

GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. Yvonne Murray
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The Pavilion
Girton Recreation Ground
Cambridge Road, Girton
Cambridge, CB3 0FH

NOTICE of MEETING: GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING FULL COUNCIL
DATE & TIME: Wednesday 13th December at 7.30pm
VENUE: Girton Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road Girton

All Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend for the purposes of resolving Council Business to be transacted at the meeting, as set out below. Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council under the Public Participation item. Advance notice of questions and/or issues would be appreciated.

Members: 13 Vacancies: 2 Quorum: 5

Members: Cllr Carney (Chair), Cllr Muston (Vice-Chair) Cllr Betts, Cllr Brown, Cllr Clare, Cllr Giles, Cllr Hayat, Cllr Lampe, Cllr Linton, Cllr Marshall, Cllr Reeves, Cllr Williams, Cllr Wright.

Mrs. Yvonne Murray – Clerk to Girton Parish Council
7th December 2023

AGENDA

| Agenda Item | Item Description | Action/ Power |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| 23FC/133 | Welcome from the Chair | |
| 23FC/134 | To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Absence | For Decision |
| 23FC/135 | To Co-opt new Members to Girton Parish Councillor | For Decision |
| 23FC/136 | To Receive Members' Declarations of Interest and Dispensations | To Note |
| 23FC/137 | Public Participation <i>To allow a total of 15 minutes for any members of the public to address the meeting in relation to any matter on the agenda. Individual presentations to be limited to 5 minutes on any single issue</i> | 15 Mins |
| 23FC/138 | To Receive Reports <i>(for information only)</i> | 10 Mins |
| 23FC/138.1 | County Councillor | |
| 23FC/138.2 | District Councillors | |
| 23FC/138.3 | Girton Town Charity (No Report this month) | |
| 23FC/138.4 | Girton Neighbourhood Plan | |
| 23FC/138.5 | Clerk's Report | |
| 23FC/138.6 | Chair's Report | |
| 23FC/139 | To Approve Minutes of Girton Parish Council Full Council Meetings: 8 th November 2023 | For Decision |
| 23FC/140 | Matters arising from Previous Meetings <i>(for information only)</i> | For Information |
| 23FC/140.1 | Action List (See 23FC/143.2) | |
| 23FC/140.2 | Any other Matters arising – A chance to raise any comments/concerns on previous agenda items | |

| Agenda Item | Item Description | Action/ Power |
|-------------|--|---------------|
| 23FC/141 | To Receive update from GPC Committees & Working Groups <i>(For information only)</i> | To Note |
| 23FC/141.1 | Environment Committee | |
| 23FC/141.2 | Local Nature Recovery Working Group | |
| 23FC/141.3 | Footpath Officer's Report (See Chair's Report) | |
| 23FC/141.4 | Water Management Report (No Report this month) | |
| 23FC/141.5 | Finance & Resource Management Committee | |
| 23FC/141.6 | HR Committee (to include CAPALC Report) | |
| 23FC/141.7 | Planning Committee (No Report This month) | |
| 23FC/141.8 | Sport & Recreation Committee | |
| 23FC/141.9 | Events Working Group | |
| 23FC/141.10 | Wellbrook Way Facilities Task & Finish Group | |
| 23FC/141.11 | Pavilion Refurbishment Task & Finish Group | |
| 23FC/142 | To Approve Finance and Resource Management | For Decision |
| 23FC/142.1 | To note payment of accounts under delegated approval | To Note |
| 23FC/142.2 | To Approve payment of outstanding accounts due | For Decision |
| 23FC/142.3 | To Receive a report from Facilities Manager on Amounts paid in | To Note |
| 23FC/143 | Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council | For Decision |
| 23FC/143.1 | Council to consider and approve support for Cambridgeshire County Council's initiative to lease land at the bottom of Girton Recreation Ground to Hope CIC and requests that it be consulted on all future schemes to be carried out by CCC at the earliest opportunity. | For Decision |
| 23FC/143.2 | Council to consider and confirm meeting dates with Recreation Users to review charges for next year. | For Decision |
| 23FC/143.3 | Council to consider and approve draft Budget for Girton Parish Council (at this point in time) prior to precept setting in January Full Council (Information to be presented at Full Council) | For Decision |
| 23FC/143.4 | Council to consider and approve list of priority tasks for new Parish Ranger engaged by the Council on 6 th December 2023 to start in new year. (Information to be presented at Full Council) | For Decision |
| 23FC/143.5 | Council to consider and approve in principle process to implement process to increase oversight of Council workload for Council and Girton Residents. (Information to be presented at Full Council) | For Decision |
| 23FC/143.6 | Council to consider and approve support for Cambridgeshire County Council's project 5020551, <i>Girton Road Parallel Crossing</i> , and requests that it be consulted on all future schemes to be carried out by CCC at the earliest opportunity. | For Decision |
| 23FC/143.7 | Council to consider and approve opening of trade accounts at Travis Perkins and B&Q Trade Centre to enable Parish Ranger and Groundsman to order items for maintenance and asset management in line with approved budget. | For Decision |
| 23FC/144 | To Receive Correspondence addressed to the Council. | To Note |
| 23FC/145 | To Approve Communication of items from this Agenda <i>This item is designed to ensure that Council can approve key items of communication from this meeting on Council Website, Facebook, and Twitter.</i> | For Decision |
| 23FC/146 | Date of next meeting(s): 10 th January 2024 at 7.30pm | To Note |

Guidance For Visitors to Girton Parish Council

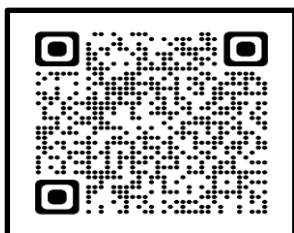
The Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0FH.

Tel: 01223 618619

NOTICES FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Parish Council Agenda

A full copy of this agenda with appendices and reports may be found on the Parish website at <https://www.girton-cambs.org.uk/girton-parish-council/> or requested from the Clerk. Our Village Noticeboards will include a copy of the agenda only including this guidance page. Webpage QR Code below.



Public Participation

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting and any other Girton Parish Council public meeting. If you wish to raise a question or topic at the meeting it will help us if you contact the clerk, who will be pleased to explain the procedure. Clerk email: clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk. Members of the public may address the Council within an allotted time of **15 minutes** during Public Participation on the agenda.

Exclusion of Press and Public

The press and public are likely to be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972, exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended.

Items to be confirmed here/

First Aid

If you feel unwell or need first aid, please alert a member of staff.

Toilets

Public toilets are available on the ground floor of the Pavilion in the corridor through the double doors in the Community Hall. These include facilities for disabled people.

Recording of Business and Use of Mobile Phones

Girton Parish Council are open and transparent about how we make decisions. The Council may record public meetings. Recording, filming and photography at Council, Committee and other meetings is allowed where members of the public can attend, so long as proceedings at the meeting are not disrupted. Members of the public may not speak during Council proceedings. We also allow the use of social media during meetings to bring Council issues to the attention of a wider audience. To minimise disturbance to others attending the meeting, please switch your phone or other mobile device to silent/ vibrate mode.

Smoking

No one can smoke at any time within the Pavilion or at any Council meeting.

STRATEGY RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE

Council leaders respond to Chancellor's autumn statement
Cambridgeshire County Council leaders have expressed disappointment about the lack of any additional funding for local government in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's autumn statement.

Cllr Lucy Nethsingha, Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council said: *'The failure to address the funding crisis faced by the whole local government sector, caused by rising levels of inflation and spiralling need, in [the] Autumn Statement is disappointing for all County Councils.'*

'While we welcome an increase in the national minimum wage, as people on the lowest wages have been affected most by the cost-of-living crisis, this will make setting our budget this year even more difficult. Councils like Cambridgeshire have been underfunded for many years by central government, and central government are again asking for more growth without recognising the costs that brings in the need to provide more schools and more care for our growing older population.'

'A previously announced £2.3million over the next two years for highways improvements in Cambridgeshire is helpful, but it's a drop in the ocean of the need for investment in our highways network. Soaring inflation in highway maintenance costs, alongside the impact of climate change on our 4500 miles of roads, 37% of which are affected by peat damage due to extreme weather events, have left us with a huge challenge to simply stand still on keeping our roads safe. Like the Local Government Association said over the weekend, we need highways funding to be over a minimum of five years—as has been offered to National Highways.'

'We're firmly on the side of our residents and remain committed to bringing forward proposals in our budget next month which focus on those who are in greatest need, and which consider some of the key areas that were highlighted to us in our Quality of Life survey this year – such as improvements to our highways, mental health support – particularly for younger people, tackle the climate emergency and support those most affected by the current cost of living crisis', said Cllr Elisa Meschini, deputy leader of the council.

'The cost-of-living crisis means it's costing us far more today to do the same things we were doing just a few months ago. This at a time when more and more people than ever need our help. We've already seen applications to our household support fund reach their highest ever levels this summer, compared to the same time last year.' confirmed Cllr Tom Sanderson, Leader of the Independent group on the council, and chair of the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee.

Proposals for Cambridgeshire County Council's 2024/5 budget and five-year business plan are set to be presented to its Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee on 19 December 2023, the same day the Government is likely to unveil the full detail of its Local Government Financial Settlement.

National concern at council funding challenges

County councils across the country have warned of the risk of major budget overspends due to 'uncontrollable' pressures, and fear that even well-managed councils are 'running out of road to prevent insolvency'.

The County Councils Network (CCN) says all frontline council services are being affected, with increasing demand for care services amongst vulnerable children and a rise in the cost of placing children in care leading to spiralling costs.

£319 million of the projected £639 million national overspend by county councils this year comes from children's services.

One in ten 'well-managed' councils are unsure whether they are able to balance their budget this year, which is a legal requirement. This figure is expected to rise to four in ten for next year, and then six in ten for 2025.

The overall funding deficit is anticipated to reach £4 billion up to 2026, regardless of the £2 billion worth of savings and cuts that councils are planning to make in order to prevent the issuing of a 'Section 114 Notice' (the local government equivalent of bankruptcy).

Council wins staff development award

Cambridgeshire has become the first county council to be awarded 'Silver' membership of The 5% Club's 2023-24 Employer Audit Scheme. This award recognises the council's significant contribution to the continued development

of all its employees through 'earn and learn' schemes such as apprenticeships, graduate development programmes and sponsored student course placements.

ADULTS & HEALTH Winter vaccinations

Flu, COVID-19, and shingles vaccines are now available for eligible groups. Flu and COVID-19 vaccination information at www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations and information about shingles vaccinations at www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/shingles-vaccination/

Older Adults Social Inclusion Grants

Cambridgeshire County Council is opening up grant funding for services, clubs and activities that support older adults (over 65) with emerging care or support needs to be:

- socially included in their community
- more physically active
- as independent as they can be.

These activities support the Council's 'Care Together' objective of enabling older adults to remain independent for as long as possible. Older adults and partners have co-designed what should be funded in each Cambridgeshire district.

Some examples of the grants on offer include:

- building-based services (day centres)
- community-based activities (providing opportunities for social interaction, such as lunch clubs, wellbeing walks, knit and natter groups)
- hospital discharge support (with a view to regaining independence)
- some Community Transport funding.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/care-together/older-adults-social-inclusion-grants>

ASSETS & PROCUREMENT (Old) Shire Hall to be re-marketed

Cambridgeshire County Council is poised to begin work to find a new commercial partner in the redevelopment of the former Shire Hall building in Cambridge.

The previous preferred bidder Brookgate has now confirmed that altered market conditions mean they are unable to complete the deal. Councillors have been asked to approve moves to remarket the site from early next year with a deadline to complete with a new partner by the end of 2024.

