

Girton Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 21st May 2012 at 7.30pm at Girton Glebe Primary School.

Chairman: Cllr Douglas de Lacey (Chairman, Girton Parish Council)

Present: 12 Parish Councillors and 32 members of the public

Linda Browne (South Cambridgeshire District Council)

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

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Linda Browne who had come to speak about the Village Plan. The meeting remembered former parish councillors Noel Knights and Bill Parnwell, who had both died since the last Annual Parish Meeting, with a minute's silence. The members of the Parish Council then introduced themselves.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from County Councillor John Reynolds, District Councillor Thomas Bygott, Cllr Carol Noble, Cllr Ron Martin, Revd Steve Holland, Michael Healey and Pippa Temple.

3. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2011

The Minutes of the meeting were proposed as a correct record by Jenny Knights, seconded by Helen Wilson, accepted by those present and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Regarding the 30 mph limit on Huntingdon Road. Last year Cllr Reynolds said this would cost £1/2 million to implement – it is now hoped that the limit may be implemented more cheaply sometime this year, and will extend up to the entrance of Girton College. Any objections should be passed to the Clerk.

5. Chairman's Report on the Parish Council's activities

Cllr Douglas de Lacey spoke to his report (*Appendix A*). Wellbrook Way monies have been received, and it is good that the Bowling Green will be under way soon.

Particular thanks are due to the significant number of volunteer officers.

Cllr de Lacey thanked the Parish Office staff and presented bouquets on behalf of the Parish Councillors, who had personally contributed the cost.

6. Parish Council Accounts for the period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012

Natalie Stone, Principal Finance Officer, spoke to her report (*Appendix B*). The RFO was questioned why the precept had been increased this year. She explained that last year it was found that the Pavilion was eligible for business rates, plus we were unable to provide the increase in assets we're advised to – the sinking fund recommended by Sport England for the pavilion, over 30 years will recoup the cost of the pavilion. Local government has devolved activities such as street lighting down to Parish Councils. Girton has traditionally had a lower precept than other neighbouring villages. The Chairman thanked the RFO.

7. Girton Village Plan

Linda Browne, South Cambridgeshire District Council Community Liaison Officer, spoke about the Village Plan. A small implementation group is working very hard. Particularly important to Girton are the issues of cycle paths, and footpaths, particularly those which join other parishes. A cycle group and walking group will look at funding. SCDC colleagues are working with

Sustainable Girton. A representative from each of these groups should be on the implementation group.

Achievements from the Village Plan - the youth group is amazing and adult education highlights include the Computer Group at St Vincent's Close Community Centre.

The Village Plan is a work in progress, which needs to be worked on through the year and reported back on at next year's Annual Parish Meeting. Linda Browne was thanked by the Chairman.

8. Report from County Councillor John Reynolds on matters relevant to Girton, followed by questions.

Councillor John Reynolds had sent his report and apologies for not attending the meeting (*Appendix C*).

9. Reports from District Councillors Thomas Bygott and Douglas de Lacey on matters relevant to Girton, followed by questions.

Councillor Thomas Bygott had sent his report and apologies for not attending the meeting (*Appendix D*). Questions were asked regarding the status of NIAB 2.

Councillor Douglas de Lacey spoke to his report (*Appendix E*).

10. Police and Security Reports

Cllr Val Godby spoke to the Police and Neighbourhood Watch reports (*Appendices F & G*). Girton is comparatively low in crime so the police presence is less here than in other villages. Petty youth crime has gone down perhaps because of the Girton Youth Project.

11. Girton Town Charity Report

Robin Hiley, Chairman of the Trustees, spoke to the Town Charity's report (*Appendix H*). £2 million of building is being undertaken this year, and the Charity is not having to use endowments. This time last year, the GTC Office in High Street was opened with Penny Knight as Administrator, offering nine hours of opening time per week. The Charity operates by forming partnerships with other charities to develop schemes in the village, so if there are charities working for the benefit of individuals in Girton they should be put in touch with GTC. The Charity also has information on how to apply for various schemes. Julie Petrie Symes from Camsight thanked GTC, and Christine Bromwich thanked GTC on behalf of Girton Baptist Church.

12. Questions and Comments from the floor

Concerns were expressed about the state of roads and about speed bumps. The meeting made a resolution requesting that the County Council address the state of the roads as a matter of urgency – passed nem con.

Regarding the Girton Parish News, it was suggested that reports from councillors should certainly continue.

Concerns were raised regarding the Localism Bill. Planning has been deregulated to a significant degree and it is somewhat problematic to know what the Localism Bill will do for communities. It was questioned whether the Community Infrastructure Levy will replace S106 – this is still being wheeled out so we do not yet know what this will do to planning.

Concerns regarding the state of the War Memorial were expressed, and it was suggested that the repairs to the base could be undertaken through public subscription.

It was suggested that the Parish Council support Girton Glebe School financially over the state of the hall floor. It was suggested that the lead be taken from the Headmaster on what issues the school wants money for.

The issue of time-banking was also raised, where people put in shares of time for what they can do - eg decorating.

The Olympic Torch will come through Girton on 8th July at 6.50am.

Thanks were given for the support received by the Diamond Jubilee Committee, and it was hoped that all villagers will support the village's celebrations.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

The appendices are available online and on request at the Parish Office.

Appendix A

GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Annual Report 2012

This has again been a year of change. We have been through a difficult time, and the Council has not always functioned as it should. I take responsibility for this, and apologise in particular for failures in meeting expectations in the areas of sport and recreation and at Wellbrook Way. I hope these problems are now largely behind us.

Looking back

Personnel

During the past year Councillors John Ash, Peter Johnson and Suzan Ziobro resigned, and I am grateful to them for all they achieved while in office. They were replaced by co-opted members Richard Westley, Haydn Williams and Alastair Simpson who are already fully involved in the Council. I wish to pay tribute to all the hard work which Councillors have put in during this year past; I am sure that we shall endeavour to serve you as best we can during the coming one. Our Clerk John BurrIDGE fell victim to the recession: having failed to sell his house in Suffolk he felt that he could not justify commuting and regretfully resigned. We were pleased to have a good field of candidates when we advertised the post, and are delighted to have appointed Susie Cumming, a resident of the village, who is rapidly learning the ropes and efficiently running our office. Natalie Stone continues to maintain our books as Finance Officer, our Clerical Assistant Linda Miller runs the pavilion and sports fields with her wonted efficiency and our team is completed by our groundsman Chris Wilson and security officer Norman Lewell. It is a tribute to Chris that our sports fields constantly win accolades from visiting teams, and he was awarded the honour of 'Groundsman of the Year' at County level. May I thank all our staff for the hard work they have put in over the year.

I am also very grateful to our volunteer officers: Colin Carr (Trees), Graham Clare (Health and Safety), and George Thorpe (Warden of our Nature Reserve at Town End Close). I am delighted that they are happy to continue in these roles

Parish Plan

Last year the Plan was adopted by the District Council, and Linda Browne, the South Cambs Community Liaison Support Assistant, has been working hard with a team of volunteers to implement its conclusions: her team will report to this meeting. The final Plan is available on line at the Village website through which all the original data can also be accessed.

