Girton Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th January, 2012 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs: de Lacey (Chairman), Bromwich, Clift, Cockley, Garner, Godby, Gordon, Hiley, Martin, Simpson, Taylor, Thorrold, Westley, Williams

Councillors Bygott (SCDC) and Reynolds (CCC)

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk), N Stone (RFO)

- **12/01 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished the councillors a happy and productive new year.
- **12/02** Apologies and reasons for absence Cllr Noble sent apologies and the Chairman accepted her reasons.
- **Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** Cllr Gordon declared a personal interest in Item 12/07.5 as a member of Cottenham Brass Band.

12/04 Public Participation session on agenda items & matters of mutual interest:

- 1. Members of the Public. There were no members of the public present.
- 2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*)

Cllr Reynolds reported that the Draft Budget Announcement for Cambridgeshire County Council should be made next week. He noted that financial pressures on councils have not eased and that in the longer term, with turmoil on the European markets, there will be a further spending revue by the government which may look at further reductions. Regarding councillors' allowances, Cllr Reynolds was asked to take into account the views of his constituents. A new panel will consider the evidence regarding councillors' allowances and will produce a report – but this is not binding on the council.

The 2011 online mock budget exercise was useful and it was queried if this could be repeated or extended into a public meeting.

There is concern for road safety at the traffic lights on Girton Corner, where the changes in the timings make crossing the road difficult for cyclists and pedestrians. Cllr Reynolds agreed to consult about this.

The guided busway has recently had its millionth passenger, which is less than the bus operators had predicted, because the prediction included Northstowe coming onstream. It was noted that buses are unable to pick up from Longstanton Park and Ride at peak shopping times – in answer to this, the service was doubled for weekends before Christmas. There is demand for connectivity with the busway from residents of Dry Drayton and Bar Hill – e.g cycleways into Longstanton, where they could then link up with the system. It was also hoped that the No. 6 bus to Oakington would go right the way round to the junction in future.

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

Cllr Bygott spoke about the A14 Challenge and Cllr Taylor reminded councillors that the consultation closes on 31st January.

The District Council are encouraging villages to write Emergency Plans, according to the Draft Emergency Plan template. Lawrence Green, the Emergency Planning Officer at SCDC will be happy to give advice. The directive is for all parishes to update their Emergency Plan every two years. Councillors noted that former councillor John Ash initiated the Emergency Plan for Girton, which is 75-90% completed.

Further to his District Councillor's Report, Cllr de Lacey read out an email he'd just received from Roger Taylor, regarding terminating tenancies on the NW Cambridge development site. It was queried what support the University will offer to residents affected by the plans.

The issue of potentially-dangerous junctions for cyclists both at the NIAB site and the NW Cambridge development was raised. Cyclists and pedestrians need to be able to use main roads in safety.

4. Police Report (E-Cops) (*Appendix C*) Cllrs de Lacey and Godby gave updates.

Councillors Bygott and Reynolds left the meeting at this point.

12/05 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Wednesday 21st December, 2011.

The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Cockley, seconded by Cllr Thorrold, approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

12/06 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only):

11/158.4 See correspondence item 12/09.4

11/158.5 See correspondence item 12/09.7

12/07 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council:

1. To establish a Wellbrook Way Committee to implement the replanting and maintenance of the Wellbrook Way Public Open Space (excluding the Bowling Green).

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Garner.

Councillors Taylor, Thorrold, Garner and Godby volunteered to form a Wellbrook Way Committee – Cllr Taylor chairs the Bowling Green committee and would provide useful liaison, and Cllr Garner would be happy to liaise with the Wellbrook Way Residents Association.

Approved with one abstention.

2. To consult with local residents regarding the proposal for a cycle lane at the junction of Huntingdon Road and Thornton Road.(*Appendix D*).

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Cockley.

Cllr Clift proposed an amendment, seconded by Cllr Taylor, that the northern cycle lane on Thornton Road be excluded. The amended motion was carried unanimously.

Cllr Hiley proposed an amendment, seconded by Cllr Taylor, that this motion be linked to a proposal to extend the cycle lane at Girton Corner. The amendment was carried with three abstentions.

The Parish Council will consult with Highways as to who needs to be consulted, and will put details of the proposal in the Girton Parish News.

Approved with three abstentions.

3. To consult with local residents regarding the proposal for double yellow-line road markings at the junction of Girton Road and Weavers Field (*Appendix E*).

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Westley.

