

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 held on Wednesday 19 October 2011 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs: de Lacey (Chairman), Bromwich, Clift, Cockley, Garner, Godby, Gordon, Hiley (from Item 11/122), Taylor, Thorrold, Westley

Cllr Tom Bygott (SCDC) (to Item 11/121)

Cllr John Reynolds (CCC) (to Item 11/121)

2 member of the public (one from Item 11/122 only)

In attendance: Susan Cumming (Clerk), Natalie Stone (RFO)

11/116 Welcome from the Chairman . The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He expressed the Council's regret that Peter Johnson has resigned because of pressure of work, and expressed the Council's gratitude for the work Cllr Johnson had done whilst a councillor, particularly on the Sport and Recreation Committee. The Chairman introduced and welcomed the new Parish Clerk.

11/117 Apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies have been received from Cllrs Noble and Martin, and the Chairman accepted their reasons.

11/118 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda None declared.

11/119 Public Participation session on agenda items & matters of mutual interest:

1. Members of the Public

No members of the public wished to speak.

2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*)

Cllr Reynolds defended the 25% pay rise received by County Councillors. The timing of this decision was questioned, and it was noted that being a councillor at any level should not be a monetary decision.

3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*)

Cllr Bygott outlined the two major planning applications at NW Cambridge and Northstowe.

Cllr de Lacey gave an update from negotiations with Taylor Wimpey, which appeared to be on track for finalising in November.

4. Police Report

The Chairman reported that PCSO Mani has taken witness statements re: graffiti. There is no other crime reported in the village this month. Cllr Godby noted the value of ECOPS. There has also been a crackdown on parking outside the Co-Op store – if the County Council was to put down yellow lines, then the police would have more legal redress.

11/120 To confirm Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 21 September 2011.

Proposed by Cllr Gordon, seconded by Cllr Taylor and approved unanimously.

11/121 Matters arising from the Minutes:

11/110.4 The signs have now been attached

11/110.13 The Wellbrook land should be considered at the charity's 3rd November meeting.

11/122 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council:

1. To receive a report on the Council's response to the NW Cambridge Planning Application and to agree the process (*Appendix C*).

The Chairman proposed a meeting with Roger Taylor of Cambridge University on 1st November at 6.00 p.m., the venue to be arranged, and a subsequent meeting of the Parish Council to agree the Council's response on 10th November at 7.30 p.m., seconded by Cllr Hiley.

Approved unanimously.

2. To approve the proposal by Girton Cricket Club for an artificial surface and nets, subject to approval by the Parish Council's groundsman, and to the project not involving the Parish Council in any cost. (*Appendix D*)

Cllr Taylor proposed that Standing Orders be suspended, seconded by Cllr Gordon., to allow the Chairman of the Cricket Club to speak. The Cricket Club Chairman summarised the arguments for the nets, and acknowledged that he has yet to consult the other sporting clubs. It was noted that the specification does not include a top to the netting – this would cost an additional £2,000-£3,000. Councillors questioned whether the proposed cricket matting would withstand traffic such as vehicles and football boots.

Cllr de Lacey proposed the resumption of Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr Godby. Cllr Taylor proposed that this matter be discussed again at the extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 10th November, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, following the Town Charity Meeting on 3rd November at which the additional funding needed for the project to go ahead is to be discussed.

Approved unanimously.

3. To authorize Cllr Clift to investigate Christmas illuminations up to the budget of £130 as agreed in October 2010 (Item 10/127.1) and to report back to the Council.

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Cockley

It was noted that an electricity supply would be needed for lights, and that a good site would be at the Redgate Road junction.

Approved unanimously.

11/123 Finance & Resource Management:

1. To approve payments for the previous month.

Proposed by Cllr Godby, seconded by Cllr Garner.

Approved with two abstentions.

2. To approve the balance sheet.*(previously circulated)*.

Proposed by Cllr Hiley, seconded by Cllr Garner

Approved with one abstention.

3. To receive the Finance Report from 1 April 2011 to date *(previously circulated)*.

The report was received.

4. To receive Finance Report from 1 April 2011 to 31 August 2011 *(deferred from last meeting)*.

The report was received.