Wellbrook Way

This has been yet another year of frustration and failure, but although the final hand-over has not yet happened the Council has received the monies to develop the open spaces: to re-plant areas which have failed, to build the bowling green and to develop the rest of the area around it. Two committees are working on these plans, and with the valued help of the Town Charity we have also been able to secure an adjacent plot belonging to South Cambs DC which will be added to the public spaces. A flourishing Residents' Association has been formed which has already achieved results, not least in persuading the developers to put an improved surface on the access road.

The Abbeyfield development is now virtually complete and welcoming its first residents. Owing to an error the boundary of the building is closer than anticipated to the edge of the public space, and discussions continue over the possibility of our ceding a small strip to Abbeyfield if this can be achieved at no disadvantage to our community. I continue to serve on Abbeyfield's 'Focus Group' which assesses the facilities available and how they might be used by the wider public.

Open Spaces

The Council has put a lot of work in during the year. I hope the results are manifest to all and enjoyed by all. The Recreation Ground complex has been excellently maintained by our Groundsman Chris Wilson. He reports a steady improvement in all the sports pitches, and after some years of neglect we are taming the hedges. We are also closely monitoring the horse chestnuts, which after the work of the past two years appear all to be withstanding the effects of the potentially fatal bleeding canker. The Council approved an application from the Cricket Club to install practice nets at the end of the Recreation Ground, and these should be ready for use in the

forthcoming season. We have used some of the money which comes to us from new developments to replace the timber fence around the Weavers Field play area with a steel one to match the Recreation Ground fence. The renovation of the Hibbert-Ware Garden has been completed with generous grants from the Town Charity and a good deal of volunteer labour. We are grateful to everyone who helped to beautify this area. Town End Close has also benefited greatly from volunteer work parties and the grazing by University Farm cattle, and is in an excellent state.

Following the felling of the Woody Green willow after it shed a limb and was found to be rotten, the replanting has been very successful. The trees are well established now, the daffodils and crocuses were a delight, and residents have more light in their homes than they have had for many a year.

Other

The fabric of the Pavilion and the outdoor equipment have been well maintained and regularly inspected by our Health and Safety Officer. The cupboard doors in the Pavilion hall have not worn well and will shortly be upgraded. During the year the Youth Leader (who is supported by the Town Charity) has expanded his activities with our young people and his work is clearly very popular. He has explored ambitious plans to turn the storage space in the roof of the Pavilion into a Youth Centre. Although the plans have been deemed feasible, the necessary funding has so far not been forthcoming.

Looking forward

The NW Cambridge and other developments will no doubt be major items on our agenda but I hope we shall also continue to maintain and improve the various services we offer to the Village.

Parish Precept

The Parish Council agreed to a 5% increase in the precept for the coming year (roughly, £47.00 to £49.39 for a Band D property). Among other increased expenses we are now liable for a business rates on the Pavilion.

Wellbrook Way

We shall implement the plans outlined above, and work with the Town Charity to agree and submit a planning application for the SCDC parcel of land by the bowling green; and in the light of that we shall develop the rest of the public space. We also look forward to working with Abbeyfield and the Residents' Association on other facilities.

Open Spaces

We shall continue to maintain all our equipment on the Recreation Ground, at Weavers Field and at Wellbrook Way. With money which comes to the Parish from new developments we shall shortly be installing two picnic tables. We have also been given a new bench in memory of Ron Lipscombe by his family, which should be installed later in the year.

The MUGA is approaching the end of its life, and will probably need to be replaced this year or next.

During the year we hope to provide a footpath from the bus shelter to the Recreation Ground, and so to the School, along the edge of the car park.

Our ten-year agreement with Natural England for the management of Town End Close comes to an end this year, and the Warden is already at work on a replacement. Once again we shall be grazing it to maintain its ridge-and-furrow meadow nature. We also plan a wildlife audit. Work parties of volunteers will continue their labours here and on the Hibbert-Ware garden, and we are grateful.

Other

We are still exploring the possibility of putting all our facilities into a charitable Trust, which would both safeguard the land against development and also provide tax relief on their use.

GIRTON PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Accounts to March 2012

| | Current year March 2012 | | Previous year March 2011 | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| INCOME | | | | |
| Income from Pavilion | | 29,356 | | 27,993 |
| Interest | | 5,055 | | 976 |
| Grants and Donations: | | 5,942 | | 8,240 |
| Precept | | 82,953 | | 76,821 |
| Total Income | | 123,306 | | |
| Other Income: | | | | 114,030 |
| Less prepayment made previous years | | | | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| Open Space Maintenance | | 11,581 | | 13,624 |
| Footpath Cost | 248 | | 190 | |
| Town End Close, Duck End, Weavers Field | 278 | | 949 | |
| Benches/street furniture | 2,819 | | 957 | |
| Street Lighting | 1,874 | | 1,504 | |
| Open Space Maintenance | 4,147 | | 3,364 | |
| Village centre work | 2,215 | | 6,660 | |
| Recreation Ground and Pavilion | | 29,190 | | 33,629 |
| Rec Grnd maintenance, grass cutting,litter picking | 6,646 | | 11,061 | |
| Cricket Sq maintenance | 1,259 | | 1,209 | |
| Play area equipment, maintenance & inspections | 729 | | 364 | |
| Security, CCTV | 575 | | 526 | |
| Cleaning | 5,453 | | 5,100 | |

| | | | | |
|--|--------|----------------|---|---------------|
| Building Maintenance, pavilion supplies | 2,796 | | | 4,187 |
| Utilities - electricity and water | 4,253 | | | 2,602 |
| MUGA/courts/sports eqt maintenance | 1,818 | | | 2,580 |
| Business Rates | 5,662 | | | 6,000 |
| | | | | |
| Parish Office Expenditure | | 7,947 | | 11,762 |
| Professional & audit fees, subscriptions | 1,899 | | | 1,844 |
| Insurance | 1,864 | | | 2,309 |
| Pavilion supplies inc computer | 455 | | | 852 |
| Stationery, postage, printing, telephone, room hire | 1,319 | | | 1,770 |
| Training, councillors expenses, & bank charges | 153 | | | 1,792 |
| Trade Waste | 597 | | | 570 |
| Gifts and Donations | 60 | | | 75 |
| Rent - St John's Field | 600 | | | 600 |
| Village Day | 1,000 | | | |
| Election | | | | 1,951 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | | 36,224 | | 32,872 |
| Parish Office Salaries | 13,771 | | | 11,363 |
| Sport & Rec Salaries (inc Sec/Mntce officer from June 09 and Groundsman from April 10 | 22,452 | | | 21,509 |
| | | | | |
| Reserves put aside for future costs | | 20,265 | | 8,000 |
| Pavilion Fabric | 13,265 | | | 5,000 |
| Play Equipment | 2,000 | | | 2,000 |
| Games Surfaces | 5,000 | | | 1,000 |
| | | | | |
| Total Expenditure | | 105,207 | | 99,887 |
| | | | | |
| SURPLUS/DEFICIT for the year | | 18,099 | * | 14,143 |

£12,904 for Wellbrook Way work now paid from
payment by Taylor Wimpey

Appendix B

Appendix C

Report from County Councillor John Reynolds to the Girton Parish Annual Meeting.