Council officers have been working with expert legal and property advisors to review the six-acre site and provide a comprehensive update on all the options available. The review has recommended that the development of the site for office and hotel use remains the most valuable option for potential developers and local taxpayers—with a likely annual return in the region of £3 million each year to invest in frontline services for the next 50 years and £6 million to invest in Cambridgeshire's infrastructure and assets.

All proposals for the site will require full planning, Listed Building and Scheduled Ancient Monument consents, and ensure protection of the assets on site.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE Teenage fostering appeal

In Cambridgeshire, there are currently more than 400 young people in the 12-18 age range who, for reasons beyond their control, are unable to continue living with their birth families. These young people would benefit hugely from the invaluable experience of people who have raised teenagers and supported them on their journey to independence.

When you foster with the Cambridgeshire Fostering Service, you will receive:

- generous allowances and carer perks
- an individualised training programme tailored to your needs
- round-the-clock support
- a dedicated, skilled and experienced Supervising Social Worker

If you are over 21 years of age, have a spare bedroom, and believe you have the qualities and skills to become a compassionate, resilient foster carer, please get in touch.

Facebook at [@CCCFosteringService](#)

Online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption

Phone 0800 052 0078

Care quality initiative

The new initiative aimed at nurturing and developing social care skills in Cambridgeshire (see November report) has now been launched.

Cambridgeshire Academy for Reaching Excellence (CARE) is a new approach launched by Cambridgeshire County Council to support learning and develop talent within its children's social worker and social care practitioner workforce.

The new Social Care Academy aims to improve outcomes for children and young people through support and training being offered for social work students and apprentices, international practitioners, experienced social workers and those in leadership positions. It comes at a time when across the country local authorities are facing a shortage of social workers.

For more information see www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/care

Modeshift STARS

Four Cambridgeshire schools attended a regional award ceremony for their achievements in promoting sustainable travel and developing school travel plans. The schools made a shortlist of only 124 schools across England chosen to take part in the 2023 Modeshift STARS Regional Awards.

Two of these, Highfield Littleport Academy and Barnabas Oley C of E Primary School went on to win STARS Local Authority School of the Year 2023/24 awards. Highfield Littleport then went on to receive STARS Regional SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) School of the Year 2023/24 – East of England.

All these awards are fantastic achievements. Highfield Littleport, which is part of The Active Learning Trust, will now go on to represent the East of England in person at the National STARS School Travel Awards in London in March 2024.

Modeshift STARS, supported by the Department for Transport, is the national school travel awards scheme to recognise schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable travel for the journey to and from school.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Road Safety team is keen to see more schools in Cambridgeshire taking part in the Modeshift STARS travel planning scheme to encourage sustainable school travel. More information about the scheme can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travelroads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/road-safety/road-safety-education-for-schools/school-travel-planning **Holiday activities and food**

This Christmas, the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is offering free spaces for children in Cambridgeshire who are eligible for free school meals, to enjoy enriching experiences and nutritious food.

Approximately 19,000 HAF eligibility vouchers have been sent to families. These vouchers offer sixteen hours of access, for no charge, to a HAF scheme this Christmas, subject to availability. Each session will include a nutritious meal, a variety of exciting activities or sports and the opportunity to socialise with other children.

The HAF scheme is part of the County Council's 'Be Winter Wise' campaign, which draws together a range of services, activities and offers, keeping communities across Cambridgeshire informed and prepared to stay safe and healthy during the winter months of 2023 and 2024.

Subject to availability of places, any child receiving benefit-related free school meals is eligible for the programme. The programme will run from 21 December to 3 January, except for bank holidays.

Funded by the Department for Education (DfE), the scheme enables councils to coordinate free holiday childcare and enriching experiences locally. The programme will be delivered by approved providers, co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire County Council. The Council is working with schools, childcare providers and voluntary and community organisations to deliver the programme.

Further information at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/holiday-activities-and-food-programme

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT Swaffham Prior Community Heat Network

The Swaffham Prior community heat project, which is offering residents in the village the opportunity to swap from oil to clean green energy with no upfront costs and better prices, has won the prestigious Edie Net Zero Award for Renewable Energy Project of the Year.

The Edie Awards—formerly known as the Sustainability Leaders Awards—are the world’s largest sustainable business awards and recognise green projects which are transforming the energy landscape for good.

There are more than 25,000 homes in Cambridgeshire—and around 4.4 million nationally—that are off the gas grid. The Swaffham Prior project provides a new business model for communitywide adoption of renewable heat, and off-gas communities have been in touch wanting to replicate the project.

Flood drop-in

The County Council’s flood and water team will be joined by representatives of the National Flood Forum and other partner organisations at a dedicated drop-in session on Friday 8 December from 10:00AM to 12:30PM at New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald. The event is open to all, and no bookings are necessary.

The team will be able to discuss any concerns, explain measures you can take to help protect your property and community against flooding, and talk you through how to report different types of flooding.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT Local Highways Improvement applications

The window for Local Highways Improvement applications is now open, and will remain so until 5:00PM on Friday 12 January 2024.

More information can be found on the Council’s website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-localhighway/local-highway-improvement-funding/applying-for-a-local-highway-improvement-lhi The status of schemes currently in delivery can be found at

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-localhighway/local-highway-improvement-funding/local-highway-improvement-delivery-programme>

Over the course of the application window officers have arranged a drop-in session for applicants with any questions. This will take place on **Friday 5 January 2024, 10:30AM—12:00noon.**

Street lights switchover on the way

The Highways and Transport committee agreed in October a project to switch its street lights to newer, more efficient LED lights.

The work is expected to begin in 2024 and will involve replacing 47,500 streetlights with LED lanterns. This will take two years to complete. The works should cause minimal disruption to residents, with no impact on roads or footpaths. Each unit should take about one hour to replace.

The Council will share the proposed installation dates for each area before the start of the works, and will publish this information on its web site. The Council’s street lighting service provider, Balfour Beatty Living Places, will also provide information on its own web site. Questions can be addressed to Street.Lighting@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

PLANNING Envar

Waste management company Envar Composting Ltd have submitted an appeal to the Secretary of State after Cambridgeshire County Council voted in April to refuse their planning application.

Envar's plans include building a healthcare waste energy recovery facility on Somersham Road in Woodhurst, near St Ives, which would lead to the construction of a 26 metre-high chimney stack.

This would allow for clinical waste, transported to the site from local hospitals, to be incinerated.

MEANWHILE IN THE COMBINED AUTHORITY

The Code of Conduct complaint against Mayor Nik Johnson has now been adjudicated by the Combined Authority's Audit & Governance Sub-Committee. The Mayor was found to have breached the Code on two counts—civility and disrepute, the latter brought upon himself.

The Mayor was cleared of bullying but investigators took the view that his failure to intervene over the behaviour of a former employee 'amounted to him condoning such behaviour'. He was asked to issue an apology and to undertake appropriate training. The decision notice, the Mayor's apology, and a statement from the Combined Authority chief executive, are all publicly available at <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/news/code-of-conduct-decision-notice/>

There has been a change of political control at Peterborough City Council last month following a vote of no confidence in leader Wayne Fitzgerald and his cabinet is significant for the Combined Authority. Peterborough, like Cambridgeshire County Council, has a veto over significant financial and transport decisions at the Combined Authority. Following the change of control, the Combined Authority Board has been able to agree its updated Local Transport & Connectivity Plan, which Cllr Fitzgerald had previously vetoed.

LOCAL MATTERS

- Manor Farm bridlepath – a grant was awarded to arrange for an off road route for equestrians from Manor Farm Road to the bridge. This had been lost during the turnover of administration and officers but has been picked up again, with officers reactivating the plans and looking to implement the original plan. No timescale for delivery has been provided yet.
- Huntingdon Road 'wands' – the active travel team have agreed to put together plans for these including a date when they would need to be installed. We have not heard anything yet but just to note this is expected to happen but we have not yet had a firm date.
- Local highways round up – the Parish Clerks for the Division (Girton, Dry Drayton, Bar Hill and Lolworth) met with the Local Highways officers and discussed a range of issues and projects underway. The open discussion is welcome but there are a number of operational issues affecting delivery. We continue to work to support those within the council seeking to improve the service for residents and also seek to demand that the council does better.
- Girton Road crossing – we have had a good meeting with the project manager who explained the thinking behind the specific plans proposed. A more detailed update has been provided to the Parish Council. Some features include that there will be a build out at the corner to slow traffic turning into Girton Road down, which is a major issue. Also there will be space on the pavement used for cyclists and this will mean moving (but replacing) a stretch of hedgerow. The plans enable significant safety improvements for people particularly cyclists and those crossing to get to the bus stop, and work of this nature has been called for by local residents for some time.

Cllr Edna Murphy, County Councillor for B a r H i l l division

District Councillors' Report for Girton Parish Council and Residents, December 2023

CLlr Corinne Garvie 07780 932267, cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk
CLlr Richard Stobart 07950 934793, cllr.stobart@scambs.gov.uk

Cost of living support winter comms campaign

SCDC has launched a campaign to encourage residents to claim all the cost-of-living support they are entitled to. The campaign includes sponsorship by the Cambridge Independent newspaper, Facebook adverts, and adverts on Guided Busway stops in South Cambridgeshire. The campaign has been running from 6th November 2023 and will continue until Christmas; residents will be directed to www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living to see what they can claim.

It is estimated that around 25% of benefits go unclaimed. Here's an easy-to-use on-line Benefits Calculator: <https://entitledto.co.uk>

Climate Action Conference in Cottenham, 28th November 2023

The conference was well received by the 80+ people who attended. The Zero Carbon Communities grants have provided over £500,000 in funding locally since it was launched four years ago and has so far funded 71 projects. Designed to equip community groups to take climate action at a local level, grants have helped upgrade community buildings, educate people around their carbon footprint, and help nature recover in the district. The conference was so well received that it will likely be repeated with different but related content in the future.

You may like to see a video that was commissioned for the event:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXr9YIKUp0U>. The video highlights some of the projects to have benefited from our Zero Carbon Communities grants in recent years.

Reminder about Green Grants for Cambridgeshire Businesses

The 18-month programme aims to support 223 small to medium businesses based in Cambridge, Huntingdon and South Cambridgeshire and will also deliver grant funding of up to £5,000 to 75 of these businesses to help them implement energy efficiency-related improvements.

More information can be found here: [Green Grants for Cambridgeshire businesses \(scambs.gov.uk\)](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/green-grants)

Green jobs training available

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has [announced a series of discounted training spaces](#) on low-carbon heating and insulation installation to help support the green jobs sector.

Up to 8,000 people – including current installers and those who are new to the industry – will be able to develop the skills and knowledge needed to retrofit homes and install insulation through the [Home Decarbonisation Skills Training scheme](#). A further 4,000 people will be able to get £500 towards training to install and maintain heat networks through the [Heat Training Grant](#).

The [Low Carbon Heating Technician Apprenticeship](#) will provide people with the chance to learn how to install low-carbon heating systems on the job.

Becoming a Carbon literate business

South Cambridgeshire District Council has recently been [accredited as a Carbon Literate Organisation](#) by national charity The Carbon Literacy Trust, joining a growing number of national and local public sector organisations and businesses that have received the accreditation. This means we are now better equipped to share knowledge in this field with local communities and businesses.

Carbon Literacy describes an individual's or organisation's awareness of climate change, the climate impacts of everyday actions, and the ability and motivation to reduce carbon emissions.

If you are aware of a local business that wants to get better informed about carbon emissions and sustainability, please advise they check out [the Trust's website](#) to find out more about Carbon Literacy training.

