

Girton Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17th June 2009 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre

Action/Pow

Present: Cllrs D de Lacey (Chairman), E Bullman, V Godby, R. Hiley, M. Wilson, J. Thorrold, M Taylor, R Gordon, L Sparling & C Starling.

Cllr J Reynolds (Cambridgeshire CC), and Cllr T Bygott (South Cambridgeshire DC).
One member of the public.

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

Items:

09/71 Welcome from the Chairman

Cllr de Lacey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

09/72 Apologies

Cllrs Martin and Ford-Smith.

09/73 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

None for the items of 17th June. Cllr de Lacey apologized for not declaring a personal interest in Sustainable Girton when the South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership was discussed at Item 09/69/7 at the Council meeting of 20th May 2009.

09/74 Public Participation session on agenda items & matters of mutual interest

1. Members of the public – No issues raised.
2. Police Report – Not received.
3. District Councillors' reports – Cllr de Lacey circulated his report prior to the meeting. Cllr Bygott raised the results of the SCDC housing transfer ballot which was solidly against the transfer; and his promotion to SCDC's Cabinet with a portfolio of sustainability and climate change.
4. County Councillor's report – Cllr Reynolds reported on the changes to the police telephone numbers; Cambridgeshire CC electing a new Leader, Chairman and Committees. He also referred to the fuel systems for the new buses, and undertook to investigate problems with the phasing of the traffic lights at the junction of Huntingdon Road and Victoria Road in Cambridge. He also commented on the delay on the publication of the orders for the A14, and the new affordability criteria that the Government had introduced.
5. Girton Town Charity – Cllr Hiley announced that GTC had now set up a Company Limited by Guarantee. The new company would be a trustee of the charity. All trustees would have a fixed term of five years. GTC was not yet able to progress the new almshouses at Wellbrook Way. Neither was it likely that the new community building would be moved forward this year.
6. Parish Plan – report circulated in advance of the meeting.
7. Fields in Trust – A meeting had been arranged with Philip Peacock of Cambridgeshire ACRE who had explained the legal position. Cllr Wilson had circulated four basic proposals on the way forward.
8. Youth Works – No report received.

9. Footpaths and Rights of Way – Cllr Peter Starling referred to his circulated report on the footbridges in Girton, and to the meeting with Sarah Shepherd, Cambridgeshire County Council’s Rights of Way Officer on 4th June. Access to the Countryside funds were available for local projects from the Northstowe development. Sarah had been extremely positive following her walk along footpath 4 with several Councillors and the Clerk. She had confirmed that “one off” fencing and hedging monies would be available to improve the path, and that the barriers adjacent to St Vincents Close would be removed. Once overgrown hedging had been cut back he would arrange for a further trim in August.

Cllr P Starli

The Parish Chairman referred to the Parish Partnership Path (P3) grant of £230 that had been received from Cambridgeshire CC, and the monies underspent (£142) from the 2008/09 P3 grant. He requested that aims and objectives should be set for these monies in 2009/10 and drew attention to the conditions that Girton Parish Council were expected to meet such a conditions survey of our footpaths.

Cllr P Starli

09/75 That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th May 2009 be confirmed

Approved and signed.

09/76 Matters arising from minutes

Item 09/61 Resignation of Cllr Robin Hodgkinson	The Chairman has written to thank Cllr Hodgkinson for his work for the village.
Item 09/63 Footpaths & Rights of Way	The Clerk has circulated Cllr Starling’s report on footpath bridges.
Items 09/68/ii/ix/x Appointments	The Clerk has notified Helen Wilson, Noel Knights, George Thorpe, and Colin Carr of their respective appointments.
Item 09/70 Sewage works at junction of Huntingdon Road and Victoria Road.	Clerk has sent a letter of appreciation to Anglian Water’s Chief Executive regarding the lack of disruption in and out of the city.