The Council has consulted with the Co-Op store and they are happy for us to go ahead. Cambridgeshire Highways traffic engineer has drawn-up the plan and the Council now proposes to consult with neighbours. It was pointed out that there have been no recorded accidents at the Co-Op and the provision of yellow lines might increase vehicle speeds – currently, parked vehicles act as an obstruction. There were concerns that the yellow lining might lead to parking on the bridge.

Cllr Hiley proposed an amendment that the extent of the southern yellow lines need to be re-examined with respect to sight lines on the bridge, seconded by Cllr Westley. The amendment was carried with twelve votes for, two against and two abstentions.

Approved with twelve votes for, two against, and two abstentions.

4. To receive a report from the Groundsman on the probationary period of CGM for grounds maintenance and to confirm the contract for the remaining two years (*Appendix F*).

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Thorrold.

It was noted that January was a preferable start date for new grounds contracts.

Approved unanimously.

5. To agree to sponsor a Christmas Event in 2012 (preferred date 14th December) and to underwrite the event to a cost of £250. To invite Councillor Clift to organise the evening (*Appendix G*).

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Cockley.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Clift for his report on the highly-successful event in 2011.

Approved with two abstentions.

6. To agree in principle to provide external power to the Pavilion subject to finding the budget for this. Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Cockley.

The Chairman suggested that the budget for this could come from Section 106 agreements as it would be an amenity for the village. The RFO pointed out that, as Christmas lights had been in the budget a couple of years ago, this would still be in the general reserves. Cllr Clift agreed to arrange quotations for this work. Approved unanimously.

7. To allocate £1,700 from the Pavilion Maintenance Budget to replace damaged cupboard doors (see correspondence items 11/158.9 and 12/09.8).

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Gordon.

There have been more doors damaged since the last Council meeting. It was agreed that the current doors don't

seem strong enough, and to ask that hall users let the Council know if there is damage. The three options for repair and replacement were as follows: to repair existing doors would be £375 (plus VAT), to replace the doors with MDF doors would be £1,694 (plus VAT) and to replace them with fire doors would be £2,434 (plus VAT) – fire doors would be more weighty and would hopefully be more resistant to damage.

Cllr Martin proposed an amendment that up to £2,500 from the pavilion maintenance fund be allocated to provide fire doors for the hall cupboards, seconded by Cllr Gordon, and there were eleven votes in favour of the amendment, two votes against, and one abstention.

The amended motion was approved with two votes against, and one abstention.

8. To allocate resources of up to £500 to print extra copies of the Girton Village Plan for distribution to Wellbrook Way.

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Cockley.

The Chairman has looked at all other possible sources of finance, and Section 137 money could possibly be used to finance this. Councillors felt that those residents who would like a copy could have a photocopied one, and an appeal for unwanted copies to be returned to the Clerk could be put in the Girton Parish News. There is also an electronic version which people could be guided to. Copies could be made available at meetings for Wellbrook residents.

The motion was rejected with eight votes against and four abstentions.

12/08 Finance & Resource Management:

1. To approve payments for the previous month.

Proposed by Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Garner.

There was a query regarding the December payment for Peter Round, which the Clerk will check before payment.

Approved with one abstention.

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

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Garner.

Approved with one abstention.

- 3. To receive the Finance Report from 1 April 2011 to date (previously circulated). Received.
- 4. To agree that Girton Parish Council opens a 30-day notice account with Melton Mowbray Building Society to hold the money received from Taylor Wimpey for Wellbrook Way. The signatories to be the same as the existing accounts, with two to sign for withdrawals.

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Garner..

Cllr Hiley proposed an amendment, seconded by Cllr Taylor and accepted by the Chairman, that the Council's RFO opens a 100-day notice account with the Melton Mowbray Building Society and a second account, with 30-days notice, if she deems it appropriate.

Approved with one abstention.

12/09 Correspondence

- 1. 12th December, 2011 CPRE's guide 'Planning Explained'
- 2. 13th December, 2011 Street Lighting PFI Cambridgeshire
- 3. 16th December, 2011 Letter about Council Tax Referendum
- 4. 4th January, 2012 Correspondence regarding Mobile Toy Library
- 5. 6th January, 2012 Correspondence about highway grass cutting allowances
- 6. 10th January, 2012 Correspondence about footway in Girton Road
- 7. 10th January, 2012 Correspondence regarding street naming in High Street, Girton
- 8. 10th January, 2012 Correspondence regarding cupboard doors at Pavilion
- 9. 10th January, 2012 Correspondence regarding A14 Challenge
- 10. 11th January, 2012 Minutes of North-West Cambridge Development Community Group Meeting The correspondence was noted.