11/124 Correspondence

1. 26/09/11 Ref: C/11/1114/OUT and S/1886/11 Proposed Development at University Site

2. 26/09/11 Correspondence from Moore Stephens Accountants and response from Michael Woodisse

3. 26/09/11 Campaign to Protect Rural England Guide *How to Respond to Planning Applications*

4. 03/10/11 Invitation to tender for maintenance of Open Spaces in Girton

5. 03/10/11 Northstowe Public Consultation Document Parish Meetings Notification

6. 04/10/11 Correspondence from parishioner regarding Girton Village Plan

7. 04/10/11 Letter from parishioner regarding NW Cambridge development

8. 05/10/11 Correspondence from HMRC regarding refund on Building Society interest deducted

9. 06/10/11 Letter from parishioner regarding St John's Field

10. 13/10/11 Letter of thanks to John Pearce regarding hooks and mobile carrier for Pavilion

11. 13/10/11 Letter of resignation from Cllr Johnson

12. 13/10/11 Notice of Conclusion of External Audit

13. 17/10/11 Minutes of Girton Bowls Green Working Party Meeting of 13 October 2011

11/125 To receive reports:

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix E*)

2. Girton Town Charity

There has been a meeting with contractors and advisors regarding the building of new almshouses. Work is projected to start over the coming winter with houses to be available by next summer. The award to the Cricket Club is to be considered at the next Town Charity Meeting. The success of the Girton Youth Project was commended, and it was agreed that Tim Shuker-Yates is building up

something of which he and the village can be rightly proud.

3. Girton Youth Project

There is no Youth Report this month. Cllr Gordon proposed that the Parish Council gives permission to investigate the feasibility of the upstairs storage space in Girton Pavilion being converted to create a dedicated Youth Space, and to invite a surveyor to access what this would involve. The YMCA could contribute towards funding this, and are prepared to get builders' prices etc and report back to the Parish Council. Disabled access to the Pavilion would be essential before planning permission would be granted. The Council approved this proposal.

4. Footpaths

There was nothing to report on footpaths.

11/126 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes:

Planning Committee 04/10/11 and 17/10/11. These have been circulated.

11/127 Matters raised by Members

Cllr Hiley raised the question of solar panels to generate electricity for the Pavilion. Cllr Bromwich will place a proposal on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Cllr Bromwich has investigated flood issues with the NW Cambridge Planning Application.

Cllrs Taylor and Gordon have attended a SCDC meeting about Section 106 agenda and the Cambridgeshire Local Plan, work on which will start in 2012. It was noted that in the Strategic Land Review six sites in Girton have been identified which could take upwards of 60 houses.

Cllr Godby suggested that to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 the Parish Council could make a contribution towards the costs incurred by the Feast Week Committee in organising celebrations of the event.

The meeting closed at 8.34 p.m.

APPENDIX A

Report to the Girton Parish Council from Cllr John Reynolds, County Councillor

BT BROADBAND PLAN FIRST STEP ON CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S SUPERFAST HIGHWAY

LEADERS GIVE BROADBAND BACKING FOR GREATER GOOD OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE

COMMUNITIES PUT IN THE HOT SEAT TO SHAPE SERVICES AND PRIORITIES

HAVE YOUR SAY ON BUS CHANGES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

GOING PLACES CAMBRIDGESHIRE READY FOR GROWING PLACES FUND

NO DEARTH OF THE SALT IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

EMERGING LIBRARY VISION AGREED

RECYCLE YOUR RIGID PLASTIC WITH US

EXTRA SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES WITH MULTIPLE PROBLEMS

ALCONBURY ENTERPRISE ZONE

NORTHSTOWE

CAMBRIDGE NORTH WEST

GOING FOR GOLD: THE OLYMPIC HERITAGE OF CAMBRIDGE

(The full report is held electronically.)

APPENDIX B

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey

14. 10. 2011

At September's Council meeting we were asked to suspend Standing Orders to permit blogging and tweeting from the chamber. I called an objection, arguing that it was extremely disrespectful to the Council, and that Councillors should be following the arguments, not distracted by electronic gizmos. This caused consternation; a motion was properly put and defeated. I subsequently looked at the Standing Order in question, which forbids 'audio and / or visual or photographic recording in any format'. It seems to me that if tweeting violates that, so does the note-taking that I do -- and indeed that of the official Clerk of the meeting. I am urgently seeking clarification.

