

Girton Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Girton Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st January 2009 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre 7.30pm

Present: S Clift (Vice Chairman in the Chair), J, Ford-Smith (Vice Chairman), E Bullman, R Hodgkinson, V Godby, R Martin, M Wilson, M Taylor (to Item 9/12) J Thorrold, P Starling, R Hiley, R Gordon, & C Starling.

Action/Power

Cllr J Reynolds (CCC).

In attendance: R Stone (Clerk); Mrs N Stone (PFO)

09/01 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs D de Lacey, & L Sparling

09/02 Members' declarations of interests

Item 09/12 Girton Feast C Sparling

Item 09/08 Parish Plan Steering Group Cllr V Godby

09/03 Open Session for Public

Cllr Clift proposed to suspend Standing Orders, seconded Cllr Gordon, carried unanimously.

1. County Councillor's Report – Cllr Reynolds referred to the recent meeting at Girton Corner to discuss possible bus stop markings on the Huntingdon Road, and the reduction of the speed limit from 40 to 30mph. After discussion it had been agreed that no change could be made to where buses stop, but the shelter could be moved. Changes would be made to road features to help reduction of speed, and increase cycleway widths. The A14 upgrade was also raised in relation to noise pollution.
2. Members of the public – Recent anti social behaviour was raised. In particular three windows smashed at a house in High Street before Xmas. This had caused a great deal of depression, and spoilt the quality of life of the owner who had cancelled a holiday, and was now reluctant to leave the house unattended. The Chairman sympathized and said that the Parish Council was working closely with the police and South Cambridgeshire DC which had arranged a meeting to air residents concerns at St Vincent's Close Community Centre on 4th February 2009. Cllr Reynolds, as Chair of the Crime and Disorder Panel, said this behaviour must be nipped in the bud. The people who were affected by crimes of this kind had real problems. Two ASBOs were shortly to be served on two youths in Girton who were prolific offenders.
3. A14 issues – Jake Reynolds of the Parish Plan Steering Group referred to the significant local concern about noise from the A14. He had met with the Highways Agency project team to obtain their comments but come away from the meeting convinced that the proposed noise abatement measures for the A14 upgrade were insufficient. Noise in the village will increase. Cllr Martin agreed that the noise abatement measures were inadequate. Experience available elsewhere across the globe indicated that tree belts built into traffic schemes did make a difference. The new Girton interchange would be horrendous. There was a need to act now by sending the joint letter, and to invite Andrew Lansley MP to a meeting to discuss the issues. It was agreed that Cllr Martin and Jake would agree minor changes to the letter, and this would be circulated to Councillors prior to dispatch.
4. Girton Town Charity – Cllr Hiley reported that a new scheme had been progressed

to set up a company to carry out the work relating to the endowments held by the charity. Amongst other issues this would help to progress outstanding matters on Wellbrook Way. Amongst the recent GTC grant applications was one from Girton Glebe School to allow school children to take part in the Cambridge Music Festival. This had been approved.

5. Girton Youth Works Report – The YMCA had given a presentation to the Girton Town Charity on the results of the village survey to determine whether there was ongoing need for youth works. The outcome confirmed there was. Discussions were underway on how this could be taken forward.
6. District Councillors' Reports – Cllr de Lacey's report was circulated in advance of the meeting. No report was received from Cllr Bygott.
7. Footpaths and Rights of Way – Cllr P Starling reported he had walked the footpath network within the parish before Xmas. Overall it was in good condition.

09/04 That Standing Orders be reinstated and the Council meeting resumed.

Proposed Cllr Clift, seconded Cllr Martin, unanimous.

09/05 That the unconfirmed Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 17th December 2008 be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record

Cllr Wilson proposed, seconded Cllr Thorrold. Unanimous. Cllr Clift signed the minutes on behalf of the Parish Council.

09/06 Matters arising from minutes (*not arising from the agenda*)

Item 08/179 Highway Authority Drains– The Clerk advised that clearance works were almost complete apart from roadside drains marked with white paint. These would need further attention by the HA.