I would like to start by apologising for my absence due to annual holiday booked last year. A year goes by very quickly and for me it has been very busy with many changes in my activity at the County Council.

North West Cambridge University Development NWC

The challenges facing the village are from the housing developments on our doorstep at the University North West Site, NIAB1 and Northstowe.

A planning application by the University has been submitted and proposes development including a first phase of 1700 homes to be built in 2015 /7. This is just part of a longer term plan for more homes both private and low cost social housing, shops, school, recreation facilities, jobs etc.

There are many concerns that need to be addressed before approval can be agreed; including.

How the public transport system will operate to the benefit of all?

Can we secure the extension of the City 6 service through to connect with the guided Busway at Oakington?

The development will bring more traffic. What measure will be developed to reduce congestion and encourage cycling and walking?

How can we protect our existing primary school?

How can the development include renewable green energy sources?

Will all the buildings be designed to be energy efficient?

Councillor John Reynolds is a member of the Joint Development Control Committee with members of City and District Authorities and also attends meetings of the North West Community Forum

NIAB Development

You will all be aware of the approval and current construction of the 178 or so homes at the NIAB site in Cambridge City. This will be followed by other planning applications for more homes on land identified by the council. We need to be prepared to respond to any planning applications to ensure our village is protected.

Northstowe

Vision. As you will all know the proposed Northstowe development for the first phase of 1500 homes will have some impact on Girton. We all recall that this development was to be a “National Vision of Excellence” and “An Exemplar of zero or low carbon living”. Regrettably the developer’s proposals fall a long way short of these objectives. Within these proposals there is a clear failure of any Vision for the town of Northstowe which if not rectified will have a detrimental impact on all future residents.

Renewable energy. Northstowe was to be a pioneering development that would deliver the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficient buildings designed to very high standards. There are very few solid proposals that deliver this commitment this must be fully addressed by the developer.

Transport. Girton could be adversely affected by traffic using the village as a short cut from Oakington. Measures must be in place to prevent this occurring. It is therefore vital that access roads from the development are up to the dual carriageway standards of the A14. This must be provided as part of the delivery of the first phase of infrastructure development.

Guided Busway The City 6 provides a public transport link to the Guided Bus but there remains a missing link from the guide way to the village. I have urged the developers with Stagecoach to extend the service to the guideway.

John Reynolds is a member of the joint Northstowe Planning Committee and attends the Northstowe Parish Forum

A14 we must have action. This is not just a Cambridgeshire problem or even national but

European as well. The short term improvements offered by the Government are very welcome but long term solutions need also to be delivered as soon as possible. It was agreed there should be a four leg approach to funding. This should be local, national Government and European funding if possible as well as from private sources. The route is an important route from Felixstowe and as such we join with Northamptonshire in approaching the European Union for funding. We must continue to work with Government to make sure the A14 is improved. A clogged A14 remains a block to business and hampers the growth of Cambridgeshire's and the national economy.

Action on local flooding. In 2007 Sir Michael Pitt produced a report for Government on how much better prepared all local Authorities should be to prevent flooding. The recommendations of the report were accepted and recently became law. They placed on the County Council a lead role to tackle local sources for flood risk, with partners i.e. the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, District Councils, Land owners and Inland Drainage Boards, but no funding was provided.

The County Council with partners have agreed a local strategy and action plan. Areas at risk have been identified, plans agreed and funding sought. Areas at risk include in the Cambridge area:- Cherry Hinton, Kings Hedges, Arbury, North Chesterton, Histon & Impington, Girton, Additionally if local flooding to property is likely to occur the council can and have taken direct emergency measures to prevent flooding. This recently occurred when 10 properties were at risk of immediate flooding. The County Council organised equipment to reduce the water flow and unblock the offending drain.

Transformation Board I have taken on the Chairmanship of the Transformation Board that drives forward many of the changes in how the Council operates and services are delivered. This is critical as we receive lower levels of national funding.

Children's centres I have also been appointed to the advisory board for children's centres that cover a large part of South Cambridgeshire.

ESPO. I continue my work as a member of Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation. With a turnover of around £500 million, Espo is an organisation that provided a wide range of goods and services to Schools, Councils and many other public organisations.

Yours

County Councillor John Reynolds

Appendix D

District Councillor Tom Bygott's Report

Finance

The conservative administration at South Cambs District Council have frozen your council tax for a second year running. That means you will continue to pay only £115.46 to the District Council (for a Band 'D' home). The rest of the council tax you pay goes to the County, Fire, Police and your Parish Council.

We believe it would be wrong to put council tax up at a time when the economy is yet to return to strong growth, and when we hold significant financial reserves. We have maintained healthy bank balances for many years and we believe that now is the time to use this money to protect our front line services, and to keep your monthly bills down. We have always ensured that our charges to you are as low as possible, and we are currently levying the 13th lowest council tax in the country.

Keeping Council Taxes low

Despite freezing council tax and the spending pressures that the council is under, we have been able to maintain our reserves at a healthy level. These currently stand at £6.6M, and are projected to remain at this level until at least the end of the council year in 2014.

Unlike many other public sector organisations, we are not having to make large scale redundancies or impose austerity measures this year as a result of the crisis because we had our house in order beforehand. We are therefore able to maintain a steady course, and not put added pressure onto households who are facing higher costs from utilities and other local taxes.

Customer Service

Contact Centre

Currently Cambridgeshire County Council provides a contact centre in Huntingdonshire that is used by South Cambs and several other districts. The contract for this expires in December, and we have gone through a process of looking at other councils and analysing the best way to provide this service. We have decided to bring the service in-house and host it at our Cambourne offices. We consider making it easier for you to contact us, and providing you with the best service possible, to be a core part of our organisation. We wanted to buck the trend of organisations outsourcing their contact centres or sending them off-shore. The contact centre will be integrated with our front desk in Cambourne, and closely tied to the various departments. We will also be giving call centre staff the opportunity to work on rotation throughout other parts of the organisation. This will enable them to get first-hand experience of our operations so that they are more knowledgeable when helping you. This will also go against the trend of de-skilling call centre staff, and make it easier to attract and retain talented people. Over time, more residents are choosing to contact us via the internet, email and social media. I strongly feel that this should be a voluntary process, with residents choosing new ways of access because it is easier, rather than one which we force on people. This is why we have made a strong commitment to keeping facilities for residents to call us and visit us in person.