On 23 September I had a meeting with Brian Bromwich of Girton Parish Council and the Highways Engineer responsible for Girton, together with members of his team and a representative from the Environment Agency, in the hope that we could establish the causes of the periodic flooding in the Thornton and Fairway areas. A very useful morning's work was done which will be followed up by Highways and the EA.

On 28 September the Planning Committee had a 'day out', looking at some examples of big developments in S Cambs over the past decade. As Wellbrook Way was on the list I joined them there, and was invited to talk about the problems (I have to say, it was on the list as 'how not to do it').

On 30 September the Corporate Governance Committee met, with an advertised start time of 0830. Since however this was a mistake, and neither the Chairman nor officers were around, members of the committee had a very useful time discussing how we would like the committee to work. At the meeting we congratulated our auditors for a fine picture of North London on the cover of a report supposedly dedicated to South Cambridgeshire, and wondered about using our investment expertise (which has been very good) to set up a quasi-bank for Parishes. I asked if members were aware of the legal restrictions laid on Parishes for investment: that is one of many issues which must be investigated.

The Planning Application for NW Cambridge has been lodged with SCDC; at the same time we are being asked to respond to a consultation on new areas for strategic housing: six sites have been identified within Girton as possible developments for 10 or more homes. It is annoying that the Girton Village Plan has still not been adopted, largely because of foot-dragging in the City over the Local Strategic Partnership (an amalgam of SCDC and Cambridge City) which has generally approved such Plans. I have asked the Leader if we can take this in-house, and he has agreed. But it all adds to the pressures on us with too many deadlines looming.

The major news of the month is the defection of the leader of the Independent Group to the Conservative Party. We were immediately informed of a revision to all the committee sizes, though the sums done seem to be rather inaccurate and will be challenged. For myself I am sufficient of a democrat to believe, although I think I have much to contribute to the Council on Girton's behalf, that if the electorate prefer a representative of a Party to a representative of the Village, so be it.

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX C

NW Cambridge Planning Application: Proposals for Girton Parish Council's Response.

The Application

The Application consists of 175 electronic documents on-line, or a pile of paper about 4' high. How then should a Parish Council best respond? For the Parish the major issues are covered in the Environmental Statement, and I hope that all councillors will at least read the non-technical summary of that. There are then individual issues on which some councillors may have expertise or interest -- health, ecology, waste management, transport &c -- where I hope some councillors will be prepared to look in more depth.

The Criteria

We shall need to assess this application against a multitude of Planning Documents which together form the legal basis of planning in SCambs. Gut feelings that something is not acceptable can only be offered as valid objections if they can be shown to conflict with one of these. But the gut feelings are worth recording: officers may be able to help us then decide if they are valid concerns or not.

Although the Parish Plan has not yet been approved by SCambs I hope we shall also assess this proposal in the light of the Plan, not only because it is ours but also because I hope it will be adopted by SCDC early in November. It will then become one of the Planning Documents.

Process

So how do you assess the bits of the Application which you read? I suggest you are looking for:

- * factual errors, errors of logic (inadequate data for a conclusion), or statistical incompetence, where we can reasonably ask for more work to be done;
- * implausible assumptions or conclusions, where we can ask for the underlying data and subject them to greater scrutiny
- * inadequate solutions to identified problems; eg you may have seen the report in the Cambridge News that developers are too ready to offer commuted sums rather than actual facilities (I don't know if the University is proposing that for NWC)
- * hints of good practice where we may be able to ensure that the ideal does not get watered down in the hard light of reality

Timetable

There is little point in another meeting with Roger Taylor until Councillors have had a chance to look at the plans. I would propose therefore that the Council arrange to meet him early in the week 31 October - 4 November, with a meeting of our own very shortly after that to agree a response. In the interim I hope to send questions to Roger for a response before those meetings so that the time together can be as useful as possible. The formal deadline for submissions is 4 November but I have requested an extension and we have been given until 11 November.

Douglas de Lacey
12. 10. 2011

APPENDIX D

Report on Cricket Club's proposal for an artificial surface

Having had time to study all the information from Radford Ezy Net and carried out my own measurements of the site, I now see plainly what I had always suspected that putting a two-bay cricket net between the Pavilion and the Tennis Courts is impractical.