09/07 To receive Chairmen's reports on the Committee Meetings of the Council

- i) Planning – Cllr Clift reported that a reserved matters application for the new Abbeyfield development at Wellbrook Way had been circulated to the whole Parish Council in case they wished to make any observation and as none were receive the Parish Planning committee approved the application.
- ii) Environment – Cllr Ford-Smith advised that there would be a meeting at Town End Close on Thursday 30th January with Natural England and the contractor to agree maintenance works for the nature reserve.
- iii) Sports & Recreation – Cllr Wilson referred to the recent fire risk assessment at The Pavilion which had highlighted a number of urgent issues that were being dealt with, including electrical and storage works. He was currently writing up the safety inspection of the recreation areas. Other related issues that were being progressed were year round inspections of play areas; and dog control orders. The proposed tennis practice wall was still under consideration.

09/08 That the Parish Council approves the Parish Plan Steering Group request for funding the printing of the Parish Questionnaire, and approves the lowest quote of £1797.68 (+vat).

Proposed: Cllr Ford-Smith; seconded Cllr Wilson.

There was some disquiet about this expenditure not being identified within the budget forecasts for the financial year, but it was acknowledged that it would be embarrassing to the Council if it did not support the Parish Plan exercise that it had set up.

The motion was carried (6 for, 2 against, 2 abstentions).

It was also noted that the Steering Group had identified data processing costs, and possible additional printing costs if the final report was produced in hard copy. The Clerk was requested to investigate possible funding for these costs from Defra.

Clerk

09/09 That the Parish Council considers the following quotes for verge cutting for the village, and determines which is to be approved for the 2009 grass cutting season.

- i) J and P Plant Ltd - £200 per cut for 8 cuts
- ii) Paul Laston Garden Services £5600 for 7 cuts
- iii) Grounds by Rounds £300 + vat (rate per cut for 8 cuts)

The Clerk advised that J and P Plant Ltd were currently the contractors used by South Cambridgeshire DC to carry out 4 cuts a year. The District Council had indicated that it was prepared to transfer its £800 budget to Girton PC if the Council was prepared to take on these works for 2009. The required budget for an additional four cuts (once a month in the growing season) was therefore £800.

Cllr Hodgkinson proposed accepting the quote from J and P Plant Ltd. This was seconded by Cllr Ford-Smith. Unanimous.

09/10 That the Parish Council approves the draft letter on the A14 (tabled) to be sent to Andrew Lansley MP

Proposed Cllr Wilson; seconded Cllr Gordon.

This was agreed by the Council subject to minor changes being agreed by Cllr Martin and Jake Reynolds, and the final letter being circulated to Councillors prior to signature by Cllr Clift as acting Chairman of the Council.

Cllr Martin
Clerk

09/11 That the Parish Council resolves to continue renting St Johns Field

Proposed Cllr Clift, seconded Cllr Hiley.

Cllr Wilson spoke in favour of the motion. The Sports and Recreation Strategic Planning Review had identified a number of issues that needed addressing. These included the problems of keeping dogs off the play areas; and the importance of an established dog walking route and enforcing this. The availability of St Johns Field made a significant contribution to resolving these issues. In addition whilst St Johns Field was unsuitable for field sports it did provide green open space in the centre of the village for informal recreation and access to Girton Wood. The terms of the lease, fencing and tree maintenance, fitted perfectly with the S& R strategy.

Cllr P Starling opposed the motion stating that he was against paying rent for land that was an extension of Cockerton Road.

The Council passed the motion (12 for, 1 against) subject to the lease being negotiated for a longer period than currently applied to save legal costs.

Clerk

09/12 To approve a further £500 grant (making a total of £1500) to Girton Feast Week for 2009 to be financed on a cost neutral basis by reducing the budget for electricity for 2009/10 for The Pavilion.

Proposed Cllr Clift seconded Cllr Thorrold.

Cllr Hiley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, considered revisiting the 2009/10 budget was inappropriate. Cllr Clift said that having a successful Feast Week was an important for the community but recognized that the issue should have been resolved earlier. The Finance Officer advised that the forecast for electricity for 2009/10 appeared over budgeted.

The motion passed (4 for; 6 abstentions).

09/13 That the Parish Council approves a donation of £175 to "Girton Sheltered Housing Community Centre" for providing facilities for Girton Parish Council meetings in 2008.

Proposed Cllr Clift; seconded Cllr Hodgkinson. Unanimous

09/14 That the Parish Council approves the re-nomination of John Stewart as one of the Parish Council nominees to the Cotton Hall Foundation for a further three year term.

Proposed Cllr Hiley; seconded Cllr Wilson. Unanimous

09/15 That reports from Parish Councillors be received.