New website

We are designing an improved website to make it easier to carry out transactions on-line. Paying council tax, telling us that you're moving or applying for housing benefit are just some of the things that can be done more easily via the web. This will avoid the need for you to have to contact us for many routine tasks, and means that you can do these things at a time suitable to you, without having to wait for our offices to be open. If you have any ideas about what extra services we could provide in this way, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Customer Service Excellence

In June 2011, SCDC was accredited for Customer Service Excellence. This is a comprehensive set of standards, set originally by the Government, that help organisations understand their strengths and weaknesses in customer service, celebrate successes, and identify and implement improvements. The award recognises not only the hard work of our staff, providing direct and support services on a

daily basis; it also shows that we have a community which provides us with useful, constructive feedback, both positive and negative, which we can use to improve. We are one of only a handful of councils in the country to receive accreditation as a provider of Customer Service Excellence across all our services. This followed eighteen months of looking long and hard at what we do and making some changes, and finished up with a thorough independent inspection of how we understand and meet the needs of our internal and external customers. We were then awarded the accreditation last summer, along with a full report of all the findings. Gaining accreditation shows us that we know what we do well, but also where we still need to make improvements. So, whilst we're not saying that we do everything perfectly all of the time, we now have a better idea of where we've got to get better and have the capacity and skills to do so.

Economic development

The whole world has been going through a period of economic hardship, but we're doing our part to help get the local economy moving. South Cambridgeshire is an integral part of the Cambridge cluster of high technology businesses, as many of these companies are located in business parks in our District. It is also home to many other kinds of businesses in a wide variety of industries. We want to make the District a friendlier place for businesses to flourish, and we welcome outside companies to set up here and new companies to be founded.

Cambridge Plus

We are competing internationally with places like Silicon Valley to attract the best talent. Our new business friendly website www.cambridge-plus.com will promote South Cambs as the best place to live and work. It will support business with advice, funding opportunities and commercial property availability.

The name Cambridge Plus was chosen for three reasons. Firstly, Cambridge has an international reputation for having the leading university in the world and a technology cluster to match. Secondly, South Cambridgeshire is the area around Cambridge City. Thirdly, we want to make better opportunities available to attract business than exist in Cambridge City itself. Already, about half of local technology businesses are located in the District and the other half in the City, but over time, we would like to increase our share. Attracting economic growth to the area will benefit local residents through better employment opportunities. It differs from the previous government's approach, which was to pack more houses in.

Step Up Business Plan Competition

We are now into our third year with the Step-Up competition. Last year's final was held on 15 September 2011, and was won by a business called Cambridge Super Foods, run by Jenny and Sophie Cattier. Designed to promote business start-up creativity and innovation, Step Up encourages local people to take an entrepreneurial step forward to establish new business ideas and initiatives. Six budding businesses made it to the final of South Cambridgeshire District Council's Step Up competition to face the judges and pitch for £30,000 worth of business backing. The winners received significant private sector sponsorship, one year's office accommodation, legal, accountancy and public relations support, and business mentoring. This is all thanks to the support by the Cambridge News and sponsored by Business Link, Ware Anthony Rust, Regus, Taylor Vinters, Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce ,

Streets Chartered Accountants and Walter Herriot. The calibre of entrants was excellent and the competition was so close that the judges and sponsors very generously announced a runner-up business support prize of for Lara Kettenacker and her

United Brides business.

More information is available from www.scams.gov.uk/stepup. The competition is run by Nicole Kritzingner, who can be contacted on 03450 450 500.

Superfast Broadband

The Connecting Cambridgeshire project is being led by Cambridgeshire County Council in partnership with Peterborough City Council, District Councils and partners in business, health and education. The aim is to bring access to superfast broadband to at least 90% of businesses and homes across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and better connectivity for all remaining premises by 2015.

Superfast broadband will help boost local businesses and the economy, reduce isolation in rural communities and help improve health and access to services. Cambridgeshire County Council has committed up to £20million and Peterborough City Council has pledged up to £3million towards the project, with £6.75million allocated by the Government agency BDUK. This public money is being used to attract significant investment from the private sector. Visitors to the Connecting Cambridgeshire website can also check their broadband speeds, find out about the benefits of broadband for businesses and communities and volunteer to become Digital Champions for their local areas. In order to show broadband operators the value of the project, a website has been set up: www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk in which local residents can show that they may be interested in having faster broadband once it has been installed. Registering your interest does not create any obligation to purchase faster broadband, but merely show companies how many people might be interested in the future.

Community and Democracy

Grant funding

This Council remains a generous giver of grant aid to our parishes and residents with over £500,000 given last year. We gave £170,000 in capital grants to improving recreation and sport facilities in our villages.

The amounts given varied from smaller sums of £1,800 to the largest of £40,000, helping our larger and smaller Parishes but in every case they were to give our residents better opportunities for enjoying a healthy lifestyle and physical fitness. A special fund was set up for elite athletes who were likely to compete in the Olympic Games this year. But not just sport was aided, the Arts also received

help to the tune of £70,00 in grants varying from £ 1,000 to £ 8,000 and continuing support for schemes around the district. Of course there were also many grants for conservation, planting trees and preserving buildings.

In these difficult times we recognise that our residents may need help and as conservatives we believe in a strong voluntary sector. We know that money is vital to sustain these important projects with much needed cash of around £90,000 going to CAB and £65,000 among the various voluntary groups in the district.

No mention of grants would be complete without reference to the Community Chest Fund which has been a huge success in giving small grants of up to £1,000 to groups and parish councils around the district. We made it as simple as possible to apply with a fast turn around in processing the applications aiming to pay the grant within a month of applying. We allocated £37,000 this year and

have agreed that there will be £55,000 available in 2012. These small simple grants have made a huge difference, helping a wide range of people , from car sharing groups to providing parish signs; from helping a BMX club and Brass Band.

All in all the money is available and given towards our third aim; " We will make sure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer outstanding and sustainable quality of life for our residents".

Environment

Introduction of Blue Bins

Progress with the blue bins has been extremely encouraging. We have set ourselves the target of 65% all household waste recycled or composted by the end of 2012. So far the monthly figure is around 62%, so we don't have far to go. The official rankings are published annually by DEFRA in December, based on the year to April. We ranked 16th in the country last year, despite having half a year with and half a year before the blue bins, with a combined rate of 56%. We should be much higher in the list this year. So far, only three councils – Rochford, South Oxfordshire and Surrey Heath have achieved a 65% rate. In the first year of blue bin operation, we collected 15,568 tonnes of recyclable waste – a 61% increase on the green boxes – and saved £470,000. Our initial investment was £1M, and were are significantly further ahead in recouping the capital costs in savings than we had initially budgeted. We had expected it to take five years for the operational savings to reach £420,000 per year.

Tree planting projects

We have a number of initiatives to help green the District and improve quality of life for residents:

? **Community orchards** are local projects set up and run by local people. South Cambs can help by steering you towards guidance and funding. The initiative was launched in 2009, and since then orchards have been a popular choice by villages looking to improve community spirit.

? **Hedgerow planting** – to replace the ancient hedgerows that are a traditional feature of the landscape. Hedgerows encourage wildflowers and enable small animals and birds to find burrows or nesting sites.

? **Woodlands** – as either standalone woods or corridors to connect existing woodlands. These can be landscaped with walking paths for public enjoyment.

? **Jubilee Oaks** – a series of 22 jubilee oaks were planted to celebrate Her Majesty's 60th year on the throne. They have been planted in prominent locations with the aim of becoming mature and long-lasting trees. The nearest ones to Girton are in Oakington, Impington and

Cottenham.

? **Great Trees** - A tree-planting campaign of long-lived and large species for the enjoyment of future generations and to provide focal points for villages and the wider landscape. For more information on these initiatives and grants contact the Ecology Officer on 01954 713 402.