Some reasons for rejection:

1. **Blocking access onto the Recreation Ground.**
2. **Filling up an area that is often important to other Users.**
3. **Would have to be sacrificed if any Pavilion extension went ahead.**
4. **Safety concerns, that during net practise being so close to the building is a danger to others.**
5. **Would mean moving access to the Tennis Courts.**
6. **Neal Radford said the area was tight and work may interfere with Tennis Courts/Lights.**

Other sites around the Tennis Courts and MUGA have most of the same problems

A single bay (if considered adequate) would overcome some but not of the above problems.

However I can envisage a facility on 10 Acre Field if Girton Cricket Club were keen to proceed with this project.

Chris Wilson

11th October 2011

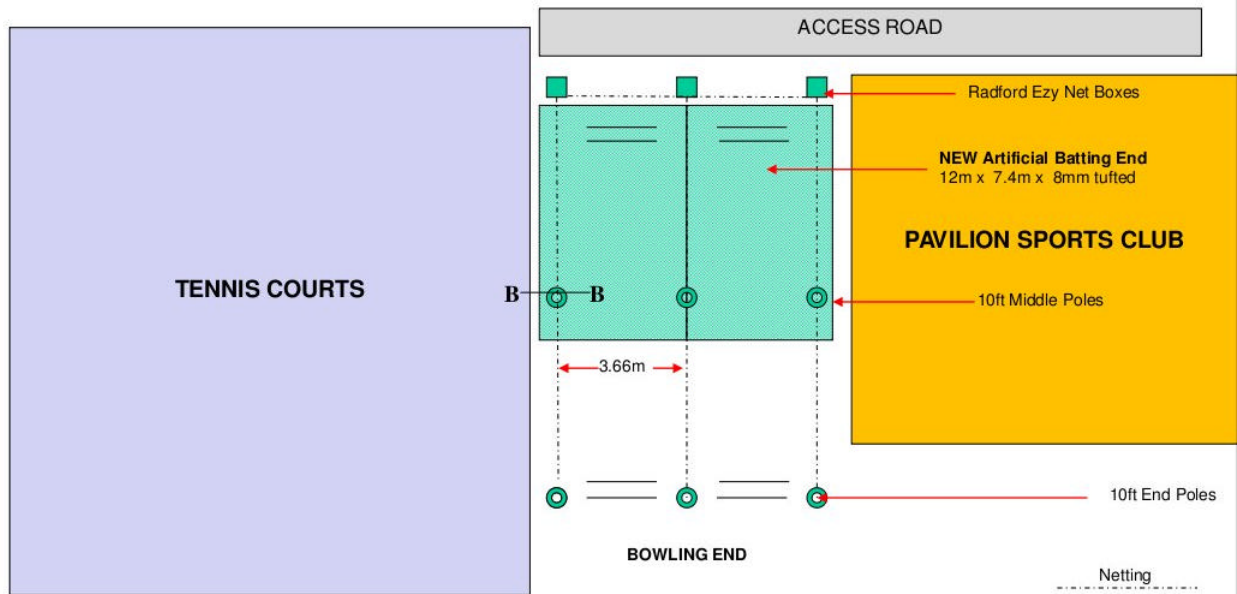
Response from Graham Clare, Girton Parish Council Health and Safety Officer

Having read the report by Chris I totally agree with his sentiments. The proposed area would become too busy and given the amount of space that could be made available on the 10 acre site I think that is the best bet all round.

Don't forget to offer my apologies for non attendance at the meeting. Ta!