Homes for Ukraine: Appeal for support with Landlord Incentive scheme

In the 'Homes for Ukraine Landlord Incentive Scheme', landlords who provide properties in South Cambridgeshire to Homes for Ukraine guests and who are resident in South Cambridgeshire qualify for a financial incentive. These incentives differ depending on the size of the property, and whether they are provided at market rent or at the local housing allowance rate. Under the standard arrangements the landlord must provide a minimum tenancy of 6 months from the outset but if they offer 12 months initially, then they become eligible to receive double the amount for a 6-month tenancy. After the initial term expires, landlords can receive a further payment if they offer to renew the tenancy.

Anyone who is interested in joining the scheme can find out more by emailing the team on HFULiaison@Scambs.gov.uk or calling them on 01954 713411.

Here are details of the initial payments:

| Number of bedrooms | Market rent incentive | LHA rate incentive |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Bedroom | £1,140 | £2,280 |
| 2 Bedroom | £1,300 | £2,600 |
| 3 Bedroom | £1,350 | £2,750 |
| 4 Bedroom | £1,410 | £2,820 |

Civil Parking Enforcement

Earlier this year an application was submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) to enable Council Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) to issue Penalty Charge Notices for the majority of on-street offences such as parking on double or single yellow lines. Previously only the Police could do this.

Benefits are expected to include increased compliance with parking restrictions which in turn would improve traffic flow, road safety and lead to a reduction in obstructive and dangerous parking. It will also support economic growth in the district.

Following the decision by Government, the CPE scheme in South Cambridgeshire will officially come into effect on 19 December. To give people notice and a chance to find a more suitable parking place, information has now begun to be placed on vehicles that are parked in some areas where parking is in the greatest demand, such as commuting and shopping areas.

A Warning Notice will be issued to people who continue to park where there are restrictions throughout January – this looks like a parking ticket but there is no fine attached. Penalty Charge Notices will be issued from 1 February which will mean a fine of between £50 and £70, depending on the severity of the offence.

South Cambs Finances

The latest audit is being signed off at a time when the vast majority of councils are behind on the audit due to big problems with the capacity of the auditors we are required to use. The joint planning service (Cambridge City and South Cambs) is reporting that its spending is close to budget - whereas this time last year it was £250,000 over. We were assured that this was due entirely to the benefits of the 4 Day Week trial which has meant that we have recruited into a significant number of planning roles which had been notoriously difficult to fill and very expensive to use agency staff to fill.

Shared Prosperity Fund

SCDC will receive over £1m from this government scheme to allocate as grants to business and community schemes. We are currently discussing how big these grants could be (probably up to £100k) and what sort of schemes we should be targeting.

Cambridge 2040

Cambridge 2040 is Michael Gove's vision for significant employment and housing growth in Greater Cambridge. There was not much in the Autumn statement about it other than fairly modest sums of money for retrofitting water efficiency into existing houses and some money for enhanced planning services. We think we know that there is £3m to set up a Cambridge office to work up the scheme. There was mention of a possible Development Corporation but we have no reason to believe that this is definitely the route they are taking. They will obviously need to consider it as one of a number of delivery models but there are many reasons why it is not the best. There is a small amount of money over 2 years which will go to the Joint Planning Service.

Oxford Cambridge Pan Regional Partnership Conference

The annual conference took place in Milton Keynes last month with over 250 delegates. The focus is on economic development and environmental enhancement across the region. Cllr Bridget Smith leads on the environment aspects and is determined that there will be a focus on large scale environmental schemes in the short rather than long term. These will include the idea of a large scale community forest for the region.

South Cambs Hall

Like most local authorities South Cambs now encourages hybrid/home working which means that large offices are no longer needed in the way they were. We have therefore moved all of our staff onto the first floor of the Cambourne offices and are converting the ground floor as space for businesses and community groups to conduct their businesses and hold events. It is hoped that this will encourage new start-up new business as well as helping existing businesses through a programme of support events as well as networking. The new space will be open on 24th April 2024.

Questions and best wishes

Please come back if you have questions and comments. We'll always be glad to put you and residents in touch with officers and to make sure that you see a prompt and accurate response.

May we offer you and residents best wishes for the end of year holiday period, and for a peaceful start to the New Year.

Corinne Garvie

Richard Stobart

3rd December 2023

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: REPORT 10 FOR GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

Current areas of work

- 1) Continuing to gather evidence from various sources. Still awaiting the outcome of the Housing Needs survey done by Cambridgeshire Acre in the Summer. They say they have passed it to GPC. Anyone seen it?
- 2) Most of the Land Registry work is complete at a cost of about £130 out of the £600 allocated grant. Most landowners are now identified.
- 3) The draft Parish Survey is being finalised by the NP Team for referral to an external consultant (to be identified – and grant funded) for review and advice to iron out any problems and improve it overall. The survey itself will be both hard copy and online (the need for both was demonstrated by the SWOT Survey in July 2023). It is likely to comprise (hard copy booklet) 8 pages plus cover, so formed from three A3 sheets with some 3000 copies required. A budget will be put together so a grant from Locality can be obtained. Applying for grants always adds a month to any timeframe. Cllr Brown will lead the survey publicity and getting in the responses, with all others helping as needed.
- 4) Council tax and business rate data still to be obtained by the Clerk so it can be reviewed and added to the Census data.
- 5) Discussions with landowners: Girton College has responded helpfully and exploratory meetings have been held with NIAB, St John's and ARU. The meeting with St John's also included the graveyard and the footpaths round the back of Weaver's Field. Have also met with Woodland Trust and LNRP has responded to their proposed new 5 year management plan. Still pursuing Trinity and the University. CCC have been given a nudge and hopefully a response will be forthcoming. Note this relates to all CCC land in the Parish.
- 6) Met with SCDC and District Councillors on 6 December for our update to them and theirs to us in Eddington and Darwin Green. A helpful exchange of information as well as lobbying them about the sometimes lack of communication to Girton by higher tiers of government.
- 7) Discussions with Neighbouring Parishes: Working with adjacent parishes is going slowly. Need to follow up.
- 8) Assembling contact email addresses for all organisations in the parish – will be ongoing up to the Parish Survey going out to all parties.
- 9) NP page on website being populated by Yvonne Murray. The intention is to make this a real resource of information as well as the 'home' for the Plan once completed and the base for online consultation / surveys etc. Cllr Brown (also on the NP Team) will be setting up a NP dedicated Facebook page linked to the Girton Community Facebook page to help with the Parish Survey.



Andrew Muston

7 December 2023

Girton Parish Council

Clerk's Report December 2023

Yvonne Murray

As we come to the last meeting of 2023 GPC is working to identify what can be done to continue to improve what Girton Parish Council is responsible for in our village.

Thank you to all of you who have been responding to surveys on

- Highways
- How your money is spent on local improvements and what you would like to see your money spent on for

Listed below are some of the important initiatives we hope will answer some of your requirements and make tangible improvements.

Also, many thanks to those of you who are attending our Council meetings to understand more about what we are doing and provide comments.

Setting the Precept for Girton Parish Council, 2024-2025

January is the month that all Parish Councils set their budgets and submit their request for local funding in the form of a precept request. In the case of Girton Parish Council this request is made to South Cambridgeshire District Council. We would invite you to attend our January Full Council on Wednesday 10th January to learn more about our 2024/2025 budget. A Full Meeting Schedule of all Full Council and Committee Meetings is available here: <https://www.girton-cambs.org.uk>. We would be very pleased to see you.

GPC We have had a very busy two months with our Committees and working groups reviewing and confirming new 3-year plans which will give us and therefore all of your more oversight of GPC's plans going forward. These 3-year plans will evolve and improve as we share them with Girton residents and use them as a focus to drive Council workload.

Welcome to our new GPC Parish Ranger

Girton Parish Council is pleased to welcome Kevin Jacobs who has been engaged for a six-month trial period to assist with maintenance of Parish Council assets throughout our village. Kevin will work with our staff team from early January. Kevin's engagement extends the support to our village area increasing the support that GPC provides for Girton Recreation Ground by our Groundman Chris Wilson. GPC will be publishing in the new year a list of the work/projects that we are undertaking on Girton Village Community website.

GPC Sports Club Charges

Discussions are taking place with all sports clubs to look at their terms and conditions of use of Parish Council facilities. Subsidies and charges for the new financial year are also being looked at with a view to being fair to all clubs while making best use of the precept received from all residents. No changes will be made to the club charges until all our sports clubs have had a chance to contribute to the discussion. money. Although no final decision has been made yet, the Parish Council is looking to help all clubs promote their sport and encourage more participation from residents of the village across all age groups.

And finally....

Bringing the Parish Council to you

I am sure you will be delighted to know that our Events Committee, led by Cllr Stuart Marshall is putting together a list of organisations in Girton that we would very much like to come and visit and understand more of what matters to you and how we might support the work you are doing in the village. If you belong to an organisation in Girton or even if you would like to meet with us 1:1, please do let us know.

Wishing you and your family very happy holidays.

GPC Clerk – Yvonne Murray

Girton Parish Council:
Chair's report December 2023

Cllr Daniel Carney

During a break in the weather at the end of November I took the opportunity to quickly survey the state of pathways in the village, with respect to obstruction by errant vegetation. I was pleased to note that the situation is much better than was previously noted. Whether this is as a consequence of the request sent out to residents to consider accessibility for all their neighbours I don't know, but it is welcome to see. However, there are a few problem areas, that I have shared with the clerk, and we must now consider the next steps to try and ensure that, whilst our footways still need some serious improvement from CCC Highways, accessibility for all residents is not hampered by excess hedging, etc.

In November's Full Council meeting we were informed by Cllr Stobart that a likely upcoming change in legislation would mean that South Cambs would, like most other second tier local authorities, gain the necessary authority to enforce parking restrictions across the district. The legislation has indeed passed, and the District Council will be looking at where they might best enforce these powers. I have asked all Parish Councillors to suggest areas within Girton that they have identified as having issues with repeated illegal parking such that a consolidated list can be provided to our District Councillors. I would encourage any residents who have identified concerns about illegal parking (e.g. on double yellow lines) to get in touch too.

I have been working with our Cllr Garvie to support communications that she has been having with Greater Cambridge Planning's Principal Planner, keeping them inform with regards to making footpath/cycleway links between Wellbrook Way and Darwin Green. It transpires that the developers of Darwin Green say they are able to make a connection but were unclear as to land ownership on the Wellbrook Way site. I was able to point out that this is one of the tracts of land in the, somewhat protracted, process of being transferred from Taylor Wimpey to GPC. The Planner advises that, to the best of his knowledge, the requirements that would allow the County Council to implement a new Right Of Way here are not met. I would hope that GPC would wish to explore this further with CCC as well as come to an agreement with the developers to provide this connection, as Wellbrook Way is very poorly served for connectivity by any means of transport.

As noted in my November report, work has taken place on the fencing along Bunkers Hill owned by the University of Cambridge, where they have also removed the extensive overgrowth. This has fully uncovered the solar studs in the path but, to date, most of them do not appear to be working. Whether this is due to insufficient sunlight or expiry of the devices I do not know. I have written to the University's Estates department to ask that they address this, along with reinstating the solar-powered, motion-activated downlighters that were along the previous fence and illuminated the pathway well at nighttime.

Also note in my last report was the meeting held with Girton College and CCC about the proposed works at Girton Corner. A further site meeting was held with the scheme's project manager, along with Cllrs Stobart and Murphy. This meeting was used to inform the background of the motion presented regarding this scheme. I have also ensured that the crossing scheme has been brought to the attention of the CCC Highways officer charged with implementing the 20mph zone in the area between Huntingdon Road and the A14 bridge. I have highlighted that sign placement needs to be integrated with the crossing scheme, should it go ahead. I have also asked for further input regarding the details of the scheme. So far all that has been presented is the placement of post-mounted signs. I have enquired as to whether, as we had understood, road markings would also be included, and whether this could be an opportunity to re-mark some of the speed marking in the existing 20mph zone where these have worn away.

GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. Yvonne Murray
 Telephone (01223) 618619
 Email: Clerk@girton-pc.gov.uk
 Website: <https://www.girton-cambs.org.uk>

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

NOTICE of MEETING: **GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL**
MEETING **FULL COUNCIL**
DATE & TIME: **Wednesday 8th November at 7.30pm**
VENUE: **Girton Recreation Ground, Cambridge Road Girton**

Members: 13 Vacancies: 2 Quorum: 5

MINUTES

| Agenda Item | Item Description | Action/ Power |
|--|---|----------------|
| <p>Members: [Ten] Cllr Carney (Chair), Cllr Muston (Vice-Chair), Cllr Brown, Cllr Clare, Cllr Giles, Cllr Hayat, Cllr Lampe, Cllr Linton, Cllr Marshall, Cllr Reeves. Present: Yvonne Murray (GPC Clerk), Angie Vidler (Facilities Manager) Members of the Public: Eight including Cllr Murphy (CCC), Cllr Richard Stobart (SCDC), Cllr Corinne Garvie (SCDC)</p> | | |
| 23FC/119 | Welcome from the Chair | |
| 23FC/120 | <p>To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Absence Cllr Betts, Cllr Williams, Cllr Wright. Apology reasons had been confirmed. Council confirmed that Apologies were noted but not Accepted.</p> | Noted |
| 23FC/122 | To Receive Members’ Declarations of Interest and Dispensations | To Note |
| 23FC/123 | <p>Public Participation</p> <p>Hope against Poverty CIC presented a brief update of their goals in Girton: In discussions with CCC to utilize land at the back of the Pavilion to set up a Community Farm They are an organization who have set up a food hub in Cambourne which serves several parishes around Cambridge. They also provide Hope in a box, veg and fruit boxes to create additional revenue. They are attending the meeting to solicit any feedback from GPC and to aim to see GPC’s blessing in conversations with CCC. The Community Farm would ideally have a lot of Community involvement including working with the local schools, intergeneration possibilities, issues around loneliness and isolation. Opportunities to engage with a wide section of community through wider horticultural initiatives.</p> <p>Brief Report has been prepared. Hope CIC are in the process of preparing a project plan for the Council to view before the December meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Carney asked Hope CIC if they could provide a little more context. Essentially to explain to GPC, the project intended and to ask for support. The decision was that broadly the people in the room felt supportive of the project but only 6 days so unable</p> | |

| Agenda Item | Item Description | Action/ Power |
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| | <p>to make a decision in this meeting. The intention of inviting the group here today was to give an introduction and to circulate the initial plan.</p> <p>Standing orders were suspended so Councillors could ask questions of Hope CIC.</p> <p>Cllr Brown asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What made Hope CIC choose to become a Community Interest Company rather than a charity. • Were they aiming to rent the land? <p>Hope CIC responded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the organization is growing and maybe in future they would consider becoming a charity. • They were initially looking to lease the land from CCC for a period of time to set up the farm and demonstrate we can make a success. • They have KPIs and success criteria and will work with CCC to see what they want to see. • Exit points – might community land ownership. If you are a CIC and buy land and buy land. Does that set a precedent of what that land can be used in the future? Why did you choose to go down this route? Choose to leave, rental if you have procured the land you have. Long term management of Community Farm. <p>Cllr Hayat asked if Hope CIC would ask CCC to provide the land for a longer period. They were at the GPC meeting to ask the Council if they would be happy in principle to support the project so you could approach the CCC and say that you did have any objection at this stage.</p> <p>Hope CIC confirmed they were in the process of talking to CCC. No business plan is available yet. Preamble to a motion to be put forward in December Full Council.</p> <p>Cllr Marshall in principle support – looking at a piece of land that we have been interested in for a long while. Would the road be the only access? What is the potential traffic using that road.?</p> <p>Cllr Lampe how the farm is incorporating biodiversity and how you Hope CIC would manage the farm. Hope CIC gave a brief overview use principles of permaculture, organic and community farming not huge machinery. Range of different crops. Encourage Beekeepers, beehives on site to help pollination. Zones for different types of activities: Herbs. No detail of what that would look like. No analysis of land yet.</p> <p>Cllr Lampe asked about generating interest and traction – is there a communication plan? As Hope CIC, started in Cambourne and working with Community. Over eight hundred members working with six other villages. Mobile Hub – Orchard Hub, Duxford. Working closely with SCDC and CCC</p> <p>Cllr Hayat added more details for GPC. He noted some of Hope CIC team come from SCDC. Mahesh is the Town Councillor for Cambourne. Working very closely with SCDC and CCC. Looking for lottery and other funding.</p> <p>Hope CIC will seek Council Support next month.</p> | |

| Agenda Item | Item Description | Action/ Power |
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| | <p>Cllr Richard Reeves asked due to the proximity, what kind of interaction with the school. Hope CIC confirmed the next action would be to speak to the School and Neighbours. Community Engagement would need us to engage with Girton.</p> <p>Hope CIC asked if GPC could comment in principle before December meeting? Cllr Carney noted that this was not on the agenda tonight but had been presented so that residents were aware it would be included in the December meeting.</p> | |
| 23FC/124 | To Receive Reports <i>(for information only)</i> | 10 Mins |
| 23FC/124.1 | <p>County Councillor</p> <p>Cllr Edna Murphy gave update. She apologised for delay on providing report due to personal circumstances.</p> <p>Cllr Murphy noted the ‘Quality of Life’ survey and confirmed it was a rich picture and CCC would use to drive priorities and budget.</p> <p>Cllr Clare asked if the survey was provided by area. Cllr Murphy confirmed there was a district breakdown.</p> <p>Cllr Hayat asked if Cllr Murphy was aware of Hope CIC initiative. Cllr Murphy confirmed she had not heard from CCC officers about the initiative but would close that scope.</p> <p>Cllr Carney noted that Cllr Williams had noted it might be more appropriate to look at land next to Manor Farm.</p> <p>Cllr Murphy noted that Cambridgeshire is the most biodiversity poor in the country according to the Score card for counties for Climate Emergency. She noted that LNRP was very active in Girton. Is this something that could be supported at CCC level to develop even bigger pockets of biodiversity? Cllr Murphy noted she would make the link just in case.</p> <p>Cllr Murphy was asked if there was a proper scheme for gritting in the County. She confirmed there was a scheme and would make the link.</p> <p>Cllr Muston asked if CCC Highways were responsible for verges approaching Girton from A14. She noted they looked such a mess. Cllr Murphy to investigate this. Cllr Lampe asked whether Cllr Muston was noting a structural health hazard or separate issue. She noted there are ways to request a change to Highways to clear plants, wildflowers, put mowed borders round wild areas. We must not compromise biodiversity for aesthetic matters. Cllr Giles concurred.</p> <p>Cllr Reeves noted it would be useful to be clearer about CCC Highways’ responsibilities.</p> | |
| 23FC/124.2 | <p>District Councillors</p> <p>Points noted by Cllr Stobart:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCDC Christmas Market at Cambourne Villag College • Networking at Plough & Fleece Horningsea • Cllr Giles to speak at Climate Conference at Cottenham | |

| Agenda Item | Item Description | Action/ Power |
|-------------|---|------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough Sleeping event 23/24 November • Civil Parking enforcement to come into play with officers focussed on Schools and Hotspots. He asked GPC to nominate hot spots. Fines were likely to be levied from 1st Feb 2024. He believed that parking control would be much better than previous years Police will still be interested in other types of parking issues. • Cllr Garvie noted planning progress for Darwin Green 2 & 3 and asked GPC to be aware of the Local Plan. Water Shortage in our area will limit development and has caused delay on Darwin Green. • SCDC to investigate speed of development at Eddington. • Questions were asked about the Parking enforcement. Cllr Brown asked about the Communication Plan. • Cllr Clare noted again the terrible state of the pavement. Cllr Murphy noted again the reorganization of CCC Highways and the regular interaction with GPC Clerk and Cllr Murphy. | |
| 23FC/124.3 | <p>Girton Town Charity (No Report this month)</p> <p>GPC to check with GTC about whether they wish GPC to use the report submitted to GPN.</p> | |
| 23FC/124.4 | <p>Girton Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Cllr Brown noted that the meeting she had attended had highlighted the Neighbourhood group had great ideas, great questions and were very engaged. She noted that they intended to employ an external company to formulate the next questionnaire.</p> | |
| 23FC/124.5 | <p>Clerk's Report – GPC highlighted the importance of GPC completing their 3-year plan, for LNRP, 10-year plan.</p> | |
| 23FC/124.6 | <p>Chair's Report – No Questions for Cllr Carney.</p> | |
| 23FC/125 | <p>To Approve Minutes of Girton Parish Council Full Council Meetings: 11th October 2023</p> <p>Approval: <i>Cllr Muston proposed. Cllr Marshall seconded. Three Abstentions due to absence.</i></p> <p>Debate Highlights:</p> <p>Cllr Muston highlighted the need for rephrasing her Welcome in the previous minutes and there were some typos.</p> <p>Cllr Carney asked if she wished to defer approval. Cllr Muston confirmed she did not want to defer just to ensure the changes were made.</p> <p>Cllr Hayat noted that the Council needed to be cautious of influence from people not at meetings.</p> <p>Note: This had been confirmed by CAPALC some months ago.</p> | Approved |
| 23FC/126 | <p>Matters arising from Previous Meetings (for information only)</p> | For Information |
| 23FC/126.1 | <p>Action List (See 23FC/129.7)</p> | |

| Agenda Item | Item Description | Action/ Power |
|-------------|---|---------------------|
| 23FC/126.2 | Any other Matters arising – A chance to raise any comments/concerns on previous agenda items | |
| 23FC/127 | To Receive update from GPC Committees & Working Groups (For information only) | To Note |
| 23FC/127.1 | Environment Committee Cllr Giles is to speak at Cottenham Climate Conference on work of LNRP. Cllr Marshall commended the work of Cllr Giles in preparing an interesting and comprehensive report. | |
| 23FC/127.2 | Local Nature Recovery Working Group (See Environment Committee Report) | |
| 23FC/127.3 | Footpath Officer's Report (See Chair's Report) | |
| 23FC/127.4 | Water Management Report (No Report this month) | |
| 23FC/127.5 | Finance & Resource Management Committee GPC Clerk/Cllr Muston presented information on Income/Spend to date. GPC Clerk noted that the forecast for this year would be made available before the end of the month. | |
| 23FC/127.6 | HR Committee (to include CAPALC Report) Cllr Muston noted the workload being undertaken by Council and how Council was playing catch-up. She highlighted need to focus on key priorities. | |
| 23FC/127.7 | Planning Committee (No Report this month) | |
| 23FC/127.8 | Sport & Recreation Committee Cllr Hayat noted that Sport & Recreation Committee would meet later this month and the importance of 3-year plan for 2024/25 precept preparation. | |
| 23FC/127.9 | Events Working Group Cllr Marshall noted that there is potential with the Agenda item on Christmas lights to contribute to creating a village centre for Christmas. Meeting to be arranged to include Michael Bigg and Events Committee. | |
| 23FC/127.10 | Wellbrook Way Facilities Task & Finish Group – No questions | |
| 23FC/127.11 | Pavilion Refurbishment Task & Finish Group Cllr Marshall gave an update as below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Management spend was required on maintenance that should have been done previously by Council. He felt that without this maintenance our assets may be devalued. He believed that this work should be delegated to Facilities Manager and staff team. • He also noted there would be a discussion about the need for a Master Planner and the wider scope of GPC facilities, so requirements were clearly confirmed by GOC. • Proposed date for next Pavilion Refurbishment meeting was 15th November. | |
| 23FC/128 | To Approve Finance and Resource Management | For Decision |

