

Girton Parish Council

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

**Minutes of the Meeting of Girton Parish Council on Wednesday 15th September 2010
at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs de Lacey (in the Chair), Ash, Barnard (to 10/117), Cockley, Ford-Smith (to 10/114.8), Garner (from 10/114) Godby, Johnson, Martin (to 10/117.2), Noble, Wilson.

County Councillor Reynolds and 9 members of the public.

In attendance: Linda Miller (Acting Clerk) Natalie Stone (PFO)

10/108 Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public.

10/109 Apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hiley and Taylor, and from Cllr Garner who would be delayed. The Chairman accepted their apologies.

10/110 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

None.

10/111 Public Participation session on agenda items & matters of mutual interest

1. Members of the public

Mr Ward of Januarys spoke to the Council on the advantages of accepting the offer for the landscape strip at Weavers Field. Councillor Ford Smith commented that he felt the end of the presentation was very biased. Councillor Ash asked how the calculation of monies due to the Council had been derived and how they related to the case of Stokes –v- Cambridge. Mr Ward claimed that both the examples given were in line with the Stokes judgement.

2. County Councillor's report

Councillor Reynolds reported that all transactions over £500 are now recorded on the County Council website.

3. District Councillors' reports

Cllr de Lacey's report had been received; Cllr Bygott was not present . There were no questions.

4. Police Report

No report had been received, but Cllr Godby reported that PCSO Mani is on holiday. Cllr Godby noted concerns that PCSOs could become redundant and suggested that the Council might think of putting aside a small reserve to help fund one for the village.

10/112 To confirm the minutes of Parish Council meetings of 11, 18 and 25 August.

The Minutes of the 11th August meeting were approved: Prop. Cllr Noble Sec Cllr Godby .

Unanimous

The Minutes of the 18th August meeting were approved: Prop. Cllr Godby. Sec. Cllr Ash. Unanimous
Cllr de Lacey circulated with apologies an amended version of the Minutes of the 25th August meeting. Cllr Godby proposed approval, Sec. Cllr Noble . Approved with one abstention

10/113 Matters arising from the Minutes

10/97.4	Camtad will be sent a cheque for £25 (rent for hall deducted)
10/97.5	Despite assurances on the phone, the Inspector has ruled our submission out of time (see Correspondence item 5).It may be presented at the Hearing.
10/97/7	First letter written to the NWC Project Director (see Correspondence item 3)

10/114 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council

At this point Councillor Garner joined the meeting.

1. That the Council accept the Village Plan and recommend it to South Cambs District Council.

Prop Cllr de Lacey Sec Cllr Godby.

The Introduction, Methodology and Next Steps sections were approved by the Council. During close scrutiny of each goal in the Objectives section:

Transport Summary `residents' should be `respondents' (*tris*)

Goal 1b `Joint Area Group' should be `Joint Action Group'

Goals 2 & 3: Cllr Wilson suggested that goal 3a could be considered along with the goals of 2 because cycle lanes would need to be integrated within any traffic calming redesign. And that goal 2a was pre-judging one aspect of what should be a thorough review of traffic and traffic calming in the village and retaining as a separate goal without an alternative in place risked making the situation worse rather than better.

Goal 9. It was noted that landscaping can include grass areas.

Goal 10 Cllr Wilson noted that our work in progress on Dog Control Orders was relevant here.

Goal 13 Cllr de Lacey noted a possible conflict between 13c and 3a

Goal 15 Cllr de Lacey noted that the restrictions on dispensing are built into legislation and this would need to be taken up with the Health Minister not the Surgery.

Goal 16. The Child Protection problems for local groups working with children were noted. It was suggested that IVC might be a better lead agent.

Cllr Martin proposed that the motion be amended to `That the Council note that there are specific amendments in the Village Plan on which the Council would like to work with the Plan Committee in considering before acceptance'. Sec Cllr Barnard. Unanimous

The revised motion was then proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Ash. approved unanimously.

The Chairman was asked to write to the Plan Committee to thank them for all their work.

2. That the Council approve a Child Protection Policy for Girton Parish Council

Prop Cllr Cockley Sec Cllr de Lacey

Cllr Cockley proposed an amendment to add the words `by the Child Protection Officer and the Parish Chairman' after `standard disclosure' in 2.2. With this amendment the motion was approved unanimously.

3. That the Council approve the revised Planning & Resources remit (*see Appendix C*):

Prop Cllr Wilson, sec Cllr de Lacey: unanimous.

4. That the Council approve a donation of £50 to the 2009 Poppy Appeal (*S.137, from 'Donations' budget*)

Prop Cllr de Lacey Sec Cllr Barnard. Cllr Johnson prop an amendment from £50 to £60, sec Cllr Barnard, unanimous. The amended motion was approved unanimously.

5. That the Council approve the request from NHBC to remove a hedge at Weavers Field
Prop Cllr de Lacey sec Cllr Godby. The Chairman outlined the situation and explained that he had consulted with Officers at SCDC who recommended this action and would advise on suitable replacements.. Cllr Ford-Smith asked if the issue had been referred to the Environment Committee, and Cllr de Lacey explained that although the issue had been raised with the Clerk a while ago it had not been progressed, and the NHBC was concerned at the delay. Cllr Ash noted that the footpath is breaking up in that area and could be a trip hazard. Approved unanimously.