12/10 To receive reports:

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

The Chairman added that South Cambridgeshire District Council has accepted an offer on our behalf, from the Girton Town Charity, for its land on Wellbrook Way, and the Chairman expressed the Council's gratitude to the Town Charity.

2. Girton Town Charity

2012 will be an exciting year for the Town Charity. There are three candidates for the trustee vacancy, and an appointment is expected in February/March. The Council will write to thank Jill Scrine for her service as a

Parish Council-appointed Trustee.

Building of the seven almshouses in Wellbrook Way should begin shortly, but there is no further progress on the proposed three flats at Abbeyfield. The Town Charity's involvement with Girton Glebe School includes supporting a music event in collaboration with St Mary's School, at West Road Concert Hall.

- 3. Girton Youth Project (Appendix I)
- 4. Footpaths. Nothing to report this month.

12/11 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes:

1. Planning Committee Meeting – 21st December, 2011. Received.

12/12 Matters raised by Members

Cllr Hiley commented that the footpath between 10-Acre Field and Girton Wood needed stabilising as there is a thorn hedge splitting the path in two.

Cllr Taylor reported that he bowls club have a consultant working with them and will submit plans to the Parish Council.

Cllr Taylor told the Council that the President of Cambridge, Past, Present and Future would be willing to speak about Community Orchards at the Council's February meeting, if the agenda allows.

Cllr Hiley has been approached by a parishioner regarding the question of why there is no cycle path between Thornton Way and Wellbrook Way.

Cllr de Lacey reported that Willmott Dixon are using the land opposite the public open space and this will consequently be re-levelled and seeded.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

APPENDIX A

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN REYNOLDS, 15th JANUARY 2012

KEEP SAFE AND WARM THIS WINTER

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN SOCIAL SERVICES WILL HELP REDUCE DELAYED DISCHARGES

CHRISTINE IS BUSWAY'S ONE IN A MILLION

BROADBAND FOR ANOTHER 34,000 HOMES AND BUSINESSES

DOUBLE BROADBAND SPEEDS WILL HELP BOOST BUSINESS GROWTH

NEW PORTAL OPENS UP MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED ON CAMBRIDGESHIRE ROADS GOES DOWN

SCHOOLS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AIMING FOR £1 MILLION MORE

FULBOURN COUNCILLOR GIVES STAMP OF APPROVAL FOR POST OFFICE PLANS

PARTNERSHIP APPROACH KEEPS CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTRYSIDE OPEN

VIEWS SOUGHT ON REVISED SPECIAL NEEDS STRATEGY

SWIMMING WITH LOAN SHARKS CAN DAMAGE YOUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

PARTNERSHIPE APPROACH KEEPS CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTRYSIDE OPEN

SPEEDING: NO - ONE THINKS BIG OF YOU

APPENDIX B

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey

11. 1. 2012

The major news is of course that SCDC officers working with the Parish Council's lawyers managed to finalise the transfer of the Wellbrook Way open spaces, and the first tranche of money to develop them, just before Christmas. Since then I have been discussing with the Landscape and Ecological Officers how the remedial planting should be handled and there will very shortly be a meeting between them, myself and the Chairman of the Parish Environment Committee.

The Corporate Governance Committee has met, starting with a briefing on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA). Of perhaps 400 investigations a year (mainly benefit fraud and fly-tipping) only a tiny handful require measures covered by the RIPA, and those (as well as many of the others) have generally resulted in successful prosecution.

The major item on our agenda was to approve a `new look' presentation of our accounts, in plain English and without the bewildering accountants' conventions. It is available at http://tinyurl.com/6trkuum (available as either MS Word or PDF).

We noted that our auditors' fees were significantly less than last year and were told that this was a direct result of the hard work of our own accounts staff.

We also looked ahead to how we are going to handle perhaps the biggest issue to hit SCDC since I joined. Central government has decided to solve the national problem of council housing by divvying up the debt run up by councils and sharing it out equally (for some value of `equally'). SCDC had no debt in this area, but will now be saddled with a £203M debt on top of all the retrenchment we are required to make. For the first time, therefore, SCDC will have to borrow money, and we discussed how we might handle this: pay off interest only and condemn our grandchildren to a nasty shock 30-40 years down the line, or what? Our committee will be at the forefront of the decision-making here.