| Agenda Item | Item Description | Action/ Power |
|-------------|--|---------------------|
| 23FC/128.1 | To note payment of accounts under delegated approval | To Note |
| 23FC/128.2 | <p>To Approve payment of outstanding accounts due</p> <p>Approval: <i>Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Clare seconded. Unanimous Approval.</i></p> <p>Debate Highlights: Cllr Carney noted he felt Staff Payment should be automatic. This issue will be brought to Dec Full Council. Detail was sought and provided by GPC on following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to Red/White barriers • Hedge Flailing at Town End Nature Reserve • Rental of St John’s Field | Approved |
| 23FC/128.3 | To Receive a report from Facilities Manager on Amounts paid in | Noted |
| 23FC/129 | Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council | For Decision |
| 23FC/129.1 | <p>Council to receive update on meetings that took place on 02/11/2023 with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hope CIC (Plans for land behind Girton College Recreation Ground) - CCC Highways & Girton College (Plans for Girton Rd/Huntington Rd junction) <p>Debate Highlights: Motion to be brought to Dec 2023 Council to write letter to CCC to confirm that GPC has not been consulted on the above. Council noted that Councillors could write to CCC as individual residents.</p> | Noted |
| 23FC/129.2 | <p>Council to note latest update on Local Government Pay Award with decision to pay staff in December 2023 payroll on 2nd December 2023 (ahead of December Full Council payment schedule) so that money is available in time for Christmas.</p> <p>Approval: <i>Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Muston seconded. Unanimous Approval.</i></p> <p>Debate Highlights: Back pay to be calculated.</p> | Approved |
| 23FC/129.3 | <p>Council to consider and approve spend of £2,000 for Events Committee including Christmas Lights</p> <p>Approval for Amendment: <i>Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Muston seconded. Unanimous Approval.</i></p> <p>Amended motion proposed to take into account Environmental concerns noted below: <i>Council to consider and approve general spend of £2,000 for Events Committee including Christmas Lights and to delegate drafting of guidelines to the Cllr Marshall and LNRP group.</i></p> <p>Debate Highlights: Cllr Marshall gave flavour of what is being asked of GPC. Business Case was included in the Agenda Pack. Cllr Carney asked what did Cllr Marshall envisage as being purchased. Cllr Marshall noted he had considered outdoor flood lighting which shined up/down the building. He considered the potential of loaning lights to residents and properties. He was looking at LED lights to minimize cost and be most climate friendly. The vision was ‘Light up Girton for Christmas.’</p> | Approved |

| Agenda Item | Item Description | Action/ Power |
|-------------|---|---------------|
| | <p>Cllr Muston noted the lighting company who had attended the CAPALC conference.</p> <p>Concerns were noted about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption of wild-life, environment • Restriction of timing <p>Cllr Lampe noted the need for communication of the steps being taken around the above.</p> | |
| 23FC/129.4 | <p>Council to approve recommended quote for installation of Fire Alarm in Girton Pavilion</p> <p><u>Debate Highlights:</u> GPC Clerk noted that she would recommend deferring due to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difference in cost of two quotes received. - Need to crack on with the Pavilion Refurbishment work and this work may be completed at same time. <p>Possible Motion to be brought to December Full Council.</p> | Deferred |
| 23FC/129.5 | <p>Council to introduce following policies which will be brought for approval in December 2023 Full Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tree Policy - No Mow Summer <p><u>Debate Highlights:</u> Cllr Giles noted that ‘No Mow Summer’ was a consultation document. Cllr Carney noted that the above should be considered by the Environment Committee ahead of December Full Council.</p> | Noted |
| 23FC/129.6 | <p>Council to consider and approve spend of for Tree work at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weavers Field - Recreation Ground <p><u>Approval:</u> <i>Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Linton seconded. Unanimous Approval.</i> <u>Note:</u> <i>£700 spend on Weavers Field, £400 spend for Recreation Ground tree was approved.</i></p> <p><u>Debate Highlights:</u></p> <p><u>Weavers Field</u> Cllr Carney noted there had been little historical maintenance on the trees at Weavers Field.</p> <p>He noted the report from Argenta Tree Surveys that confirmed that there was one dead tree, and several others are starting to cause damage to a resident’s house.</p> <p>He noted that GPC had approved the commissioning of the Tree Survey to consider the responsibility for the trees and to inform a Tree Policy for GPC. He noted that whilst some precautionary work had been completed to look after GPC trees there was still some catch-up work as some issues had not been addressed for 10 years.</p> | Approved |

| Agenda Item | Item Description | Action/ Power |
|-------------|---|---------------|
| | <p>Cllr Lampe asked what we should do when trees are cut down. Cllr Carney noted that LNRP could consider how these are dealt with and when Council should replace them.</p> <p><u>Recreation Ground</u></p> <p>Cllr Carney noted that land ownership is in dispute.</p> <p>He noted that there was beginning to be damage caused to the bungalow next door.</p> <p>He noted that whilst no action had been taken by the resident. No action had been taken by the local authority either.</p> <p>He noted due to the land being on the Recreation ground next to land owned by GPC the recommendation was for GPC to deal with the tree in this instance.</p> <p>The next step would be to approach HM Land Registry to aim to register the land adjacent to Recreation Ground by Girton Parish Council.</p> <p>He confirmed that GPC were not taking responsibility for the tree.</p> <p>Also, mentioned was that GPC would be bringing other pockets of land that GPC had maintained for some while to HM Land Registry.</p> <p>There was discussion on the Kebab Van that had attended Girton in Nov 2022 being placed on the land, which could indicate that GPC felt the land belonged to them.</p> <p>Cllr Muston noted felt it was appalling that this issue had gone on for so long. The owner had reached out to Council and had not been able to identify the landowner.</p> <p>Cllr Muston highlighted the need to register land that GPC might own.</p> <p>It was agreed that no precedent is set by GPC currently paying for the tree it is because it is starting to affect our land and it has highlighted the need for GPC to be clearer on ownership of land. Action on tree to take place first and then the work with HM Land Registry.</p> <p>A motion around HM Land Registry applications will be brought to December Full Council.</p> | |
| 23FC/129.7 | <p>Council to review and approve current version of all Committee and Working Group 3-year plans ahead of 2024/2025 precept setting (LNRP 10-year Plan)</p> <p><u>Approval:</u> <i>Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Marshall seconded. Unanimous Approval.</i></p> <p><u>Debate Highlights:</u></p> <p>GPC Clerk noted that this was to look at the 3-year plan and the 10-year LNRP Plan. Note that Keith Honor, Chair of LNRP attended the meeting. GPC Clerk presented an Excel worksheet to GPC which had been created from prioritization of all GPC tasks back to October 2021. Feedback has been received from 6 Councillors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted that the prioritization included perceived value of each task from each councillor and the perceived effort so that Council can identify the workload volume. • She noted this initial spreadsheet provided a baseline on which to calculate the precept for 2024/2025. • Next steps would be to tidy up identified duplicates and to add actual and estimated costs to allow an improved budget forecast to the end of the year and estimates for the next three years. • This would give Council a costed 3-year plan and a complete approved Book of Work for GPC. | Approve |

| Agenda Item | Item Description | Action/ Power |
|-------------|--|---------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *The goal for today was to sign-off the spreadsheet at this point in time for both Spreadsheet and LNRP 10-year plan included in the Agenda Pack. • Once the second phase was completed and signed off by each committee there should be no additional historic tasks which were missing from the GPC Book of Work. • Post the approval all new tasks generated by the Staff and Council team should go through this system so that we follow the task from inception to completion and have stats to monitor productivity and this is always accessible to GPC members. <p>Cllr Carney asked if they were approving the spreadsheet as an evolving process. GPC Clerk confirmed GPC was approving this at a point in time*. The council noted that the outline process was also being approved.</p> <p>The increased overview that this process and output would give to GPC was noted.</p> | |
| 23FC/129.8 | <p>Council to consider and approve following Survey Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Highway Initiative 2024/2025 - Precept Survey 2024/2025 <p><i>Amended Motion: Council to consider and approve the following Survey Content and to delegate further specifics to the Clerk and Chair of Environment Committee and the Clerk and the Precept Survey to the Chair of Finance & Resource Management Committee.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Highway Initiative 2024/2025 - Precept Survey 2024/2025 <p><u>Approval of Amendment:</u> Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Clare seconded. Unanimous Approval.</p> <p><u>Debate Highlights:</u></p> <p>Cllr Muston noted that the surveys should not be delayed.</p> <p>Cllr Reeves noted the need for the LHI Survey to have clear detail on locations mentioned.</p> | Approve |
| 23FC/130 | <p>To Receive Correspondence addressed to the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tree Issues at Recreation Ground (See 23FC/129.6) <p>Emails Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email regarding the tree on Girton Recreation Ground (See above) • Cllr Carney - SCDC email about their concerns about a 4-day week. He noted that the initial email was marked confidential, so he did not circulate. • Cllr Muston – Email regarding 20mph limit. • Cllr Muston – Post on Facebook about Cyclist and traffic issues at Girton Corner. | Noted |
| 23FC/131 | <p>To Approve Communication of items from this Agenda</p> <p><i>This item is designed to ensure that the Council can approve key items of communication from this meeting on Council Website, Facebook, and Twitter.</i></p> | Approved |

| Agenda Item | Item Description | Action/ Power |
|----------------------|--|---------------|
| | Approval: <i>Cllr Carney proposed. Cllr Lampe seconded. Unanimous Approval.</i> | |
| 23FC/132 | Date of next meeting(s): 13 th December 2023 at 7.30pm | Noted |
| Meeting Ended: 21:43 | | |

Environment Committee Report

December 2023

The environment committee met on the 29th of November. Topics discussed included the Hope CIC proposal
The current projects of the Environment Committee are:

- Continuing to liaise with contractors for a more measured approach to no mow summer
- Finishing and submitting the LHI bid for double yellow lines and other street painting based on the survey results
- Completing the process to declare Town End Close a Local Nature Reserve
- Working with the Local Nature Recovery Planning group on the 10-year plan and thinking about submission of future budgets
- Submitting the tree and grassland policies to December's Parish Council
- Creating a timetable for the creation of management plans for land owned by Girton Parish Council

Local Nature Recovery Plan Working Group report for Girton Parish Council - December 2023

The Plan

The Plan was approved by Full Council at November's meeting. It is available to view on the LNRP website <https://www.girton-cambs.org.uk/girton-parish-council-2/local-nature-recovery-plan/>. Work has commenced on delivering the Plan, but as noted in October's report it cannot be achieved without support from Girton community, whether through people's time and commitment, resources (such as plants and tools), or further funds.

Hibbert-Ware Memorial Garden

One major project for this year's plan is the refurbishment of the Hibbert-Ware Memorial Garden to improve its biodiversity while providing the community with a showcase of wildlife-friendly approaches to gardening. Work in line with the Project Plan has commenced. Fundraising from the 'Just Giving' page at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/nature-in-girton> has so far proved disappointing and the Group is exploring other ways to raise the necessary funds. Please spread the word! We are also exploring environmental grants that are available. We also need plant donations and volunteers to help work in the Garden.

Town End Close Nature Reserve

We hosted a visit from Natural England in relation to our application for 'Local Nature Reserve' status at the beginning of November. This should be a formality, but we do have to produce a management plan for the site which is being worked on now.

Events and News

The Group hosted a fascinating talk on 'Exploring Nature on your Doorstep' by Dr Ros Wade from Cambridge's Museum of Zoology on 22nd November. The Group is planning a schedule of events for next year.