Girton would be a great place to plant a community orchard or to engage in one of these initiatives. I would be very happy to champion a project in the village if a local site can be found. I think that part of the land between the NIAB site and Wellbrook Way would be an excellent location to use, and would protect the village from the housing projects being constructed there merging with the village.

Waterway habitat restoration

One of the District's responsibilities is to clean out the drainage ditches in the local area. Examples of local waterways include Washpit Brook and Beck Brook. Rather than clear all the vegetation away and leave waterways barren, we have been working over the last few years to restore waterway habitats. The Council has been widely praised for its work on the River Shep restoration, where wildlife habitats were reintroduced and the ecology of the area improved through the reintroduction and preservation of various species. We are now embarking on a much larger project called the Chalk Rivers Project to improve biodiversity in some of the rivers (which run through chalk beds) on the southern side of the District.

Appendix E

GIRTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: 21. 5. 2012

Report from SCDC Councillor de Lacey

Although it is unclear whether I shall be permitted to continue to do so, I have offered over the past year a monthly report of my stewardship in the Girton Parish News. This report can therefore be brief. May I first thank all of you who expressed your support for me in the recent election: I shall do my best to continue to justify your confidence and represent your concerns. The Council now consists of 33 Conservatives, 16 Liberal Democrats, 7 Independents and 1 Labour Member. I am the 'Leader' of the Independent Group

The Government's austerity drive continues, and South Cambs has been forced to take on a £200M debt to help ease council housing debts across the country. Thanks to the diligence of our officers the terms under which we have negotiated this, it may well turn out to be to the Council's ultimate advantage.

We are hoping to be able to build more Council housing over the coming years.

Over the past year there have been some changes in our Council services. The recycling centre has been removed from the Recreation Ground and residents appear to have switched easily to the blue bin system, which has been for the District as a whole a great success. The Council together with the County trialled a project to devolve management of street lighting to Parishes, but this was quickly abandoned, and the County is now undertaking a long-term plan to upgrade all street lights.

The District has recently outsourced the care and management of its housing and residents to a commercial company, and this will need careful monitoring. Changes in regulations mean that planning development controls have been relaxed, a move which is not necessarily to the benefit of communities as a whole.

I am delighted to have successfully negotiated with the District Council for the purchase, by the Girton Town Charity, of its small plot on Wellbrook Way on behalf of the community. Although plans for its use are still at an early stage it will provide very valuable extra recreational space, and I wish to pay tribute to the Charity for all its help and support to the Village. I have also been involved in discussions over many details of the Abbeyfield building, and wish the new residents all the very best as they begin to move in.

A number of key issues face our community. The planning applications for NW Cambridge and Northstowe are currently under discussion and NIAB2 is still on the books. A new Local Plan is needed which may allocate sites in the Village for further development. The improvement of the A14 remains problematic, with significant implications for the new developments. We still have no policy concerning Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. These are all areas I intend to be actively involved in. There are also of course a host of individual concerns I have tried to help, and I hope all residents will realise that I am here to help you with any and all of your dealings with the District Council

Douglas de Lacey (South Cambridgeshire Councillor for Girton), May 2012

Appendix F



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

Girton APM Report.

As some of you may know, I have been off work for a period of 4 weeks. Below you will find a crime update for the last month.

Between 31st March, at 09:00 and 7th April at 09:00, there has been a report of criminal damage to a vehicle in Thornton Road, Girton. Unknown person(s) have tampered with a vehicle parked in the location by drilling the metal that connects the wheel to the car.

On 5th April, at 20:30 there has been a report of theft of a mini digger in Church Lane, Girton. Unknown person (s) have stolen a Hitachi mini digger from front yard of location property.

Between 6th April, at 19:00 and 7th April at 08:00, there has been a report of theft of a pedal cycle in Thornton Close, Girton. Unknown offender(s) have taken two bicycles which were locked to each other from the front garden and then exited the scene in an unknown direction.

Between 6th April, at 19:30 and 7th April 10:30 there was an additional report of theft of pedal cycles in Thornton Close, Girton. Two pedal cycles left in bike racks at the front of the home address have been removed overnight. Both bikes had locked through wheel and frame, but were not attached to the rack.

On 9th April, between 20:30 and 23:45, there was a report of burglary in a building in Barn Health & Leisure Centre Camboro bus Park, Oakington Road, Girton. Unknown offender(s) have gained entry into the building by jemmying open the entrance doors to the entry point and have stolen £200 cash.

On 14th April, there was a execution of a warrant in St Vincent Close, Girton. Property and occupant was searched under section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act. Items were found that are suspected to be controlled drugs. One suspect was arrested and it is still an ongoing enquiry.

Between 16th April, at 22:00 and 17April at 07:45, there has been a report of theft from a motor vehicle in Duck End, Girton. Unknown offenders have stolen both index plates from the vehicle.

On 16th April, at 19:58, there has a report of shoplifting from Co-operative Retail Services Ltd, Girton Road, Girton. A man has entered the store, selected various meat products and attempted to leave the store without making any attempts to pay for the items taken. A member of staff has challenged the male outside the shop, has taken the items from the suspect, and has asked him to leave the store premises. This incident was captured on CCTV which I have seized and have circulated the suspect's picture for identification. This suspect has now been identified and is due to be charged soon.

On 20th April, between 08:15 and 17:00, there was a report of burglary in a dwelling in Thornton Road, Girton. Unknown Offender has used unknown object to force open the front door of the property. Once inside the offender(s) have carried out an extremely untidy search and also opened a rear window, possibly as an escape route. The offender have selected various items and left via front door. This crime is still under investigation.

There has been one incident report regards parking issue in Wellbrook Way, Girton. The builders working on the site had parked their vehicles slightly inconsiderate. I have spoken to a number of drivers and the site manager, and have advised them to be more considered in the future regards their parking in Wellbrook Way Estate. No offences revealed as the roads in Wellbrook Way are un-adopted.

Three males have been arrested, and charged with conspiracy to commit burglary. Charged with 10 offences included locations in Willingham, Cottenham and Oakington.

I have continued with my dedicated visibility patrols, schools and bus iness visits throughout Girton village, also have responded to any public concerns that have been reported directly to me.

Kind regards

PCSO Bujar MANI

Histon Safer Neighbourhood Team

Appendix G

GIRTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2012

We have four meetings a year on the second Tuesday in March, June, September and December. At the first three we have a speaker on a related subject and recently that has included a talk on Crime Scene fingerprinting and recently a talk on how Crimestoppers works.

We shall be selling cream teas at the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on the Recreation Ground on June 2nd and do hope anyone interested in becoming a street co-ordinator will sign up as we do have some roads not covered, mainly due to people moving from their area.

Our aim at present is to cover all Girton will co-ordinators and to this end we shall need to purchase more Neighbourhood Watch signs which cost £12.50 each (at present, but stocks are low).

If you can help, please do let either Geoff Varley (tel: 276772), Angela Blackburn (tel: 528278) or myself, Val Godby (tel: 276372), know of your interest. We can explain how little is actually involved to create a safer environment.