Since then little has happened at South Cambs Hall but the new year is likely to become much more lively Real Soon Now. We are bracing ourselves for the new Northstowe application, and controversy still surrounds the location of a new football stadium (which for some unfathomable reason appears to come with an extra 400+homes) which is supposed to be added on to either Trumpington Meadows or NIAB 2. Neither site really has adequate space, as in each case it would entail the removal of even more Green Belt land.

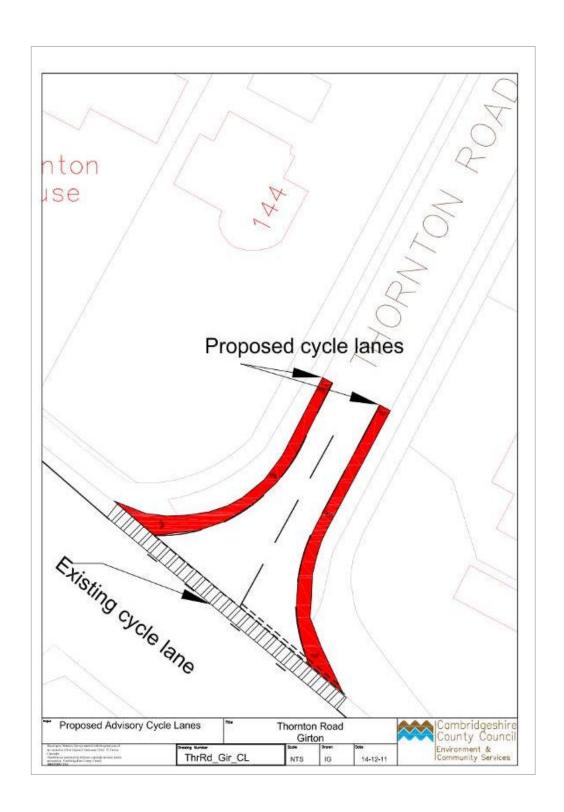
APPENDIX C

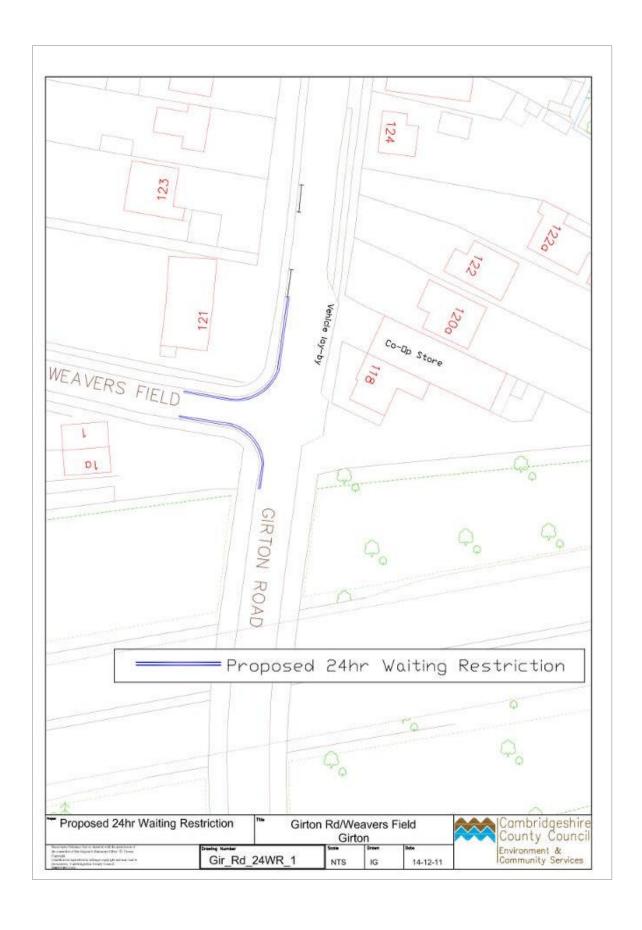
Extract from E-Cops:

"We have had 1 crime report for Girton this week.

Unknown offender/s have stolen three mail bags from the location. The mail bags are left at the location by a delivery van this is then collected by a local post worker later in the day. There was four mail bags dropped at the location only three have been taken. The postal bags are kept out of view to the side of a local property. This occurred in Cambridge Road, Girton on Wednesday the 21st of December between approx times 10:30hrs and 11:30hrs." I reported a caravan and untaxed car at St Vincent's Close, but PCSO Mani was unable to locate them when he returned from his Christmas leave. Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX D





APPENDIX F

Report on CGM - January 2012

After one season of cutting with our new contractor this is a good time to assess things so far.