Cllr Giles spoke about our work at Souths Cambs District Council's Climate Conference which was scheduled to coincide with COP28 on November 28th. Feedback was very positive.

We have provided the Council with papers on 'No Mow Summer', and Christmas Lighting (appended). The former has fed in to the Council's draft 'Grass Policy'. We have also commented on the draft Neighbourhood Plan Survey.

We reviewed the latest Woodland Trust Management Plan for the Millenium Wood and provided feedback to the Trust.

Members of the Group toured areas of wildlife value at Gretton School and have made some suggestions on habitat management and possible activities for students.

Finally, we have considered the proposals for a Hope CIC farm on land behind Girton Glebe School. Our views will be made known to Council at the next meeting.

Keith Honnor

(Chair, Local Nature Recovery Plan Group)

Finance & Resource Management Committee Report December 2023

For those of you who have not seen this month's report the 3-year plans for all our Committees will feed into the 2024/2025 precept setting process. For information I list below the definition of a Parish Council precept:

*Note: The precept is the **parish council's share of the council tax**. It is calculated as part of the parish council's budget and is the amount of council tax that the billing authority collects on behalf of a parish council. The precept demand goes to the billing authority, which collects the tax for the Parish Council. The 'Precept' is converted into an amount per Council Tax Band that is added onto the Council Tax bill.*

| <i>Item of Information</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <i>Girton Precept for Band D House</i> | <i>£74.51</i> |
| <i>Girton Precept increase (1 year)</i> | <i>£0.92</i> |
| <i>Girton Precept increase (5 years)</i> | <i>£7.03</i> |
| <i>Girton's Precept Amount</i> | <i>£150,025</i> |
| <i>Girton Rankings</i> | <i>66 out of 103 SCDC Parishes</i> |

For more details were given in last month's report.

Since the October meeting Girton Parish Council have been working on defining, approving and prioritising our Full 'Book of Work'. To do this we have checked and brought together all items from our agendas since October 2021 to allow us to create a baseline of all activities which have been completed, are a work in progress and those still to action.

You will see Agenda Item 23FC/129.7 asks Council to approve that draft book of work and the score assigned. The next task is to apply all financial information to this list so that we can aim to create an itemised budget for 2024/2025 and beyond. We will then ensure that Business Cases documenting all projects will be prepared.

As discussed by our Finance Committee on 5th July 2023 (Agenda Item: 23FRM/021.1) our budget items will be categorized as a) Mandatory b) Asset Management and c) New Projects. We will aim to provide the Top 20 priority items in each of category in our December report to Girton Parish News.

All Committees and Working groups have submitted their 3-year plan, which have been reviewed by Finance & Resource Management Committee. The overall spend according to these plans will be discussed within the agenda of this Full Council and feed into the final precept setting in January Full Council.

It has been a pleasure to hear feedback on how well GPC has been communicating with Girton residents and we urge anyone who has not yet completed our precept survey to do so.

Please do complete our survey which can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/e/xZjw6NaBWj>

The progress made on understanding, maintaining and reconciling our finances now means we can reconcile our income and expenditure on a daily basis. We are also in a much better position than last year with only two invoices currently outstanding over a very short period. The back pay under the pay-rise recommended by Local Government Association in November has now been paid to all staff in time for Christmas.

Ann Muston – Finance Committee Chair

Yvonne Murray – Responsible Financial Office

HR Committee December 2023

Due to pressure of work the Clerk was not able to attend the training below.

- Managing Projects (& Major Programmes), 10th November 2023
- Developing Effective Action Plans, 28th November 2023

These training courses will be repeated during 2024. GPC Clerk will also attend the CAPALC in-person meeting 14th December CAPALC AGM. This meeting is free of charge.

Appraisal dates will be carried out week beginning 11th December 2023. Staff were happy with this postponement. In particular the Staff team and Cllr Marshall were able to interview our new Parish Ranger, Kevin Foster who has already begun to look at operational priorities before his official start date of the first week of January 2024. The Parish Ranger post has been approved as a trial position for 6 months to confirm the need. Girton Parish Council sought and received official guidance from the HR consultant for CAPALC for the engagement of this post.

Just as a reminder please do give feedback for there is a feedback form available on request for residents to make relevant comments if they so wish on the performance of Girton Parish Council.

Appraisals for individual councillors are yet to be confirmed. This is recommended as good practice and will help to identify and support time constraints of councillors, responsibilities and what training may be useful. The Quality Award of the Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) states there should be a training policy and record for all staff and councillors. <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/1855-lcas-guide/file>

As In-house Team Training and Planning Training has been difficult to find a time when most people can attend. There is a suggestion that the first 15 minutes of each Council meeting will focus on an aspect of Parish Council training.

It is expected that both the Clerk and the Facilities Manager will sign up to for the CILCA award in Spring 2024.

As with all other Committees, the HR Committee reviewed our three-year plan and hope our recommendations will be passed at Full Council.

The review of the revised contracts, people specification and job descriptions is ongoing.

There is a proposal that this Council aims to achieve the LCAS Foundation award during 2024 and then proceeds if the office team are successful with their CILCA to Quality and Gold Award status. This is for consideration in the HR plan at this Full Council.

Ann Muston – HR Committee Chair.

Sport and Recreation Committee Report December 2023

The committee last met on Tuesday 5th December 2023.

A wish list for the 3 year plan is now in place and was approved at the last meeting. This will be added to and is available for all to see.

When looking at the list it was recognised that some of the plans for the future may require the Parish Council to consider acquiring more land. This is going to be raised with the different organisations that hold land in the village, that could potentially be used in future, to see if they would be willing to offer the land to the Parish Council for use by the village.

From the list, the clerk and her staff are looking at the current approved projects that are to be delivered in 23/24 and business plans are invited to be put forward for 24/25 budget.

Additionally, Andrew Muston is looking at the neighbourhood plan and as part of this role he is trying to identify what pieces of non-residential land belong to the Parish Council and who owns the rights to use the other pieces of non-residential land identified in the village.

An update on the clubhouse and toilets being looked at the bowls green was given. It is hoped that we will get the certificate of lawfulness before the end of the year and then we can place the orders with the view that both the toilets and building can be installed within this financial year.

An update on the table tennis table was also given. The groundwork is currently being worked on and the contractor is working around the wet and cold weather to ensure that the ground laid down is not affected by the weather. Once this is done, we can order the tables with a view to having them delivered in this financial year.

The Parish council approved spend on a new maintenance person has moved forward with someone joining the Clerk's team soon on a short-term contract. We are hoping that this person can be used to maintain, tidy up and improve some of the current sports facilities owned by the Parish Council.

Discussions are taking place with all sports clubs to look at their terms and conditions of use of Parish Council facilities. Subsidies and charges for the new financial year are also being looked at with a view to being fair to all clubs while making best use of residents' money. Although no final decision has been made yet, the Parish Council is looking to help all clubs promote their sport and encourage more participation from residents of the village across all age groups.

More engagement is required with the community to understand what Sports and recreation/ wellbeing facilities they would like the Parish Council to provide. The Parish Council are using different methods to engage with the community and currently online surveys as well as surveys in the Parish news have been developed by the clerk and her team to get input from the residents..

We are also looking at different grants that we can apply for that will help us grow the facilities we can offer the village.

The Sports and Rec committee would like to thank the Clerk and her team for all the hard work they have put into taking the Parish Council forward this year. The information available has been invaluable to the committee and we can see how the work put in by the clerk, will allow all committees to be able to make more informed decisions as well as being more transparent about what we are doing and the decisions being made.

Happy holidays to all who are reading this report.

The above report was written by Nas Hayat.

Events Committee

Members of the Events Committee have been lucky enough to attend a number of village events in a personal capacity including Bowls Club AGM, Custard Comedy, Jazz at St Andrew's Church. It really helps to be at these occasions to understand what is going on in Girton and how the Parish Council may support it.

This Committee will meet in the new year to consider a program of visits to local organisations so we can give an update on our 2024/2025 budget and future plans for the Council.

More importantly what are the plans of these organisations and how can GPC play a part in supporting these plans.

Cllr Stuart Marshall

Chair, Events Committee

Wellbrook Way Facilities Task & Finish Group

Progress update:

- Certificate of Lawfulness for both Toilets and Club Room due for completion on 27th December
- These applications will be noted in our Planning Committee on 13th December 2023.
- First payment to be made to suppliers as soon as the above is complete.
- Payments for the Club House and Toilets to be made across 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 budgets.

Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for the installation of a modular Club house on Bowling Green land for use by Girton Bowls Club and any other users allowed to access the Bowling Green land and facilities by Girton Parish Council.

Girton Bowls Club Wellbrook Way Girton Cambridgeshire CB3 OGP
Ref. No: 23/04152/CL2PD | Validated: Wed 01 Nov 2023 | Status: Awaiting decision

Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for the installation of a modular Club house on Bowling Green land for use by Girton Bowls Club and any other users allowed to access the Bowling Green land and facilities by Girton Parish Council.

Girton Bowls Club Wellbrook Way Girton Cambridgeshire CB3 OGP
Ref. No: 23/04151/CL2PD | Validated: Wed 01 Nov 2023 | Status: Awaiting decision

Pavilion Refurbishment Task & Finish Group

The Pavilion Refurbishment Task & Finish Group were unable to meet before Christmas due to the volume of other Committees working at that time to set the budget. Apologies for the confusion for some of the attendees.

A meeting is being scheduled in the new year to catch-up on requirements.

Discussion will take place on three strands of work with the aim of beginning work on some of the immediate improvements as soon as possible as below.

1. Maintenance Tasks
2. Asset Management
3. Master Planning/Changes to the Pavilion

We will keep you posted on suggested date for this meeting.

Cllr Stuart Marshall

Chair Pavilion Refurbishment Task & Finish Group

Payments made and Payments for Approval: November 2023

| Status | ContactName | Invoice Number | Invoice Date | Gross Total | VAT | Net Total | Description |
|--------------|--|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| For Approval | MC Garden Maintenance | 0194 | 04/12/2023 | 1,572.00 | 262.00 | 1,310.00 | Tree Work - Weavers Field |
| For Approval | Avocet : GB636810535 | 18194 | 30/11/2023 | 548.40 | 91.40 | 457.00 | Pavilion Cleaning |
| For Approval | Girton Parish News | 4024 | 29/11/2023 | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | GPN Surveys |
| For Approval | Avanit Systems Limited | 20385 | 28/11/2023 | 40.00 | 6.67 | 33.33 | Projector/Screen Hire |
| For Approval | Avanit Systems Limited | 20384 | 28/11/2023 | 40.00 | 6.67 | 33.33 | Projector/Screen Hire |
| For Approval | Avanit Systems Limited | 20383 | 28/11/2023 | 40.00 | 6.67 | 33.33 | Projector/Screen Hire |
| For Approval | MD Contracting and Farming Ltd : GB247818768 | 1805 | 27/11/2023 | 600.00 | 100.00 | 500.00 | Bidirectional Flailing Girton Rec |
| For Approval | AJ King : GB119000462 | INV-0426 | 26/11/2023 | 1,020.00 | 170.00 | 850.00 | Vertidrainng Girton Rec |
| For Approval | Brookfield Contracting Ltd : GB985186274 | 2449 | 24/11/2023 | 456.00 | 76.00 | 380.00 | Grass Verge Cutting |
| For Approval | Pettit Sports : GB159878929 | 3507 | 23/11/2023 | 133.92 | 22.32 | 111.60 | Pitchmarker |
| For Approval | JW Electrical | 1827 | 15/11/2023 | 159.52 | 26.59 | 132.93 | PAT Testing |
| For Approval | CAPALC Ltd | 4322 | 18/09/2023 | 75.00 | 0.00 | 75.00 | Staff Training |
| Paid | Microsoft | E0400PTC8U | 27/11/2023 | 22.56 | 3.76 | 18.80 | MS365 Standard Monthly Sub |
| Paid | Microsoft | E0400PT900 | 27/11/2023 | 113.40 | 18.90 | 94.50 | MS365 Basic Monthly Sub |
| Paid | Zoom: GB373142903 | INV228283874 | 21/11/2023 | 15.59 | 2.60 | 12.99 | Zoo Monthly Sub |
| Paid | British Gas : GB684966762 | 825672827 | 21/11/2023 | 1,337.40 | 222.90 | 1,114.50 | Electricity - Pavilion |
| Paid | EE Ltd : GB | V02168256952 | 18/11/2023 | 12.49 | 2.08 | 10.41 | Groundsman Phone |
| Paid | EverFlow Ltd: | 2670859 | 17/11/2023 | 63.42 | 0.00 | 63.42 | Water - Bowling Green |
| Paid | EverFlow Ltd: | 2670858 | 17/11/2023 | 144.00 | 0.00 | 144.00 | Water - Pavilion |
| Paid | EverFlow Ltd: | 2670857 | 17/11/2023 | 41.50 | 0.00 | 41.50 | Water Nature Reserve |
| Paid | British Gas : GB684966762 | 721695081 | 16/11/2023 | 40.28 | 1.91 | 38.37 | Electricity - Bowling Grreen |
| Paid | BT | M024 5J | 09/11/2023 | 33.00 | 5.50 | 27.50 | Phone Bill |
| Paid | Payroll aggregate | Dec-23 | 01/12/2023 | 6,388.82 | 7.50 | 6,381.32 | Payroll |

GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

Income Report November 2023

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Gras cutting contributions | £1,000.00 |
| Football Pitches | £1,012.80 |
| MUGA | £747.20 |
| Pavilion Hall | £393.50 |
| Recreation Ground | £254.50 |
| Tennis Courts | £49.50 |
| <u>Total Turnover</u> | <u>£3,457.50</u> |

Hope CIC Community Farm Project

Hope Against Poverty Community Interest Company (CIC) is excited to propose a new Community Farm project in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council, with the support of South Cambridgeshire District Council. This project aims to bring communities together, create a positive impact in their lives, and provide healthy, locally-sourced meals to our community and find solutions for social isolation. Additionally, it will enhance the profitability of our Hope In a Box business, ensuring the sustainability of Hope CIC. The Community Farm will be established on a generously provided 4.5-acre land (under negotiations), which will serve as the foundation for a variety of sustainable agricultural activities. This project aligns with our commitment to poverty alleviation and community empowerment by fostering self-reliance and food security.

1. Partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council

We are grateful to Cambridgeshire County Council for their generous offer of land for our Community Farm project. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to community development and the betterment of the lives of local residents. The land is currently being offered for 1 year, which we are in discussions to have this secured for a longer term. The support of the Parish Council in our project will help us in these discussions.

2. Project Objectives

- To create a community-focused, sustainable agricultural hub.
- To supply healthy, locally-sourced meals to the community.
- To engage and empower community members in farm activities.
- To enhance the financial sustainability of Hope CIC through increased profits.

3. Expected Outcomes

- Increased community cohesion and a sense of ownership.
- Access to fresh, healthy, and affordable produce for local residents.
- Training and skill development opportunities for community members.
- A positive impact on the profitability of Hope In a Box (fruit and vegetable box).

4. Benefits to the Community

The Community Farm will bring several benefits to the community:

- Access to fresh, locally-grown, and affordable produce.
- Educational opportunities for community members on sustainable farming practices.
- Job creation and training in agriculture.
- A stronger sense of community and belonging.

Community Involvement

- **Meaningful Engagement:** Local residents will be actively involved in the entire farming process, from planting to harvesting. This engagement goes beyond traditional farming; it fosters a sense of community ownership and pride as individuals contribute to the development and sustenance of the farm.
- **Skill Development and Education:** Workshops and training programmes will be offered to community members, providing valuable skills in agriculture, fostering entrepreneurship, and enhancing employability, with the possibility of offering funded apprenticeships, which supports the government's skills agenda.

Key Activities

- Developing partnerships and exploring further opportunities for collaboration
- Advanced educational programmes, workshops, and accredited courses
- Community gardens and expanded ecotherapy initiatives
- Advocacy and outreach
- Assess and optimise operations

5. Sustainability and Profit Margin Enhancement

The Community Farm project will contribute to the sustainability of Hope CIC through several means:

- Increased supply of locally-sourced produce for Hope In a Box, reducing procurement costs.
- Revenue generation through the sale of surplus produce to local markets and restaurants.
- Diversification of income sources to support other Hope CIC initiatives - Food Project in Cambourne and mobile food hub (Hope on the Go).
- Implement sustainable farming practices, including permaculture, reducing environmental impact. This includes organic farming techniques, water conservation, and the use of renewable energy sources, setting a standard for responsible agriculture in the region.
- Serve as a model for sustainable, small-scale farming in the region, demonstrating that it is not only possible but also economically viable. This aligns with global efforts to promote sustainable practices and combat climate change.

6. Project Implementation

- Establish a Hope CIC Community Farm team for oversight and management.
- Develop a farm business plan, including crop selection and production timelines.
- Engage the community in farm planning and encourage participation.
- Secure necessary resources, such as seeds, equipment, and infrastructure.
- Implement sustainable farming practices, including organic and permaculture techniques.
- Establish marketing and distribution channels for produce.

7. Resource Requirements

To successfully implement the Community Farm project, we will require resources such as:

- Seeds, equipment, and infrastructure (temporary) for farming.
- Skilled farm staff and volunteers.
- Funding for initial setup and operational costs.
- Marketing and distribution resources. ● Sustainable power and water.

8. Timeline

The project is expected to be implemented over the course of 5 years, with ongoing management and development thereafter.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation will be carried out to assess the progress and impact of the project. Key performance indicators will include crop yield, community engagement, and financial sustainability.

10. Conclusion

The Community Farm project, established in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council and supported by South Cambridgeshire District Council, represents an exciting opportunity to engage our community, provide healthy meals, and enhance the profitability of Hope CIC. We are committed to working collaboratively to bring this project to create lasting, positive change in our community. Together, we will cultivate a brighter future.

Girton Parish Council Hire Charges

| | <u>2013</u> | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2021</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2023</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Cricket Pitch - senior afternoon | £67.25 | £69.00 | £70.75 | £71.45 | £73.00 | £75.20 | £77.50 | £79.80 | £79.80 | £79.80 | £87.80 |
| Cricket Pitch - Senior evening | £33.50 | £34.50 | £35.50 | £35.85 | £36.50 | £37.60 | £38.75 | £39.90 | £39.90 | £39.90 | £43.90 |
| Cricket Pitch - Junior afternoon/evening | £33.50 | £34.50 | £35.50 | £35.85 | £36.50 | £37.70 | £38.90 | £40.00 | £40.00 | £40.00 | £44.00 |
| Cricket Pitch - External afternoon | £88.75 | £91.25 | £93.50 | £94.50 | £96.40 | £99.40 | £102.40 | £105.40 | £105.40 | £105.40 | £115.95 |
| Cricket Pitch - External evening | £44.25 | £45.50 | £46.65 | £47.25 | £48.20 | £49.70 | £51.20 | £52.70 | £52.70 | £52.70 | £57.95 |
| Football Pitch 11v11 MENS | £41.75 | £43.00 | £44.00 | £45.00 | £46.00 | £47.50 | £48.95 | £50.40 | £50.40 | £50.40 | £55.45 |
| Football Pitch 11v11 WOMENS/GUFC/ARU | £32.50 | £33.50 | £34.50 | £34.85 | £35.55 | £36.65 | £37.75 | £38.85 | £38.85 | £38.85 | £42.75 |
| Football Pitch (JUNIORS 12-17) | £16.25 | £16.75 | £17.20 | £17.40 | £17.75 | £18.30 | £18.85 | £19.40 | £19.40 | £19.40 | £21.35 |
| Football Pitch (YOUTH 7-11) | £8.75 | £9.00 | £9.25 | £9.35 | £9.55 | £9.85 | £10.15 | £10.45 | £10.45 | £10.45 | £11.50 |
| MUGA | £35.50 | £36.50 | £37.00 | £37.90 | £38.70 | £39.90 | £38.50 | £39.60 | £39.60 | £39.60 | £43.55 |
| MUGA (Youth) | £8.25 | £8.50 | £8.75 | £8.85 | £9.00 | £9.30 | £9.60 | £9.90 | £9.90 | £9.90 | £11.00 |
| MUGA (Juniors) | £14.25 | £14.75 | £15.10 | £15.30 | £15.60 | £16.10 | £16.60 | £17.00 | £17.00 | £17.00 | £18.70 |
| MUGA (Girton Dads) | £24.00 | £24.75 | £25.50 | £25.80 | £26.80 | £26.10 | £20.60 | £21.20 | £21.20 | £21.20 | £23.30 |
| MUGA (Womens) | £35.25 | £36.25 | £37.00 | £37.40 | £37.40 | £37.40 | £28.40 | £29.20 | £29.20 | £29.20 | £32.00 |
| Tennis Court (public/school use) PEAK | £12.75 | £13.00 | £13.40 | £13.65 | £13.90 | £14.40 | £14.90 | £15.30 | £15.30 | £15.30 | £16.50 |
| Tennis Court (public/school use) OFF-PEAK | £6.50 | £6.75 | £6.95 | £7.10 | £7.25 | £7.50 | £7.70 | £7.90 | £7.90 | £7.90 | £8.70 |
| Tennis Club Annual Fee | £1,936.50 | £1,936.50 | £2,000.00 | £2,065.00 | £2,106.00 | £2,170.00 | £2,235.00 | £2,302.00 | £2,302.00 | £2,302.00 | £2,532.00 |
| Tennis Club Storage Fee | £39.00 | £27.00 | £32.00 | £33.60 | £34.20 | £35.40 | £36.60 | £39.00 | £39.00 | £39.00 | £43.00 |
| Tennis Club MUGA Donation | INC | NEG | NEG | NEG | NEG | NEG | NEG | NEG | £250.00 | £300.00 | £300.00 |
| Netball | £13.00 | £13.50 | £13.75 | £14.00 | £14.50 | £14.90 | £14.90 | £15.30 | £15.30 | £15.30 | £16.50 |
| Hall (off peak/regular user) | £13.75 | £14.25 | £14.50 | £14.75 | £15.00 | £15.50 | £16.00 | £16.50 | £16.50 | £16.50 | £18.50 |
| Hall (peak/one off) | £18.00 | £18.50 | £18.95 | £19.20 | £19.60 | £20.20 | £20.80 | £21.50 | £21.50 | £21.50 | £23.50 |
| Storage Cupboard (per month) | £3.25 | £3.50 | £3.60 | £3.70 | £3.80 | £3.80 | £4.10 | £4.20 | £4.20 | £4.20 | £4.65 |
| Rec | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | £11.50 | £11.50 | £11.50 | £13.00 |

Girton Road Crossing

Background

For many years there have been calls for a crossing to be implemented at the Southern end of Girton Rd, at or near to Girton Corner. This demand has been both from previous Parish Councils and from residents – something that has been noted when collecting information from the Girton Feast and the Girton On The Move events. The need for this crossing increases as the population of, and amenities available at, Eddington grows, with more and more journeys by foot or bicycle being made between Eddington and the older parts of Girton, including Girton College.