Val Godby, Chair of Girton Neighbourhood Watch.

Appendix H

Girton Town Charity

Report of the Trustees to 31 March 2012

PRESENTED TO GIRTON PARISH MEETING - 21 MAY 2012

Introduction

Girton Town Charity is a Company Limited by Guarantee which was incorporated on 28 May 2009 and registered as a charity on 22 June 2009. It was united with the former Town Charity (Charity No. 203217) on 24 June 2009. The Trustees filed their Annual Report and Accounts for the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 with the Charity Commission on 19 March 2012.

Since detailed reports and audited accounts can be obtained from the Charity Commission website (www.charitycommission.gov.uk; search for the charity number 1130272), this will be a review of the activities of the Charity from 1 July 2011 until 31 March 2012, *i.e.* from the last report to the Charity Commission until to the end of the Charity's third quarter of 2011-12. The next report to the Charity Commission will cover the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 and this, together with the audited accounts, will be available on the Charity Commission website in early 2013.

Financial data for 2011-12 in this report are from unaudited management accounts from 1 July 2011 to 31 March 2012. Figures for 2011 are from the equivalent management accounts of 31 March unless otherwise stated.

Trustees

There are seven Trustees who serve 5-year terms: five are appointed by the Parish Council (PC) and two by the Trustees themselves. There was one vacancy at 31 March 2012 and the Trustees in office were (with appointing authority and date of last reappointment):

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Mr Ray Gordon | 10 Pepys Way, Girton | (PC; May 2010) | |
| Mr Michael Healey | 7 High Street, Girton | (PC; May 2012) | |
| Dr Robin Hiley | 1 Fairway, Girton | (PC; May 2010) | Chairman |
| Mrs Jenny Knights | 47 Fairway, Girton | (Trustees; Mar 2011) | |
| Mrs Pippa Temple | 10 Cambridge Road, Impington | (Trustees; July 2009) | Vice-chairman |
| Mr Brian Pycock | 49 Cambridge Road, Girton | (PC; May 2012) | Treasurer |

Mrs Jill Scrine, a PC appointee, resigned as a Trustee in November after over 30 years of service to the Charity. The selection procedure agreed between the Trustees and the Parish Council was initiated by advertising the vacancy in the *Girton Parish News* and on Village notice boards. The Parish Council agreed to appoint Mrs Ann Bonnett of 41 Church Lane, Girton at its meeting on 16 May 2012.

All Trustees sign a declaration of acceptance of office and of eligibility on first appointment and submit a Declaration of Interests Statement which is amended as necessary during the year.

Internal activities

Trustees' Meetings

The Trustees met 7 times in the 9 months to consider the regular business of the Charity. Two extraordinary meetings were held: one in September 2011 to approve the contract with Bramall Construction Ltd for the build of the new almshouses (see below) and one in March 2012 to approve the final Report and Accounts to 30 June 2011 for submission to the Charity Commission and Companies House. The Annual Strategy Meeting was held in July at Newmarket; this meeting is when the future development of the Charity and its activities are considered without the limitations imposed by routine matters. Items discussed at the Strategy Meeting included: initial thoughts on the development of schemes for respite and long term care within the Village; the future shape and purposes of almshouse provision in Girton; a Community Art project with the Wysing Arts Centre; a review of the distribution of Trustee responsibilities; the Risk Register; succession within the Trustee Body; and procedures for commissioning work and services.

Investments

The endowment funds are managed by BlackRock, Schroders, Cheviot Asset Management and NW Brown who send the Charity quarterly reports. The Trustees consider these reports at their regular meetings, and there is also a meeting of the Investment Committee each year at which overall strategy is reviewed and recommendations made to the Trustees. The Charity's cash holdings (£2,042,951 at 31 March 2012), which are being used to pay for building the new almshouses at Wellbrook Way and buying 3 apartments in the Abbeyfield Girton development, are held in a Cash Management Account with Schroders. Investment Managers' fees for the 9 months under review were £54,104 (2011: £46,707).

The unaudited accounts for the 9 months to 31 March 2012 show investment income of £549,156 (2011: £455,529). The Charity's Endowment Funds at 31 March 2012 were valued at £21,202,510 (2011: £21,401,741). Total assets of the Charity less its liabilities at 31 March 2011 were £23,838,975 (2011: £23,658,824).

Management of the Charity

The Charity Office at 22 High Street was opened in the spring of 2011 and has rapidly become the hub of our activities. Mrs Penny Knight is the Charity's Administrator and is responsible for day-to-day contact with the Trustees and the beneficiaries of GTC. The office is normally open from 10.00 - 13.00 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (telephone: 01223 276008; email: gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk). The costs of running the office during the 9 months to 31 March 2012 were £9,880. The front drive and walling were replaced to improve safety and access at a cost of £10,715.

In the current year, Trustees have attended several training courses and incurred costs to the Charity of £796; Trustees receive no financial compensation for the time they spend on the Charity's business. Audit Fees were £4162 and other professional fees were £1399 while insurance cost £568.

GTC houses at Wellbrook Way

The construction of 7 new almshouses in Wellbrook Way started in January 2012 after more than 6 years of preparation work by the Trustees and their advisors. The building contract is for just under £950,000 but other costs associated with the design and management of the development take the total cost (exclusive of the land which is part of the Charity's endowment) to well in excess of £1million.

The houses will be managed on behalf of GTC by King Street Housing Society who have experience of almshouse management through work with other local charities in and around Cambridge. Applications for the homes (4 two-bedroomed houses and 3 three-bedroomed houses, one of which is adapted for use by a family with a wheelchair user) are being invited from residents of Girton or people with a close connection to the Village. It is intended that many of the houses will be lived in by younger members of the community who will be encouraged to use their time in the homes to save up for the deposit on their own home (the initial length of residence will be 3 years, with the possibility of a further 2 years if the Trustees judge it appropriate after a formal review, for all appointees below the age of 60). The Trustees will interview applicants and appoint the residents who should be able to move in during the early autumn.

Abbeyfield UK development at Wellbrook Way

During the summer the Trustees also hope to complete the purchase of 3 two-bedroomed flats in the Abbeyfield development. Invitations to apply for accommodation, when it is ready, will be carried in the *Girton Parish News*.

Bungalows

The legal priority for the use of the Charity's income remains the six bungalows owned by the Charity in High Street and Michael's Close. There has been no change in residents during the year. The bungalows are let solely on a charitable basis and vacancies are advertised on village notice boards and in the *Girton Parish News* when they arise. The Charity does not operate a waiting list as vacancies occur too infrequently for this to be useful to applicants.

Expenditure of £10,334 on the houses has been needed in the 9 months to 31 March this year (2011: £31,580). While it is welcome that costs have fallen this year, they are still high for a group of only 6 houses and the Trustees are considering how to manage these buildings most effectively. Garden maintenance at the houses and the neighbouring Charity Office has cost £2190 (2011: £1693) with the increase largely reflecting the management of the garden of 22 High Street in April 2012.

