

**Minutes of Girton Parish Council's Meeting of Wednesday 17th February 2010
at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs D de Lacey (Chairman), S Clift (Vice Chairman), E. Bullman, V Godby, J Thorrold, R Gordon, M Wilson, L Sparling, M Taylor, R Martin, B Bromwich, J Ford-Smith & C Starling.

Cllr J Reynolds (Cambridgeshire CC).
Roger Taylor, (Project Director, NW Cambridge University Development) and colleague
Three members of the public.

In attendance: R Stone (Clerk) and Mrs N Stone (RFO)

Items

10/18 Welcome from the Chairman

Cllr de Lacey welcomed Councillors, Roger Taylor and his colleague, and members of the public to the meeting.

10/19 Apologies

Cllrs Hiley, and P Starling.

10/20 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

None declared.

10/21 Public Participation session on agenda items & matters of mutual interest

1. Roger Taylor, Project Director NW Cambridge Development

Mr Taylor outlined the key elements of the scheme, its major roads, access for pedestrians and cyclists, green areas and areas of development. The local centre would be built first. This would include a supermarket and market square. The majority of the key worker housing would be one or two bed apartments. Two areas at the southern end of the site would include play spaces, sports pitches and allotments. The whole of the estate would be managed by the university. Councillors asked a number of questions.

Q. Would the city boundary be realigned? A. There are no plans for this.

Q. How would this & the NIAB development affect road congestion?

A. The NW University Development would add less than 1% to local traffic.

Q. The site would add water run off to the washpit brook through Girton. Would downstream culverts be improved? A. There was no intention to undertake any works as no extra run off was envisaged.

Q. Was grey water to be re-used? A. Yes. The aim was to comply with code level 5.

Q. What was the timescale for the project? A. Outline planning permission in November 2010, grant consent in April 2011, and reserved matters in 2013/14.

Q. Would streets and the market place be adopted?

A. Principal roads would be adopted. Other roads and cycleways would be maintained by the university.

The Chairman thanked Mr Taylor and invited Councillors to put forward further questions to him to forward. It was noted that there would be a further public consultation in April.

2. Members of the public

A resident of Wellbrook Way complained about the current standard of the main arterial road through the development, and the delay in its final resurfacing. The Chairman said this would be taken up with Wimpey. **Action:** Cllr de Lacey

3. District Councillors' reports (Cllr de Lacey's report is attached at Appendix A) No questions were raised. Cllr Bygott was not present.

4. County Councillor's report - Circulated in advance of the meeting. Several questions were put to Cllr Reynolds.

Q. What reductions would be made to mobile libraries following the £1m cut in the library service? A. Vans with a weekly schedule would operate every two weeks, and those already on this schedule would reduce to every four weeks.

Q. The accuracy of electronic bus times on bus stops was queried.

A. Cllr Reynolds agreed this was a problem. The Citi 5 service had been decoupled from Citi 6 to improve services but there were still delays. Problems should be raised with the operator.

Q. Concern was raised about the lack of progress with the 30mph speed limit on the Huntingdon Road. Was this still County Council policy? A. Yes.

5. Police Report

None received. Cllr Godby said that Neighbourhood Watch had met on 16th February. She reported that PCSO Karen Mahoney was moving to a new post; and that there had been a sexual offence in the village before Xmas.

6. Parish Plan

The Chairman said that the Steering Group was close to finishing its analysis of the questionnaires. Its aim was to complete its final report in April. A report would be made to the Annual Parish Meeting on 1st June.

10/22 To confirm the minutes of Parish Council meetings of 20th & 28th January 2010.

20/1/10 Prop: Cllr de Lacey Sec: Cllr Wilson

Cllr Gordon requested an amendment in Item 10/12. The reference to fir trees should be replaced by "leylandi". Following this change the minutes were approved, and signed by Cllr de Lacey.

28/01/10 Prop: Cllr de Lacey Sec: Cllr Wilson

Following Cllr Hiley's name being added to the list of apologies, and Cllr L Sparling's name being correctly spelt the minutes were approved, and signed by Cllr de Lacey.

10/23 Matters arising

09/167 St Johns Lease	Several issues remain outstanding. Legal advice may need to be sought. The Council would be updated on progress.
09/168 Consultation on third transport plan for Cambridgeshire	Deadline for comments is 9 th April 2010. Cllr Bromwich volunteered to lead on the GPC response.
09/175 Shed for new bowls green	A suitable shed has now been identified within

	£4500 budget. This would be ordered in the near future.
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10/24 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council

- 1. To approve the remedial works at Wellbrook Way as amended by Rob Mungovan (SCDC). Plans available in Parish Office.**

Prop: Cllr de Lacey Sec: Cllr Clift Approved with one abstention.