2011 was a very, very odd summer, with a hot spring followed by a long period with virtually no rain., which led to some peculiar growth (or lack of) patterns. This meant that many weeks went by without the need to cut. I was (for the most part) able to inform the contractors when cutting was not needed so that they could schedule other work.

That this liaison worked so well was due to the working relationship that Dave – CGM's usual operator – and I have built up over several years, as our paths have crossed many times on other jobs. That mutual trust and friendship meant things went smoothly from the start, and things like agreeing on cutting heights were sorted out with no fuss.

The only problem came when the weather did break later in the summer. The rain came and the grass suddenly grew quickly. For the main rec this was no problem as if scheduled to be cut each week, but 10-Acre due to be mown every other week, had to wait too long for its next cut and became rather scruffy. This inflexibility considering the number of cuts that had not been done because there was no need, was to my mind slightly surprising. This matter has been raised.

This apart, I have been very satisfied with CGM and their work around the edges has also been good. I have also appreciated the offers of other services some of which we have taken up, such as the vertidraining which is in progress!

On this basis I recommend we continue the contract.

Chris Wilson 17th January, 2012

APPENDIX G

Christmas Tree, Girton 2011 a Community Project: Report by Cllr Sam Clift

In an effort to brighten up the village and bring our community together at Christmas time the Parish Council agreed a sum of £130 to be spent towards the erection of a Christmas Tree and lights in the village. Later, in a straw pole, they indicated that should this sum be marginally overspent then a further £70 might be found to cover any shortfall. Cllr Sam Clift was given 'Carte Blance' to organise the tree and lights within the bounds set out above and indicated his intentions to organise a 'switch on' evening with Carols, Santa, mulled wine and mince pies. It was the first time that such an event had been held in the village so there was no precedent as to its popularity or to the number of people who might attend. It did, however, become apparent that there were a number of people in the village who were prepared to help with the financing and running of this event.

Girton Social Club in partnership with the Parish Council agreed to host the Christmas Tree and the 'Switch on' evening and for their part supplied the electricity, cost of an occasional license, some music inside the club and Santa Claus. This of course was a great financial help and they played their part well. I thank them very much.

Peter Graves of Oaklands Nursery in Girton volunteered to supply a Christmas tree free of charge and again this was an enormous help to our finances. Peter must be thanked for all his help including the loan of his motorised chainsaw and for the use of his van to transport it to the Social Club in Girton.

Our Church leaders must also be thanked for their part in encouraging members of their congregations to come along on the evening of the 'switch on' and for their personal attendance. About 130 children from Scallywags, Cottontails and the Glebe School made decorations and came along and hung them on the tree. Clearly the schools should be thanked for their part in getting the children to do this. All the children who attended were offered a Tangerine or Gingerbread man during their visit.

Cambridge Discount Electrical and Chris Starling their employee and member of the Feast Committee were instrumental in supplying, fitting and testing all the necessary outside electrical

sockets, timers, extension cables and waterproof safety boxes to both the Social Club and Christmas tree. Discounts and donation meant that they supplied all the equipment and did all the work free of charge. I can only thank them most sincerely for this work.

Before leaving the tree I must thank 'Garry' who supplied it's base, David Bacon who manufactured it, painted and helped in the tree collection and erection and Graham Clare who also helped collect and erect the tree and who did all the PAT testing for the electronics and completed a Health and Safety check. All donated their time and expertise.

Thanks to Councillor Thorrold and to Len Sparling who were instrumental in the donation and supply of mince pies – they were great – none left.

A special thanks to Ray Gordon and those members of Cottenham Brass who gave up an evening to make the event a most enjoyable one. The music was great and the mood was one of Christmas.

Thanks also to Alice Few who organised Carols and Carol sheets.

Although many people gave of their time and made donations I would describe the organisation of the 2011 event as 'tentative'.

I did not know how many people would turn up and was not sure as to how it would turn out, whether the people of Girton wanted such an event, or how to best spend the money allocated by the Parish Council.

I need not have been concerned as children of the village seem to enjoy their daytime visits to the Christmas Tree and a surprising number of people came along on the 'switch on' evening to listen to the band and to sing along to the carols. I suggest therefore that the event had a modicum of success.