6. Special resolution standing in the names of Councillors Barnard, Martin and Wilson (Standing Order 13.9 refers): That the Council accept the offer made by Januarys for the landscape strip at Weavers Field, the income to be placed in the General Reserve.

Prop Cllr Barnard Sec Cllr Wilson.

After extensive discussion Cllr Ford-Smith proposed as an amendment that the word `accept' be replace by `defer a decision on', sec Cllr Martin. The amendment was approved by 5-2 with 4 abstentions. Cllr Godby prop adding at the end of the motion 'until such time as a firm offer is made',

sec Cllr Martin, this amendment was defeated 2-4 with 5 abstentions. The revised motion being put was approved by 5-2 with 4 abstentions.

7. That the Council set the salaries for the PFO and Clerical Assistant for the financial year 2010-2011.

Note: the Chairman deferred this item until after Item 10/119.

Cllr Ford-Smith left the meeting at this point.

8. That the Council agree to adopt the Phone Kiosk opposite Pepys Way. Prop Cllr de Lacey sec Cllr Cockley. The Chairman noted that this proposal had been rejected by the previous Council but the box had not been removed and it was appropriate for the new Council to consider the matter. The motion was rejected 3-6 with 2 abstentions.

9. That the Council agree in principle to allow Mr Savino to trade from the Pavilion Car Park Prop Cllr de Lacey. There being no-one to second the motion, the proposal fell.

10. That the Council agree to write to Anglia Ruskin University requesting a meeting to discuss the use of the Huntingdon Road Playing Field
The motion was withdrawn by Cllr Barnard.

11. That the Council notes the erroneous comments made by Cllr Bygott in 'Girton Community News August 2010' and requests that he circulate a correction to all the original recipients. Prop Cllr Ash sec Cllr de Lacey. Cllr Ash noted the distress caused by the implication that the Council was withdrawing from the bowling green project, and cited the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting indicating that the Council had not decided any specific course of action.. Cllr Wilson noted that on 13 July 2010 he had sent Cllr Bygott an email fully explaining the Council's position. Cllr de Lacey added that as far as he was aware no S106 funding would be made available from the NIAB development. Approved with 2 abstentions.

10/115 Finance & resource management

1. To approve payments from 21 July to 17 August 2010

Prop Cllr Garner sec Cllr Ash, approved with 2 abstentions,

2. To approve the balance sheet at 31 July 2010

Prop Cllr Garner sec Cllr Godby , unanimous.

3. To receive the finance report from 1 April 2009 to 31 July 2010

The report was received.

10/116 Correspondence received

1. Letter from a resident concerning overhanging trees	Chairman has replied and is monitoring the situation
2. Letter and report from NHBC concerning 35 Weavers Field	On agenda (Item 10/114.5)
3. Letter from GPC to NW Cambridge Project Director	Item 10/97.7 refers
4. Letter from CPRE re Affordable Housing	
5. Letter from Planning Inspectorate re Mr Calladine's appeal	The Council's response is deemed out of time but we may attend the Inquiry.
6. Letter from Moore Stephens (auditors)	Annual Return accepted
7. Letter from Action for Children offering disability training.	
8. Letter from Girton Bowls Club requesting a meeting	Remitted to Chairman of Planning & Finance Committee
9 Letter from Shrievalty Trust requesting donation	
10 Letter from City Council re NIAB S106 (dated July but just received)	Dealt with at the time by phone.

11.Orchard Park SPD: consultation documents	Requires a response.
12.Foodstore for NW Cambridge: consultation documents	Requires a response.
13. Programme for P3 Training Day 22. 9. 2010	Cllr Bromwich will attend
14. Letter requesting permission to trade in Recreation Ground car park	On agenda (Item 10/114.9)
15. Letter from BT concerning adoption of red kiosk	On agenda (item 10/114.8)

Cllr Martin left the meeting at this point.

10/117 To receive reports:

1. Chairman's Report (Attached at Appendix E).Received.
2. Girton Town Charity. The Chairman circulated a report from Cllr Hiley.
3. Girton Youth Club. Cllr Johnson gave a verbal report indicating that work with younger children was increasing in an encouraging way.
4. Footpaths and Rights of Way . No report.
5. Questionnaire of Parishioners. The results were circulated by the Chairman.

10/118 To receive unconfirmed Committee minutes.

Minutes of Sport and Recreation Committee with Users had been circulated.

10/119 Matters raised by Councillors, including items for the Agenda of 20 October 2010.

Cllr Ash noted he had received a phone call concerning a fallen tree from the Wellbrook Way site and had referred the caller to Wimpey's.

10/114.7 That the Council set the salaries for the PFO and Clerical Assistant for the Financial Year 2010/2011

The Chairman proposed that the PFO be moved one point up the scale. Sec Cllr Ash. Unanimous. The Chairman proposed that the Clerical Assistant be moved one point up the scale. Sec. Cllr Cockley. Approved one against and one abstension.