09/77 Correspondence received (circulated at the meeting)

Girton Golf Club querying future provision of a bowling green in the parish and expressing an interest in providing one.	Letter referred to Vice Chairman to discuss with Dr Moody, Chairman of Girton Golf Club’s Development Sub Committee.
Dr Finney, Development Control Engineer of Cambridgeshire CC responding to GPC’s inquiries about the Section 38 Agreement for Wellbrook Way.	Letter referred to the Vice Chairman for information.
Letter of acknowledgement from Andrew Lansley MP dated 22 May concerning A14.	Lack of response by Barbara Follett queried with Andrew Lansley’s office. We have been advised that our MP is taking up the issue with Lord Adonis, the Minister for Transport

Email from Allianz Cornhill Claims Division recommending that liability for accident in recreation car park of 21 st May 2007 be conceded.	Clerk phoned to check that this would not have any financial consequences for Girton Parish Council and was assured that the insurance company would meet the costs of the claim.
Email exchange with Cambridgeshire CC about the extension of the local cycle network, and Girton Corner.	Issues remain outstanding.
Copy of signed contract for black squirrel logo received from the artist.	Date of receipt of artwork queried by Clerk. This should be received by next Environment Committee of 22 nd June 2009.
2009/10 Parish Partnership Grant of £230 received by GPC.	Clerk notified Cllr Starling of receipt of grant. (See Item 09/74/9)
Letter from Impington resident about A14 noise attenuation measures, local parishes joining forces, and referring to a German noise attenuation fence.	Clerk referred correspondence to Parish Chairman in view of our existing Joint Action Group membership With other local parishes.
Letter from member of parish querying GPC's stance on the curry and burger van.	Clerk responded by drawing attention to the articles on this issue in June's Girton Parish News.

09/78 Finance & resource management

1. To approve payments from 20th May 2009 to 16th June 2009

Approved.

2. To approve the draft Finance Regulations

These were circulated at the last meeting. The proposed amendments at Appendix A were then formally moved by the Chairman. These were agreed subject to words "at present" in line three of paragraph 9.9 of the draft being re-instated. The draft Finance Regulations as amended were then adopted by the Council.

09/79 To receive unconfirmed Committee minutes for the Planning, and Sports & Recreation Committees, and Committee Reports

Committee minutes were circulated and noted.

09/80 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council

1. Following annual review of performance to consider and approve the recommended increase in the pay of the Bookings Administrator

The Council approved the Clerk's recommendation to increase in pay from £9.13/hour to £9.81/hour for 2009/10.

2. To consider and approve one of the quotes for fencing the play area on the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Wilson, Chairman of the Sports and Recreation Committee, proposed that this item be deferred until a later meeting. This was agreed.

09/81 Matters raised by Councillors including items for the next Agenda

Cllr P Starling referred to the 40mph limit along the Oakington Road. Most drivers were driving far faster. It would be sensible to reduce the speed limit to 30mph.

Cllr Taylor noted the police raid on the cannabis factory in Mayfield Road.

Cllr C Starling was concerned about the amount of cracks that were appearing in village trees.

The meeting ended at 8.24pm.

Appendix A

Proposed amendments to the Financial Regulations

Preamble: add "In the event of conflict between these Financial Regulations and the Council's Standing Orders as of 17 June 2009, these Regulations shall take precedence."

3.1 and 3.2. Replace "class of expenditure" by "item"

9.3: No change. I believe the Regulations allow for the current situation: that the Council fulfills this role by delegating it to S&R.

9.9. After "when the cash is counted" add "and recorded as received".
Add the words "and recorded" after "counted" in line 3.

10.1. Amend to read:

An official order or letter shall be issued on the authority of the Clerk for all work, goods and services unless a formal contract is to be prepared or an official order would be inappropriate. Copies of orders shall be retained in an Order Book.

[This allows for the Clerk to delegate the act of ordering (eg to his Assistant);but it remains the Clerk's responsibility.]

10.3 After "...the specification of the works it has approved or recommended..." add "including requirements for copies of test certificates, references etc."

11.1(b) No change. This is only for large items and it seems to me reasonable to consult the Council before tendering.

11.1(j) No change. The Clerk and I discussed this; it is recommended best practice and we felt that the reason could be as bland as "The Council believed that the chosen supplier offered best value for money" which would not be actionable (I hope!),

13.1 add "of" in first line between "stores and equipment" and "each section"

13.3. Number as 13.2

13.2 Number as 13.3, and replace "the Sports & Recreation Committee" by "the appropriate Committee".