Action: Clerk to notify Rob Mungovan (Ecology Officer, SCDC)

- 2. To note the new NALC template for Parish Council Standing Orders prior to these being approved at a subsequent meeting in 2010. (These are available from: http://www.nalc.gov.uk/Publications/Standing_Orders_for_Local_Councils.aspx)**

Noted. Updated SOs will be referred to the new Council for approval after the 2010 elections.

Action: Clerk

- 3. To approve expenditure of £160 from the P3 grant on tree clearance works on Footpath 13 between Thornton Close and Whitehouse Lane**

Prop: Cllr Gordon Sec: Cllr de Lacey

Cllr Gordon explained this was coming forward to the full Council to clear unwanted growth before the bird nesting season, and to use the chippings to make the surface of the path less slippery. Expenditure of £160 of P3 grant monies was approved by unanimous vote.

10/25 Finance & resource management

- 1. To approve payments from 20th January 2010 to 16th February 2010**

Prop: Cllr Martin Sec: Cllr Clift Approved with one abstention.

- 2. To approve the balance sheet at 31st January 2010.**

Prop: Cllr Thorrold Sec: Cllr Wilson Unanimous.

A query was raised about improving the building society interest rates available to the Council.

Action: RFO to make inquiries.

- 3. To receive the finance report from 1st April 2009 to 31st January 2010.**

Received by the Council.

- 4. To amend the Financial Regulations as follows:**

After 3.4 add (with consequent renumbering as required)

“3.5 European Union Public Sector Procurement Rules:

EU Procurement thresholds from 1st Jan 2010 are:- £156,442 for services and supplies, and £3,927,260 for works. Advice should be sought for projects at these levels.”

Prop: Cllr de Lacey Sec: Cllr Ford-Smith. Unanimous. **Action:** Clerk

10/26 Correspondence received (circulated at the meeting)

Open letter from Girton College Ball Committee	Advertised at GPC notice board at Girton Co-op
CCC letter notifying GPC that countryside access funding has now ceased.	Funding has aided projects in Girton at Town End Close and on GPC's recreation ground.
Resident complaining about state of verges at top of Pepys Way.	Issue referred to Highways Department of Cambridgeshire County Council
Copy email from Orchard Park Community Council about A14 widening project.	Adds to GPC's complaints to Highways Agency on noise & pollution.

NW Cambridge – University development	Record of January 2010 Workshop
Email from Cllr John Reynolds (CCC)	Details salt & gritting runs
Letter from a resident about access being restricted to Anglia Ruskin sports field at south of Girton.	Contact made with Estates Management Dept of ARU which has concerns about new NIAB development.
Copy letter from resident about unreliability of Citi 6 bus service.	-
SCDC email about Northstowe funded projects.	Includes footpaths & cycleways.
Highways Agency letter on A14 project.	Government to hold a Public Local Inquiry.
Wimpey letter about Wellbrook Way.	GPC to comment on proposed remedial works.
Letter from Andrew Lansley MP	Hopes to resolve objections to A14 to avoid need for a Public Local Inquiry.

10//27 To receive reports:

- i) Chairman’s Report (*Attached at Appendix B*). Cllr de Lacey added that GPC had to respond to the current consultation on the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan. This included the three clay pits within the parish for the proposed A14 development. Cllr Ford-Smith volunteered to help with the Council’s response.
- ii) Girton Town Charity – Cllr Gordon reported that GTC is continuing to have problems in gaining planning permission from SCDC for 7 houses to accommodate the needs of disabled people. Their specification had been slightly changed, and the plans for one house had been adjusted by one metre. Rather than accepting the changes SCDC had insisted re-application for planning permission.
- iii) Girton Youth Club – Tim Shuker-Yates had been appointed as the new youth leader. Cllr Gordon said he would arrange for him to be introduced to Councillors at the next Council meeting on 17th March. Action: Cllr Gordon
- iv) Disability Working Group – Cllr Ford-Smith referred to the DDA report that had been circulated, and said he would welcome another member to the group.
- v) Footpaths and Rights of Way – No report.

10/28 To receive unconfirmed Committee minutes for the Sport & Recreation Committee of 13th January, and Planning Committee, and Environment Committee of 8th February 2010.
Received by the Council.