I did, however, notice that there were a number of areas where the event might be improved and in an effort to do that in a 2012 function I went along to the Cottenham Carol evening with Councillor Ray Gordon to see how they did it there. Cottenham Green lends itself to an open air function and was surrounded with coloured lights, dotted with braziers and chiminears, had a raised stage for the band, Gezebo stalls and Santa Claus made a visit on a tractor and trailer. I was impressed by the atmosphere and the fact that around 500 people or more turned up to take part in the service. I thought that we might try emulate this in Girton.

I also visited a 'Christingle' in my home village on Christmas Eve afternoon. The church was full, the congregation including many children were treated to a very pleasant carol service, puppet show and the Christingle orange. A substantial amount was collected for the less fortunate children of the world.

Recommendations:

A Carol Service should take place in Girton in 2012:

- 1. To make sure that an ensemble from Cottenham Town Band is available for 2012 it is necessary to book them now to ensure that they are available. It is therefore necessary to set a date for the event and a suggested date of Friday the 14th December 2012 seems to be the most appropriate for 2012.
- 2. It will be necessary to make a donation to the Cottenham Town Band in 2012 and a donation of £60 has been suggested I ask that the Parish Council cover this cost. Having consulted with Cllr Gordon I suggest that the Parish Council agree this and that Cottenham Brass band be booked in January 2012.
- 3. The Social Club might be asked to host the event again in 2012 but with some changes bearing in mind the number of people the event is likely to attract. (See point 6) and a Christmas tree is set up near to the Social Club once again. (Source tree)
- 4. A request be made to hold the Carol Service on the car park and green at the rear of Scallywags there is enough room there for a raised stage, gazebo stalls, a sizable crowd and enough room for the arrival of Santa and it is close enough to the Social Club for them to organise mulled wine and set up a function inside the club to take place after the Carol service.
- 5. Schools/Sunday schools/children's groups be contacted by letter requesting that again they make tree decorations and arrangements be made for them to congregate around the tree during school time to maybe sing some carols have a visit from Santa and to receive a small gift or something similar to be planned and discussed with schools, churches and other organisations much earlier during 2012.
- 6. Local pubs, businesses and residents of the village, in particular those living in Girton Road, Cambridge Road and High Street be asked to put up outdoor Christmas lights to support our efforts with a view to Santa Claus judging the best lighting display a prize might be offered for the best or most appropriate display.
- 7. It is important that a local announcer be found to steer the event on the evening and that a sound system is available.
- 8. That two outside sockets with a timer and inside control switch operated from the Parish

Office be placed on the Balcony of Girton Pavilion before June 2012 – this would be very useful for Functions on the Rec – (consider hourly charges or meter for electricity). Parish Council to be consulted on this.

- 9. Outside sockets at the Pavilion might also be used for Christmas lights in the area of the bus shelter.
- 10. To finance the function look for sponsors, donations or arrange fund raising events.
- 11. Consult very much earlier with churches, schools and other groups within the village.
- 12. Parish Council to lead this community event.

Sam Clift

APPENDIX H

Chairman's Report to Girton Parish Council

11. 1. 2012

On 23 December we received from our lawyer the Land Registry documents transferring the Wellbrook open spaces to the Parish Council, and the first tranche of money came into our account before the New Year. The LEAP fence requires some fixing (it is shy a number of nuts and bolts) but we are assured that Taylor-Wimpey have already put this in hand. The Council will at some stage need to take a final view on the acceptability of the fence in its current form. The Chairman of the Environment Committee is already liaising with SCDC officers over the remedial planting of the various spaces, and the joint Bowls Green committee will have met before the Council meeting.

Having tried several sources of finance, I have failed to find the £500 which would be required if copies of the Village Plan were to be delivered to every dwelling in Wellbrook Way. The decision of the Town Charity was always that distribution to every home was unnecessary, and it may be that the Parish Council agrees with that but I feel that the Council should have a chance to decide that and have therefore put an item on the agenda.

The annual Christmas Tree shred was very successful, and included the ceremonial end of the Village tree which had been very much appreciated. Thanks to all involved in providing and decorating the tree, and to those who dismantled it ready for shredding; and most particularly to Cllr Clift for masterminding the whole event.

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX I

Summary of Youth Report from Girton Youth Project

December has been a quiet month with only half the normal activities planned and a well earned two week break for all the staff. However, with the popularity of the club nights we will undoubtedly have a busy year ahead. I have discussed with 2 participants doing an Arts Award qualification, which I hope they are able to commit to. If so, on completion they will receive an accredited qualification.