Grant making activities of the Town Charity

After maintaining the almshouses, Girton Town Charity can use any income remaining to make grants, firstly for "relief in need" and, secondly, "for any charitable purpose for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Girton". Grants awarded between 1 July 2011 and 31 March 2012 are summarised below; the amounts stated are those that were awarded, but note that they may not have been paid by 31 March.

Educational Grant Scheme

This scheme is intended to provide help with buying books and equipment to recent school leavers who have recently moved on from school to further and higher education. It is open to all Villagers who fulfil its terms and some apprenticeships and similar qualifications are also eligible for support. Claims totalling no more than £200 a year (2009-10; £175) may be made for up to 4 years of study. Applications are invited in the *Girton Parish News* twice a year. Other residents, such as mature students, who do not fit the criteria for this scheme and are finding it difficult to fund their studies, should make an application for assistance with their educational expenses through the Charity's procedures for making grants to meet need.

Each academic year, one round of grants is made in December and a second in June/July. It is not necessary to spend all of the £200 to apply for a grant and claims for part of the maximum amount can be made at the time of the first round of payments with the rest claimed at the end of the Academic Year. In the one round of funding made so far in 2011-12, total awards of £2981 (2011: £7980 over 12 months) were made to 20 recipients (2011: 46 over 12 months). At the 2011 Strategy Meeting, Trustees expressed concern that numbers applying for the grants had been falling and considered if there could be other routes than the *Girton Parish News* for advertising their availability but, other than word-of-mouth, it was not thought this was feasible.

The Trustees now have a policy that educational gap year projects can be supported with a grant of up to £200 (equivalent to a book and equipment award); these grants count as one year of the 4-year entitlement. One such award was made this year.

Two Educational Grants (totalling £1400) beyond those within the scope of the main scheme were made. The total expenditure on grants for education this year was £8101 (2011: £9965) but this includes payments in respect of awards made in previous years.

Hospital Taxi Scheme

This scheme is aimed at helping people go by taxi to outpatient appointments at Addenbrooke's, Brookfields or Chesterton Hospitals when alternative transport is not practical. The Trustees continue to be grateful for the full co-operation of the Girton taxi companies: Nelson Motors and Wendy Barrett. Special arrangements can be made when a specialised taxi, such as one that can carry a wheelchair, is needed or when a patient has to get to other hospitals and suitable transport is not available.

The Scheme operates a 'membership year' with a single annual renewal date on 1 April and all memberships end on 31 March following joining or renewal. At 31 March 2012, there were 155 members of the scheme (2011: 113). The net cost to the Charity of the journeys made this year, together with all other expenditure on hospital transport was £6686 (2011: £10,105).

Patients attending other hospitals or clinics who have difficulties in using public or personal transport should apply to the Charity for a personal grant, as should residents who have difficulty in making regular visits to see patients in hospital. It is always possible to consult a Trustee in confidence to discuss a possible application for assistance on the grounds of personal need. One special grant was made this year to help a Resident get to visit a seriously ill relative.

Girton and Huntingdon Road Surgeries

The Prescription Delivery Service, run by the pharmacist at the GP practice serving Girton, has continued this year but is due for review in June 2012. The service has been available for those Girton patients who are unable, through reason of incapacity, to collect dispensed medicines from the Pepys Way or Huntingdon Road Surgeries. The actual sum expended is included in the hospital travel disbursements given above.

One or two Trustees attend meetings of the Patient Participation Group set up by the practice which has become more active this year but has so far not generated any new initiatives for GTC.

Milton Children's Hospice and Arthur Rank Hospice

The continuing benefit that Girton receives from these two charities was marked by the award of new 3-year grants. The East Anglian Children's Hospices were awarded £8500 per annum and the Arthur Rank Hospices Charity was awarded £60,500 over 3 years with instalments rising in steps from £19,500 to £21,500 per year.

Youth Project with the YMCA

The Trustees continue to view the provision of youth activities in the village as a priority and they have been pleased to see the advances made this year under the leadership of the Youth Worker, Tim Shuker-Yates. There has been a full programme of regular clubs, on Monday afternoons (for younger members) and Thursday evenings (for two secondary school age groups), and of very popular holiday events at Easter and in the summer holiday. The regular Monday group can have up to 50 members attending and only slightly fewer turn up on Thursdays. The cost to GTC over the 9 months to 31 March 2012 was £35,135 (2011: £36,538). The Trustees believe this project is providing excellent value for money.

Histon Ten Sing

Ten Sing provides performing arts activities for young people and the local group is based at Histon Baptist Church. Following last year's grant of £6000 to the Cambridge and Peterborough YMCA, the group has increased its activities in Girton. Budget constraints at the YMCA have continued this year and, in view of the recent success in Girton, the Trustees agreed a further grant for one year of £6500 to enable Village children to continue to enjoy their Ten Sing activities.

Cambridge Citizens Advice Bureau

The Trustees continue to believe that the outreach provided by Cambridge CAB at the Pepys Way Surgery fulfils an important need in the Village and they are grateful that the co-operation of the 1 Huntingdon Road Practice has enabled them to continue. The sessions take place on Mondays from 1.00 - 3.00 p.m. and no appointment is necessary. This year GTC paid £6657 (2011: £4438) to allow the CAB to provide the service.

Age UK Mobile Warden Scheme

This project run by Age UK has been renewed for a further 3 years following on the valuable service that Marilyn, the current Warden, has given to many Villagers. Membership at 31 March was 20 (2011: 19) which is more or less the maximum for the present arrangements.

The Community Warden Service aims to provide support to vulnerable older people and help them to retain their independence. Wardens work closely with, and provide help complementary to, the work of the statutory services. They provide reassurance and security to members and their relatives by ensuring that regular and consistent contact is made. Based on the Warden's knowledge of an individual's circumstances and general well being, clients receive a personal visit or telephone call on a daily basis, Monday to Friday. Occasionally the Warden will respond, during the working day, to a situation that requires immediate action. However the Warden is not on call for emergencies outside normal designated hours, hence the recommendation that users complement this service by use of a community alarm. The Warden is not a home help, domestic worker, or a carer providing physical care.

Referrals can be from the prospective users themselves, their relatives or neighbours, GPs or other health or social service workers. Anyone wishing further information should contact the

Charity's Office, any Trustee or Marilyn directly.

Age UK Safer Homes Scheme

This scheme came to the attention of the Trustees last year and they were pleased to help keep the service going with a grant of £1008 to cover the costs incurred by Age UK in helping Girton residents in the last 12 months. The service is for people aged 60 or over and is aimed at the prevention of falls and accidents in the home. Contact can be made through Age UK Cambridgeshire (01480 696541) and there is no need for a professional referral. They will make a home and recommend improvements to aid mobility such as a second banister and grab rails in potentially hazardous areas.

Grants to other organisations in support of activities for Girton

Grants to external charities

At the request of residents (usually taking part in fund-raising events), the Trustees have made a number of donations to organisations in recognition of the support that they have given to Villagers. This year, these awards consisted of a donation of £250 to VoiceAbility Cambridge and one of £1000 to Macmillan Cancer Support (in memory of James Page). Up to £500 has been promised to Beat, a young persons health charity, on completion of a challenge.