1. Cllr L Starling reported rubbish including razor wire dumped at Oakington Airport.
2. Cllr Bullman raised concern about the state of the St Johns Field between the two pubs. It needed cutting, and was a potential fire problem.
3. Cllr Thorrold was worried about the state of the roadside verge by Girton College's sports field,
4. Cllr P Starling referred to the state of the hedge in 10 Acre Field next to NIAB land. It needed trimming back. This needed to be brought to the attention of the Environment Committee. Also there were a number of hedges growing over the footpath in Thornton Road.
5. Cllr Gordon said that there had been thefts at the allotments, including a rotavator.
6. Cllr Wilson was worried that the Wellbrook Way Committee had fallen into abeyance.
7. Cllr Hiley referred to South Cambs DC not responding to emails and telephone calls about Wellbrook Way. There were a number of outstanding issues including the wooded and buffer area of 15m next to the A14. S106 monies of £100,000 were owed by Wimpey, and multiple problems were developing.

Clerk to mak
inquiries.

Clerk

The Chairman commented that he was in touch with Blakes, the landscape consultants, who were negotiating with SCDC regarding the LEAP, and bowling green.

09/16 Parish Clerk

1. Report on training completed by Clerk & PFO. The Clerk spoke to the training schedule he had circulated in advance of the meeting. Training completed to date was noted by Councillors.
2. To seek the Parish Council's approval of the training schedule for Clerk & PFO to end 2009/10. Proposed Cllr Hodkinson; seconded Cllr P Starling. Approved.

09/17 Correspondence

1. Letter from Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum dated 11th December 2008 about a stakeholder meeting on 6th January 2009 concerning the A14 proposals.
2. Copy letter from Richard & Barbara Shannon dated 11 December 2008 to South Cambridgeshire DC about the Housing Shortfall Public Consultation.
3. Letter from Andrew Lansley CBE MP dated 12th December 2008 enclosing a letter from the Minister for Housing and Planning on the designation of Northstowe as an eco-town.
4. Letter from Andrew Lansley CBE MP dated 22nd December 2008 attaching correspondence from the Minister of Transport concerning the A14 improvement scheme.
5. Letter from Savills dated 23rd December 2008 concerning the lease for St John's College field adjacent to the Recreation Ground. (*Item 09/11 above refers.*)
6. Letter from Mrs Lipscombe dated 4th January 2009 about vandalism.

09/18 That Girton Parish council payments for the period 17th December to 20th January 2009 be approved.

Proposed Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Hodkinson. Unanimous.
Payments are listed below.

The meeting ended at 9.42pm.

Payments	21-Jan-09	Combined PC/Rec payments			
Cq no.	Paid To	Description	Gross	VAT	net
2183	Cambridgeshire ACRE	Membership renewal	35.00		35.00
2184	Algar Signcraft Services	Signage	20.70	2.70	18.00
2185	Fenland Leisure Products	Play equipment maintenance/removal	1,109.75	144.75	965.00
2186	Cromwell Fire Ltd	Fire and Safety Inspection	150.62		

				19.65	130.97
2187	NCC (Cambridge) Ltd	Cleaning	345.00	45.00	300.00
2188	CALC-CTP	Training courses - PC and PFO	585.00		585.00
2189	Peter T Round	Grounds Maintenance - December	518.22	67.59	450.63
2190	Girton Sheltered Housing Community Centre	Donation	175.00		175.00
2191	Linda Miller	Expenses	35.56		35.56
2192	Robert Stone	Parish Clerk Wages (m10)	831.34		831.34
2193	Natalie Stone	Principal Finance Officer wages (m10)	179.26		179.26
2194	Linda Miller	Bookings Administrator wages (m10)	479.20		479.20
2195	Inland Revenue	Tax and NI month 10	400.88		400.88
2196	Norman Lewell	Security/Maintenance Officer Fee	386.15		386.15
2197	Anderton & Groom	Resurfacing of wood floor	1,214.00		1,214.00
2198	A to Z Supplies	Replacement urn	109.24	14.25	94.99
2199	CMR Wilson	Work at Recreation Ground	340.00		340.00
2200	Tamla Sparkes	Litter picking	75.00		75.00
2201	Peter T Round	Grounds Maintenance -November	529.49	78.86	450.63
			7,519.41	372.80	7,146.61