In recent years a good quality crossing has been implemented across Huntingdon Road at this junction. However, this is still difficult to access safely for pedestrians and cyclists travelling south on Girton Road, trying to reach the Active Travel route along Bunkers Hill and The Ridgeway. Pedestrians are limited to the southern side of Girton Road for most of its length and must cross near to Girton Corner in order to reach the Huntingdon Rd crossing. Cyclists must either cross oncoming traffic to reach the cycleway on the northern side at the end of Girton Rd, or attempt to cross the Girton Corner junction, which may be intimidating for less confident cyclists – the young and elderly in particular.

In May 2023 funding was made available from Active Travel England for schemes in Cambridgeshire. One of the five funded schemes is for the provision of a crossing at the southern end of Girton Rd such that it could link with the Huntingdon Road crossing. Three similar schemes to achieve this were drawn up by Highways. In 2021 consultation was sought from residents in the immediate area, including Girton College. Consultation with the wider community in Girton (and Castle ward) should have been undertaken at this point but, for reasons unknown, this did not occur.

On the Active England funding being received this project was picked up by CCC project manager Dan Cranshaw. Detailed design work commenced in June 2023 and site investigations took place in September 2023.

Mr Cranshaw apologised for the lack of consultation prior to his involvement, something that he had not been previously aware of. It was agreed that Girton Parish Council would be given the option to offer comment on the proposed scheme, as a courtesy.

It should be noted that GPC have no power in this decision-making process, but Mr Cranshaw would give consideration if serious concerns were raised.

The Scheme

The scheme consists of the following:

- A shared crossing (pedestrian + cycle) across Girton Rd, approximately 50m from the southern end
- Cycle lane feeder from on-road cycle path to the crossing.
- Build-out of the pavement on the northern side of the Girton Corner junction to increase Active Travel space and to sharpen bend in main highway to encourage slower cornering
- Relocation of outbound bus stop, approx. 50m further away from junction.
- Further build out of pavement on northern side of Girton Rd to make wider all the way to new bus stop.
- In-line dropdown of pavement into on-road cycle lane for Northbound travel.
- Additional signage

See also detailed plan.

Timeline

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| • Detailed Design | Jun '23 – Nov '23 |
| • Procurement | Dec '23 |
| • Construction | Jan '24 – May '24 |
| • Post-construction | Jun '24 – Jul '24 |

Impact

The intended long-term impact is intended to be that pedestrian and cycling journeys between Girton and Eddington, via The Ridgeway, are made safer. The intention is that it will encourage more journeys to be made here by Active Travel methods.

Work to deliver the scheme will have a temporary impact on motorised and cycle traffic around the junction. There may also be a temporary impact on pedestrian traffic. Once the crossing is in place, it may alter traffic flow at this point.

Enlargement of the pavement on the Northern side of Girton Rd will require the removal of some of the hedgerow here – approx. 130m. This in order that the pavement can be sufficiently wide to meet Active Travel requirements. As this is an Active Travel scheme, the pavement width is a condition of funding. The removal of hedgerow has implications both in terms of environmental impact and security for Girton College. Discussions were held with CCC, Girton College, GPC, and our County and District Councillors. Security issues seem to have been resolved as Girton College have decided to construct fencing on their side of the border between their land and that owned by CCC. It was also agreed that the project would seek to keep hedgerow removal to a minimum (likely removing several metres less than originally proposed) and that there would be a programme of replanting. Following a site visit it was determined by CCC that there is sufficient land owned by CCC to allow for the replanting of hedgerow further back from the main highway that will also be able to accommodate a wide enough pavement to meet guidelines. Note that the removal of this hedgerow was approved by the Planning Committee in October 2023.

The former telephone box, now used as a free library, will likely have to move. This was communicated to the volunteers who undertook this work, and this likelihood should have been understood. It is possible that there is room on the plot of land it is on (owned by CCC) to relocate by move a distance of less than 1m. This has not fully been determined. If not, a suitable site (preferably nearby) would need to be found. It is possible that there would also be an impact on Parish Notice Board and the adjacent bicycle “butterfly” style stands on the small plot next to the telephone box.

Issues/suggestions raised by others

When consulted earlier in this process, representatives of Girton College were concerned that the crossing is too far from Girton Corner. They felt that members of the College walking along Huntingdon Road would not want to deviate from a straight line and make a short diversion to where the proposed crossing is. They had put forward the idea of the crossing being at the junction, with full traffic light control in all directions.

Cambridge Cycling Campaign have also suggested moving the crossing closer to the junction, as well as moving the relocated bus stop closer to wherever the crossing is. They also suggest that there is space to marginally increase the width of the cycle tracks.

Possible outcomes

The motion as worded is one of support for the scheme as is. Some possible alternatives (amended motions) are outlined below, along with my interpretation of the resultant outcome:

- To support the scheme but to suggest small changes.
 - It has been indicated that it may be possible to incorporate minor changes, provided it is minimal impact on budget and does not detract from the major parts of the scheme.
- To support the scheme but with significant changes.
 - It has been indicated that significant changes would not be considered for delivering the scheme at this time.
- To support the scheme in principle, but to object to it as proposed.
 - CCC may consider not delivering this scheme. This funding would not be available for another scheme in Girton at this time.
- To oppose the principle of the scheme.
 - CCC may consider not delivering this scheme.

Hope CIC Community Farm Project – Girton Local Nature Recovery Plan Group comments

The LNRP Group has discussed the ‘Hope CIC Community Farm Project’ proposal for the County Council land behind The Glebe School, that was presented to the Parish Council at the full meeting on Wednesday 8th November.

We should preface the comments that follow that we are supportive of the aims of Hope CIC as an organisation.

Nevertheless, we have major concerns with the proposal as it stands. Our core concern is based on the biodiversity value of the habitat type, namely scrub, that will be lost if the proposed plan is allowed to proceed.

Scrub is a much-maligned habitat often seen (as we suspect in this case) as ‘waste ground.’ This could not be further from the truth. Scrub contains native species such as Hawthorn, Bramble, and Blackthorn – all providing food and shelter for a variety of birds and invertebrates. If one thinks of scrub as ‘spread-out hedgerow’, its wildlife value becomes clear. Birds particular to scrub habitats include a variety of warblers (Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Garden Warbler), finches, thrushes, and Turtle Doves (‘red listed’ – in danger of extinction in the UK). Pollinators such as butterflies, moths and bees feed on blossom found in scrub and will lay their eggs there. In turn, their larvae become food for birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

As the habitat map in Appendix 1 taken from the ‘Girton LNRP – Context, aims and objectives’ document¹ makes clear, Girton has little scrub, and this is by far the largest area we have left. This contrasts with Histon where the main area of biodiversity interest is the Croft Set-Aside part of the Abbey Fields reserve which is primarily scrub habitat. (It is worth noting that this site was selected as a County Wildlife Site in 2022, precisely because of the value of its scrub).

We acknowledge the intention of Hope CIC to implement sustainable farming practices, but do not believe the increase in cultivated land within the Parish is either desirable (much of Girton consists of agricultural land already) or can meet the criteria for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as set out in the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning ‘Biodiversity Supplementary Planning’ policy.

We also question the sustainability of the proposal. It makes clear that the farm cannot function without local volunteer effort (‘Local residents will be actively involved in the entire farming process, from planting to harvesting.’), and while we applaud the intent to provide skills development and opportunities for the local community, we are not clear there is sufficient volunteer ‘labour’ in the village given the existing commitments to allotments and the ‘Green Team’.

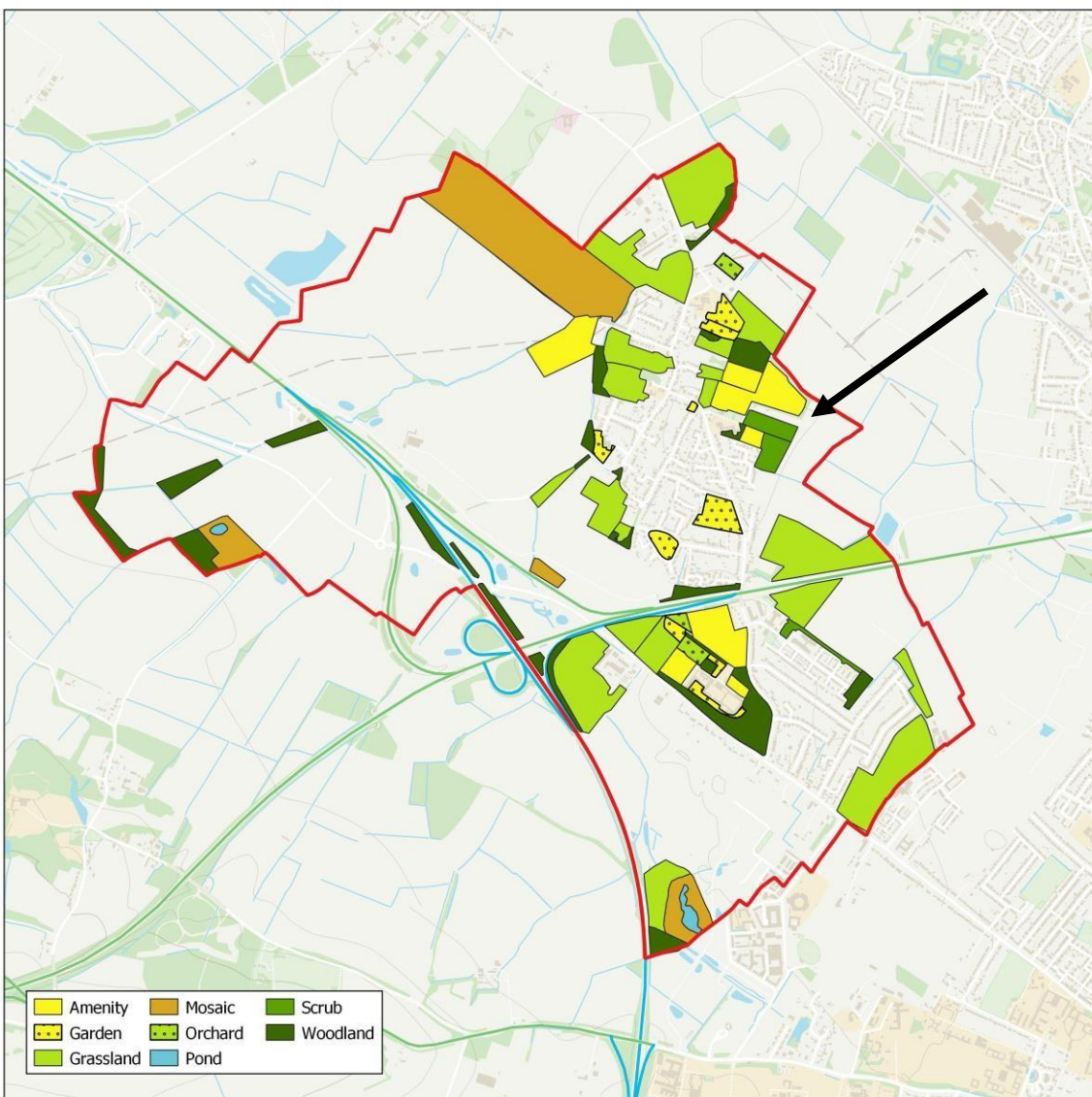
It seems to us that a community engagement opportunity is being lost. The scrub area (with some management work) would be ideal for Girton Glebe’s Forest School, providing an opportunity for educating young children about the benefits of our wild spaces.

Finally, we also must question the decision of the County Council to lease this land to Hope CIC without consulting the Parish Council first. It runs counter to principles of good consultation in local planning decisions.

Girton LNRP Group

¹ available at <https://www.girton-cambs.org.uk/girton-parish-council-2/local-nature-recovery-plan/>

Appendix 1 – Girton Habitat Map



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Map showing Glebe Scrub area