The Trustees also support charitable organisations based outside the Village by grants which are proportional to the number of Girton participants in their activities. Under this principle, and following on from last year's award, King's Junior Voices received a grant of £2600 (2011: £2200). A grant of £15,000 over 3 years was made to the Cambridge Family Mediation Service to enable them to provide help, including their new Family Work approach, to Girton residents. Cambridge Dial-a-Ride was given a grant of £7000 in recognition of the services they provide to their members in the Village.

Grants to local schools attended by Girton children

Girton Glebe Primary School

The popular After-School Clubs are funded through a grant which runs until the end of the Summer Term 2012; this year support to the School has so far totalled £5717. The Trustees are pleased to see these clubs enriching the experiences available to the children of the Village and are grateful for the efforts and enthusiasm of the many people who have helped deliver the activities.

A grant of £870 was made to allow the School to put on a musical concert with St Mary's Junior School in the West Road Music School in March.

At the request of the headteacher, Mr Atkin, the Trustees made available a grant of up to £7500 to provide childcare support for families in need through the Goose Club and the Holiday Playscheme. The Goose Club itself held a fundraising event in March and the Trustees offered to match the amount raised on the day; the Trustees were delighted that the eventual grant was £617 and hope that the total amount raised will help the club maintain its provision for the children of the Village.

Cottontails Pre-school

Cottontails has received two grants this year. The first, of £4500, was to provide decking for the outdoor play area and storage in the grounds of the Cotton Hall. In April, the Pre-school was awarded a grant of up to £11,300 to help with the costs of employing relief workers while their Pre-school Leader undertakes her Early Years Professional Status training.

Other schools

Several local children have to travel outside the Village to other Local Authority primary schools. In order to balance fairness of provision, these schools are also invited to apply for grants to enhance the school environment for the children. A grant of £619 was made to Oakington C of E Primary School for book shelving, a CD player and shoe storage. Mayfield Primary School received £4800 for a new projection system in the hall.

Grants to village organizations

The Charity has continued to support, with grants, organisations based in Girton or which have members or beneficiaries in the Village. Expenditure has been much lower this year as fewer projects have been submitted to the Trustees for consideration.

Girton Parish Council

A major project being investigated is the prospective purchase of a piece of land in Wellbrook Way that is being offered for community purposes by South Cambridgeshire District Council. This land is adjacent to the Community Land that came to the Parish Council under the planning undertaking for the Wellbrook Way development and is on offer for £165,000. A condition of the sale is that there should be clear proposals for the use of the land and these are being worked up by a joint group of GTC and the Parish Council.

Girton Churches

A grant of up to £26,000 was awarded to Girton Baptist Church to help with making the building more energy efficient. This award is a matching grant, on a pound-for-pound basis, to the fundraising achieved by the church members.

Village organisations

Girton Brownies were given £500 towards the costs of running the group and the Trustees were delighted with the 'thank you' cards they were sent by the group. The Neighbourhood Watch Calendar was underwritten to the tune of £500.

Sport

Girton Cricket Club was awarded a grant of £11,987 to help with the costs of new nets at the Recreation Ground and work started on this project in the spring after a satisfactory site had been identified by the Parish Council. Muddy Mucky Monkeys received a small grant of £124 to help with the costs of first aid provision at their 5km run.

Other community activities

The Girton Jubilee Committee was given a grant of £850 for souvenir educational rulers to be given to the children of the Village. The printing of the Jubilee programme was underwritten by £316.

Grants to individuals

The Trustees continue to make grants to help individual Girton residents in need and regard this as a central part of their duties since these grants, often small in size, can make a great deal of difference to the quality of life of the recipients. Awards this year have covered the costs of: respite breaks; adapting houses to allow maintenance of independent living; provision of the essentials for living; helping young Villagers participate in activities to enhance their skills; and aid for enhancing mobility. The Trustees do not believe it appropriate to publicise details of individual grants as they are made on the basis of confidential information supplied by applicants. In the year to 31 March 2012, payments totalling £6221 have been made (2011: £19,426). However, the amount made available in grants (but not necessarily paid within the reporting period) was £14,415 (to 30 June 2011: £20,018). The maximum award this year was £3586 (2011; £5000).

Making applications: organisations and individuals

The Trustees provide guidelines to help with preparation of applications either from individual Girton residents and families or from organizations providing for inhabitants of the Village. These documents outline the procedures followed by the Trustees when considering requests. There are also straightforward forms which may be used to apply for grants, though applications can also be made by letter. However, use of a form can help ensure that Trustees have all the information needed for them to make a decision. Penny Knight, in the Charity Office, will be happy to supply copies of the forms or guidance on request. Any Trustee can be consulted in confidence before an application is made.

An application will usually be considered at the next meeting of the Trustees after the application is received, providing it arrives at least one week before the meeting. If the Trustees

decide more information is needed before a final decision is made, they may ask for details to be supplied in writing, or arrange for Trustees to meet the applicant.

Jill Scrine

Jill was a Trustee of the Charity for 35 years during which she worked tirelessly for its beneficiaries. She and Robin, her husband, devoted much time to keeping the almshouses and their residents as comfortable as possible and attending to many minor repairs before the Charity had the financial resources to bring in professional help for maintenance. Jill and Robin have moved to Witney, in Oxfordshire, to be nearer their family and will be greatly missed not only by the Trustees but also by many other Village organisations and their friends. On your behalf I would like to thank Jill formally for all their work on behalf of the Girton community and wish them well in their 're-retirement'.

Girton Town Charity - Building our Community

JANUARY 31ST WAS A SPECIAL DAY IN THE CHARITY'S HISTORY AS WE WERE ABLE TO CUT THE FIRST SOD FOR THE WELLBROOK WAY ALMSHOUSES. WITH THESE NEW HOMES, AND THE PROJECTED PURCHASE OF 3 ABBEYFIELD FLATS, WE WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER A WIDER RANGE OF ACCOMMODATION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF NOT JUST THE OLDER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, BUT ALSO SOME YOUNGER GIRTON FAMILIES WHO WISH TO BE ABLE TO STAY IN THE VILLAGE. THESE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, COSTING JUST UNDER £2 MILLION, HAVE BEEN ENABLED BY THE GENEROSITY AND WORK OF MANY PEOPLE OVER NEARLY 500 YEARS. THE CURRENT TRUSTEES RECOGNISE THAT THEY ARE GUARDIANS OF A PRECIOUS RESOURCE FOR THE PEOPLE OF GIRTON AND, AS ALWAYS, THIS REPORT SHOWS THE 'HEADLINES' OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED WHILE LEAVING LARGELY UNREPORTED THE MANY HOURS OF PREPARATORY WORK AND THOUGHT GIVEN TO OUR PROJECTS. AS CHAIRMAN IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO BE ABLE TO WORK WITH SIX OTHER DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, AND OUR HARD-WORKING ADMINISTRATOR, TO DEVELOP THE CHARITY AND DELIVER ITS BENEFITS TO THOSE WHO NEED THEM. I WISH TO END BY RECORDING SINCERE THANKS TO THEM ALL FOR MAKING THIS A MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR GTC.

Robin Hiley

Chairman of the Trustees

May 2012