

The Power of 'We' in Our Team

Introduction

In the spirit of collaboration and unity, this report is a testament to the collective efforts that have propelled Girton Parish Council to its current success. It is a reminder that in the realm of teamwork, there is no room for 'I.' Throughout the year, we have needed to engage with many different people with diverse views and priorities. It has not always been easy, but it has been done with a good humour and courtesy. Thank you to all who have been a part of this success story.

1. Collective Success

Our achievements are not the product of solitary endeavours but the result of the **synergy** of every team member's contribution. Each individual's effort, no matter how small, has been a vital ingredient in the recipe of our success. This includes, Chris, our groundsman, Kevin our ranger, Angie our facilities manager, Norman who has an eye on our security and Yvonne who has worked tirelessly to make sure that Girton Parish Council is on track not only by being compliant with every changing legislation but that we have the money to enable use to operate within our budget and with due diligence.

The Parish councillors also work hard behind the scenes, listening to parishioners and often giving up precious time to support the community. Their role in facilitating events and agreements is often overlooked. Each one brings a different perspective and talent to the Council and as we become more aware of the legalisation, we can have more meaningful discussions. If one Councillor has an opinion on something, then it is likely that several parishioners also think that way and their voices need to be heard.

2. Embracing the Positive

While it is easy to dwell on unmet goals, it is crucial to celebrate the milestones we have achieved. The Chairman's Report highlights these as do the other individual reports. Progress leading towards perfection is our mantra. We must shift our focus from the negatives and **applaud the positive strides** we have made together. There have been fewer meetings, more suspending of standing orders to allow people to voice their opinions and more opportunities for councillors to propose motions and employees to explain why things will or won't work. Instead of making decisions that are ill informed and appear to be dictated to from on high, we have listened and used the knowledge and expertise from our community or sought professional advice if the latter isn't available. This again takes time but in our opinion is time well spent.

3. Encouragement for Participation

The path ahead calls for more hands and hearts. As newer members of the Council have become accustomed to the expectations, they have started to look at areas that are of interest to them and how Girton can benefit. Although we are still a number of

Councillors down, we would like to involve more parishioners in the decision making by joining one of the working committees. We encourage every member of the parish to **step forward and contribute**, not just with critiques but with constructive action. Your involvement is the key to our continued success. If in doing so, you decide to be part of Girton Parish Council, we would be very happy to speak to you about it. The next elections are in two years, in May 2026. There may be someone who works here or lives within three miles of the boundary who is happy to give the next 24 months to helping us achieve the Gold Standard Award. If so, we'd love to hear from you.

4. Prioritization and Infrastructure

To move forward, we must prioritize our goals and establish a robust infrastructure. This will serve as the backbone for our future projects, ensuring that we are well-equipped to tackle upcoming challenges. We have already started this and there have already been huge improvements. However, we are not specialists and so we need to seek the help of those who can steer us in the right direction. There is a cost to this in time and money. The Finance and Resource Management Committee Report highlights this.

5. Time for Reflection

Time is our most precious resource. There are only so many hours in a day, and each one should be used wisely. We must allow time for reflection to ensure that our actions are thoughtful, and our projects are completed with care. Many people think that with technology we can move more quickly, this is often the case, but our employees and Councillors are not available 24/7. They have families and responsibilities outside of their work and Councillors, unlike employees are unpaid for their Girton Parish Council roles and most also have full time employment. For example, getting to a Post Office to have a signature authenticated took more than an hour to complete. Councillors attend other meeting and webinars to keep themselves informed.

Conclusion

As we continue to grow and evolve, let us remember that our strength lies in our unity. By working together, prioritizing effectively, and taking the time to reflect on our actions, we can achieve greatness. Let's embrace the 'we' in our team and look forward to a future filled with even more remarkable accomplishments. Please see the monthly reports for more details.

As a community we can continue to unite under the banner of collective effort and shared success. We are extremely lucky as we have Girton Town Charity, supporting some of the work that is normally expected of Parish Councils. They have been instrumental in helping with major projects during the year. Thank you to them and to all those in the community for all their contributions and finally to the organisers of the Girton Feast who do so much to bring our community together.