Regards

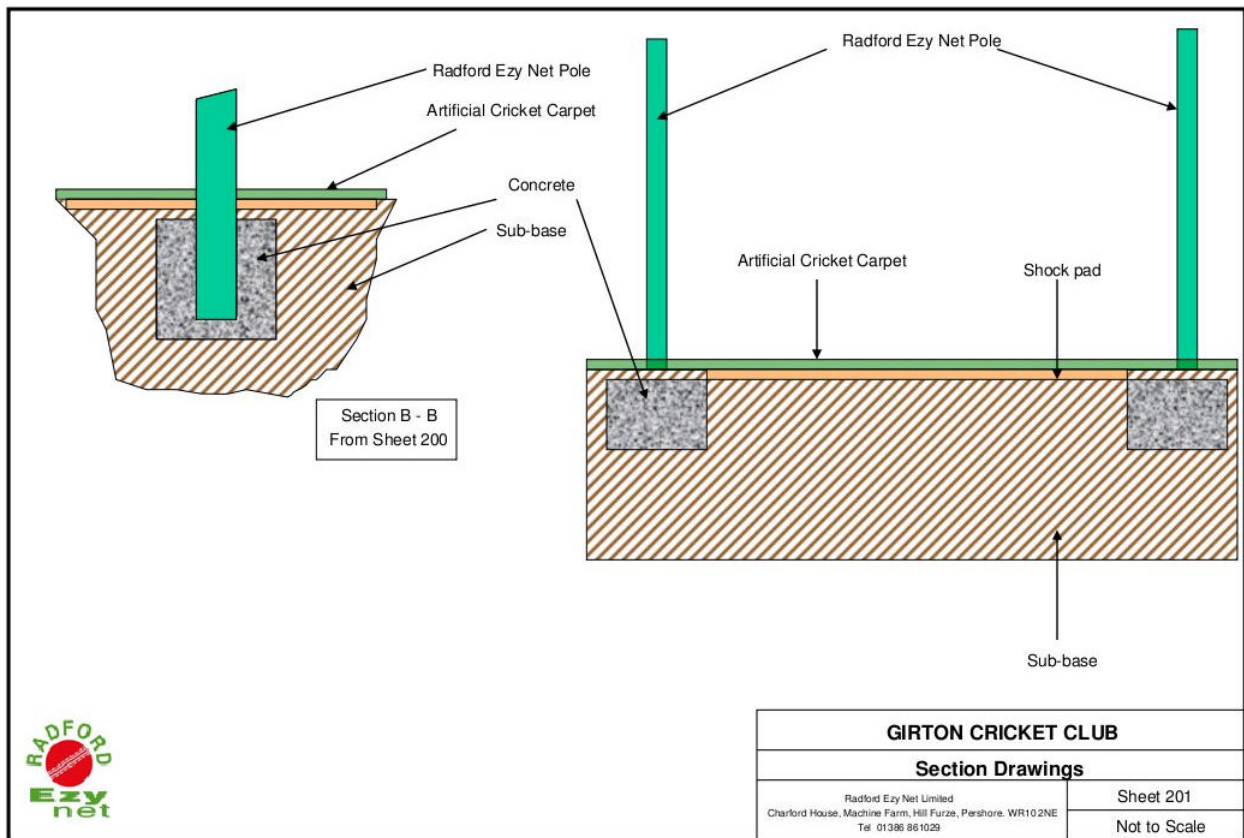
Graham



For section B - B
See Sheet 201

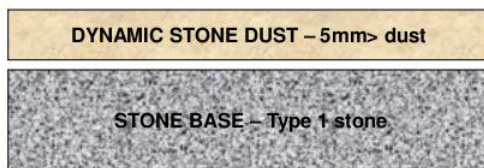
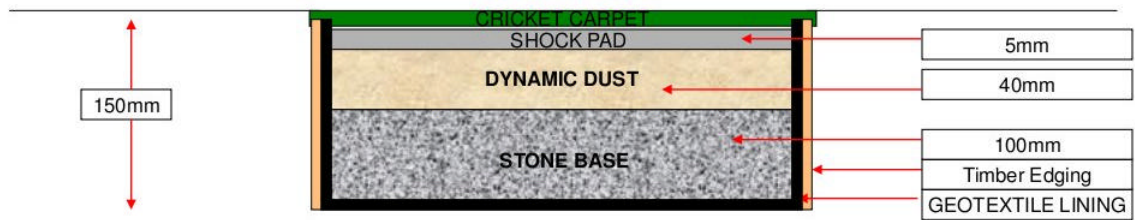
2 x 12m Artificial Batting Ends

GIRTON CRICKET CLUB	
Radford Ezy Net System for 2 bays	
Radford Ezy Net Limited Charford House, Machine Farm, Hill Furze, Pershore. WR102NE Tel: 01386 861029	Sheet 200
	Not to Scale