The meeting closed at 9.58pm

Appendix A

SCDC Councillor de Lacey's September Report

Not much happens in August. And for the latter part of the month I was incapacitated due to the minor surgery. However, following the concerns I had expressed about our Planning website. I was invited to meet a senior SCDC officer who came to my home. We had a long and very useful meeting, and I now understand much better the thinking behind the changes. Officers were apparently finding it increasingly difficult to keep our bespoke system up-to-date and were missing targets. A consultant was invited to appraise the situation, and recommended that we should switch to an off-the-peg solution. So we did, from a company called Swift. However, apart from various other technical issues which the officer could not explain, the huge unanswered question is why an off-the-peg solution does not *work*.. Or why, as we have just discovered, officers are *still* not able to keep the database up to date. So I am afraid I still have a lot of unanswered questions. However, I have now seen many of the relevant documents, and expect shortly to be able to see at least those parts of the contract relevant to my concerns.

The new Chief Executive will shortly be in post, and is already involving herself in our affairs. She attended a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee incognito and is likely to have received a good impression of some of that Committee's shortcomings; also those of aspects of our Housing department which were the subject of the committee's agenda.

The JDCC is meeting as I write this but as the agenda does not relate to the northern fringe I shall not be attending. No doubt Cllr Bygott, a Committee member, will brief us on the meeting.

Douglas de Lacey

Appendix B

Circulated as a separate document

Appendix C

Planning and Resources Committee – Draft remit rev. 7 Sept 2010.

To co-ordinate the financial and forward planning of the Council

- **Financial remit**
 - To receive from the spending Committees and the Clerk a statement of their actual and projected spending for the current financial year and their proposed budgets for the coming year at a meeting not later than the end of August
 - To prepare an annual budget and proposed precept to put before the Council in good time.
- **Strategic Planning remit**

To receive from the Committees and other cost centres outline plans and costs for initiatives planned over a rolling four year period. Establish priorities and draw up a proposed multi-year strategic plan with allocated resources for Council approval.
- **Human Resources remit**

To oversee and review staffing levels, staff activities, performance and training.
- **Assets and Physical Resources remit**

Overview of Council owned or leased facilities (land, buildings, pitches, courts, etc) while leaving day to day management as responsibility of relevant Committees of the Council.
- **Integrity and Identity of the Village remit**

To ensure that the identity and geographic integrity of the village are maintained in the policies and services provided by the Council and in response to external developments or consultations.
- **Project Delivery**

Manage short to medium term projects as delegated by the Parish Council, including that of the Wellbrook Way Community Land.

 - Wellbrook Brief
 - Advise Council on the development of community land at Wellbrook Way.
 - To consider appropriate administrative and ownership structures to safeguard the interests of all the people of Girton for the future of these facilities.
 - To encourage the integration of the Wellbrook community into the village.

Michael L Wilson – 1 July 2010

Revised 8 July 2010. Second revision 7 September 2010

Appendix D

Extract from an email from the National House Building Council Claims Handler, regarding extensive cracking at 35 Weavers Field.

Thank you for taking my call today. Prior to Mr Stone's resignation I forwarded the following report to him.

From our finding the shrubbery was initially planted by the builder as part of the landscaping of the site. The area in question has since been handed over to the Parish council for upkeep.

Unfortunately it appears that due to the proximity of the hedges which consist of Holly, hawthorns and roses. because of the property being built of an interface of gravel and clay(which is highly shrinkable),the uptake of moisture through the roots system of the mature shrubs growing adjacent to the property has caused subsidence. Section 12 of the NHBC Engineering report summarises the details of our findings so far.

If you wish to discuss any element of our proposal of removing the shrubbery in question please let me know. I will like to also confirm that NHBC will foot the bill for the removal of the shrubbery.

Yours sincerely

Moses Himmans | Claims Handler | NHBC |

Appendix E

My operation was more than successful: the surgeon needed to do less than anticipated and I am completely discharged. Thank you for the support and help I received while I was incapacitated.

I was phoned during this period by Wimpey, to inform me that the LEAP at Wellbrook Way had been chained up, with a notice saying that as a result of a safety dispute with the PC Wimpey had closed it. However this had nothing to do with Wimpey and they wondered if we were responsible. Val kindly took me round to see the lock and chain: I then established that no-one at our end was responsible and Sam Clift kindly removed the chain. A puzzling incident since few people can have known of our safety concerns with the site.

I also received a report from George Thorpe, the Warden of Town End Close, stating that there too an extra lock had been put on the gate. This I discovered was placed by the farmer because our own lock was for some reason missing when he put his cattle in. This situation is now resolved with our lock replaced.

On Saturday 4 September I received a call informing me that the bench at Redgate Road was in a dangerous condition. I discovered that all the dowels on one side were broken, so once again I called on Sam Clift and we removed the bench from its fixings. I do not believe it will be strong enough to return to Redgate Road, even if repaired, but we could replace it with the bench in the pavilion storage room.

The clothes recycling container has now been removed from our carpark by SCDC. Similar containers were found in Willingham and at one of the Tesco stores. Investigations are continuing.

Douglas de Lacey