10/29 Matters raised by Councillors including items for the next Agenda.

Cllr Bromwich raised concerns about cutting down trees in the 5 metre strip on Wellbrook Way at the rear of the Thornton Road properties.

Cllr Gordon referred to the recent increase in graffiti particularly on the bus shelters in the village. Cllr C Starling added this was a problem all over the Cambridge area at present.

Cllr Sparling said we should ensure that play equipment was suitable for disable children.

Cllr Ford-Smith emphasised the need to circulate documents in advance rather than table them.

Cllr de Lacey said that the S106 deed of variation had been agreed by all parties. Planning permission for the LEAP was still outstanding but Wimpeys had ordered the play equipment.

The meeting ended at 9.03pm.

Cllr de Lacey's District Councillor Report for February 2010

I had to brave wet snow and steady rain to still-frozen Cambourne for a meeting of the Climate Change Working Group to consider how we should build global warming into SCDC's planning. After all the jokes about the weather there remains the grim reality and it is interesting that a Mini-Stern report undertaken for Manchester by Deloitte reckons that without input now, poor planning could cost that one city up to £21 billion over the next 12 years, which is roughly £8000 per person in Greater Manchester. At present in our risk register climate change is a C3 level risk (ie likelihood: possible; impact: medium).

Council met on 28 January. Before we approved the minutes there was a request that the very confused discussion about removal of recycling centres should be minuted, eliciting the embarrassing confession that the answer given had been wrong and they would (probably) stay in use.

There was on the agenda a proposal to share services with Uttlesford DC and split the savings (supposedly £600K per annum). A huge document with the agenda gave us the details, but just a day or two after the agenda was issued we received a message from the CEO and the Leader saying the deal was off. Despite questioning the Leader refused to give any useful information as to why, and we meekly referred the issue back to Cabinet.

The rejected item from our last meeting was re-presented in minimally-revised form, and we had to suspend Standing Orders to discuss it. There was still a deep unease about handing the CEO a blank cheque -- the proposal still had no figures attached -- and we successfully imposed a cap on the amount he can spend on redundancy and early retirement. The implication is, of course, a reduced service for our most vulnerable residents.

We then discussed the Local Development Framework's Site Specific Policies Development Plan, a document forced upon us by a Government Inspector, which obliges us to permit developments such as the NIAB extra site because of delays to Northstowe. It was noted that if we refuse to accept it it will be imposed on us anyway, but several of us believe that such a deeply undemocratic approach should be offered at least token resistance.

A hardy biennial then came up: to replace the present voting system with an "all out" system of just one election every four years. The reason for wanting the changes was given as a projected financial saving of £27K per annum over the next 4 years. I dared to point out that the figures took no account of the costs of consultation before a change could be implemented, and given the costs of consultation over the housing transfer 4x£27K seemed to be peanuts. The motion was defeated 41 to 10.

A motion to demand from the County Council some hard information about the Guided Bus was pushed through by the Leader without giving members the opportunity to express their (and their constituents') concerns and ire. The motion is likely to achieve nothing anyway: a CCC opposition Councillor is on record as noting that the busway meetings are so secret they do not appear on the official lists of CCC meetings, and that when he asked for information he was told he would not be given any unless he agreed to being gagged *for ever*.

Corporate Governance met on 9 February. We received a report from our internal auditors which suggested SCDC are generally satisfactory if nowhere outstanding. We received the Audit Commission's annual Letter, which painted a glowing picture of our stewardship: I had to say I did not recognise some of the descriptions, and the head of the Scrutiny Committee asked where the information had come from (with particular reference to a very positive comment on the role of his committee). Oh, we asked around, said the representative of the Commission. Well, you never asked me! was the cross response. We may hope for a little more rigour next year.
Douglas de Lacey

Chairman's Report for February 2010

The Wellbrook development has been progressing though with some hiccups. I have negotiated with Wimpey that we can import services to the site even before we take possession: this will prevent us having to dig up the road and footway and save us a considerable sum. I am now trying to see if we can delay some of the planting on the site since construction of the Bowling Green and ancillary works is bound to destroy some planted areas. But I do not want to create any further delay so am reluctant to ask for a new deed of variation: Councillors might like to suggest a way forward if you can see one. Wimpey and SCDC are currently looking at possibilities.

As the Parish Plan nears completion I shall be attending their meeting of 15 February to discuss the results.

Douglas de Lacey