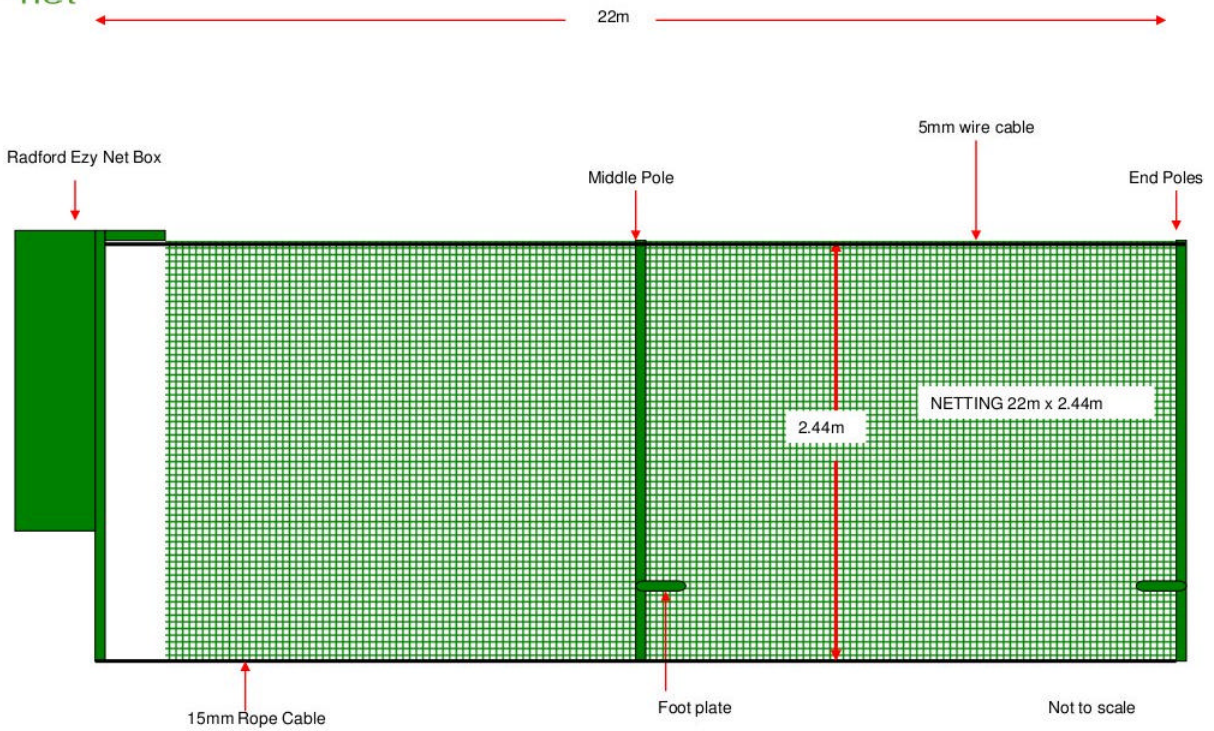


GIRTON CRICKET CLUB	
Section Drawings	
Radford Ezy Net Limited Charford House, Machine Farm, Hill Furze, Pershore. WR102NE Tel: 01386 861029	Sheet 201
	Not to Scale

SIDE ANGLE OF DYNAMIC BASE



Side view of netting system



APPENDIX E

Chairman's Report to Girton Parish Council

Our new Clerk has begun her duties and is settling in well. It is a pleasure to welcome her to the team. Sadly, during the month Peter Johnson has tendered his resignation owing to pressures of work. I am sure all Councillors appreciate the hard work he has put in during his time on the Council, and he will be sorely missed.

Several of our hedges have been trimmed during this month, are looking much better for it. Ray Gordon and George Thorpe have also sown the last patch of the Hibbert-Ware Garden with wild flowers and grass, and several villagers have commented to me how very attractive the garden now looks. I am grateful to everyone who has worked on it over this season.

The Pavilion continues to be almost fully occupied, and a Boot Camp has been started on the Recreation Ground for the really keen: 0630 to 0715 twice a week - and Histon Football Scholarship Scheme is using the football pitches twice a week, so our facilities are being very well used.

As far as I know negotiations between SCDC and Taylor-Wimpey are on track for completion next month. South Cambs has published the latest Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment on its website at www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf/shlaa and we need to know how to respond to this.

We shall also need to decide soon how to respond to the forthcoming proposals about Northstowe.

At the instigation of a parishioner, I approached BT about the state of the telephone kiosk by Girton College to ask if anything could be done about its appearance. Now it has been repainted, and looks infinitely better than before.

Douglas de Lacey , 12/10/11