagement work that has got underway – aiming to give residents the best possible chance of shaping the Northstowe Local Centre and Enterprise Zone from an early stage. The good news is that we've had a great response since the survey was launched – but, probably as you'd expect, the vast majority of responses (around 90%) are from Northstowe residents. This is great because these very local residents are clearly key in helping shape these plans – but we also want to ensure other nearby villages have their say on the type of places they would like to see us bring forward on the land at Northstowe. With that in mind, can you please encourage residents in your wards – particularly members who are not too far from Northstowe – to [complete our survey](#) before the deadline of Saturday 31 July. We continue to post about this survey via our social media channels, so please do feel free to share these posts – especially into any local Facebook groups that you may be member of.

#### ii) District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott - 20th July 2021

**Initiative to encourage young people to be vaccinated** The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has launched a marketing campaign to increase the level of Covid-19 vaccination locally, especially amongst 18 to 29 year olds. The campaign is called "The Vaccinators on Tour" and includes a number of walk-in clinics that will be available at certain times and places. It also allows bookings to be made on-line for local vaccination centres. Details can be found on the website at: [www.thevaccinators.co.uk](http://www.thevaccinators.co.uk) It is still also possible to book via the NHS website: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid19/coronavirus-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid19/coronavirus-vaccination)

**£100K Homes project axed** The £100K Homes initiative was a flagship policy of the former Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mayor James Palmer. His replacement, elected this May, has said it is "unlikely" any new £100K Homes will be delivered. Three homes in Cambridge that



were due to be sold to struggling first homebuyers as part of the £100K Homes initiative have been offered for sale to Cambridge City Council to be rented out as council housing instead. The City Council decided to buy the three houses at The Mews, Histon Road - for a budget of £155,100 each - at its Housing Scrutiny Committee on June 22nd. The £100K idea was for one-bedroom properties to be discounted to £100,000, no matter their market-assessed value. The percentage discount from market value would then stay with the property if it were sold on, through a legal covenant registered on the property. The new purchaser would also be found through the £100K Home scheme, and they would also benefit from the same percentage discount on the open market value of the property that the initial buyer received. The initiative had aimed to provide affordable home ownership; people with strong local connections and key workers were to be prioritised in the selection process. Rather than their monthly payment disappearing into the bank account of their landlord, those who bought a £100K Home would own it outright and build their equity as they repaid their mortgage. It would have also given them the chance to save more each month towards a deposit on their next home in the open market. The end of this initiative is a sad indictment that our society has now given up on the idea that most people should be able to own their own home. As the proportion of the population who own their own homes falls, we are returning to the situation as it was in the Middle Ages, when land ownership was the exclusive preserve of the very wealthy, with the remainder eking out a life of hand-to-mouth subsistence. As today's younger generations age, without having had the opportunity to build up savings, it will lead to substantial old-age poverty later this century, a social crisis and a funding crisis for the welfare state.

Cllr Tom Bygott

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

**APPENDIX D**  
**Chairman's Report**

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

The Pavilion refurbishment project continues to progress. The selected contractors were given a tour of the site and Tender documents have been developed and issued and are to be returned by the end of July. A two stage process has been decided upon with the selected contractor providing detailed design before commencement of site works. This is now likely to be delayed until October but the possibility of scheduling internal works to commence earlier than this is being pursued. A decision on alternative Office

space during the building period will be discussed at our July meeting. Following the resignation of Shahila Mitchel from the Council we shall be seeking a further volunteer to join our task group. Following a complete breakdown in communication with a candidate accountant/book keeper to complete our Annual Return a second candidate was engaged but quickly withdrew due to lack of familiarity with our software. Three local Accountancy Companies who are able to do the work were identified and asked to quote. In agreement with the vice chair and Clerk, Streets Accountants based in Wellbrook Way were selected. After several false starts a copy of our accounts was transferred to the Office lap top and delivered to Streets who are currently working on the AGAR. We have obtained a one month extension on the deadline for this submission.

Staying with financial matters the transfer of our bank account to on-line banking seems fraught with difficulties relating to security matters. We are waiting for Unity Trust to contact signatories to set up authorisation procedures. This has been promised for this week.

Following a complaint about the quality of the grass management at the back of Abbeyfields our contractor was asked to revisit to tidy it up. This led to a separate complaint from a Wellbrook Way resident that we are destroying a wild habitat! Rewilding is clearly the thing of the moment but not to everyone's taste.

Further correspondence has been received requesting a road crossing on Huntingdon Road at Thornton Road junction. This appears to be an attempt to revive well-rehearsed arguments which were rejected by Highways at the time of the opening of Eddington School.

Haydn Williams

## **APPENDIX E**

### **Girton Town Charity Report - July 2021**

Cambridge Archaeology Unit are now working on site at Dovehouse Court.

Neighbours have been informed by letter.

Our contractors Barnes, has met with close neighbours to discuss preparatory works on the Dovehouse Court site including demolition of 22 High Street.

Neighbours will be kept informed of what is going on by regular newsletter.

Barnes are intending to be on site from 9<sup>th</sup> August but this is dependent on findings of the CAU team.

Neighbours have also been informed of this by letter.

I am pleased to report that GTC have appointed Village resident Andrew Muston as Trustee.

Ann Bonnett

Chair of Trustees

Girton Town Charity