

# Girton Parish Council

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

*Members of the parish were invited to attend this meeting and to speak at Item 12/83.1*

**Present:** Cllrs: de Lacey (Chairman), Bromwich, Clift, Cockley, Godby, Gordon, Noble, Simpson, Taylor, Thorrold, Westley

Cllrs: J Reynolds (CCC), T Bygott (SCDC) (both until the end of item 12/83)

Ms T Mann (Planning and New Communities Dept, SCDC) (until the end of item 12/86.6)

2 members of the public

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

**12/80 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Tracy Mann of the Planning and New Communities Department, South Cambridgeshire District Council.

**12/81 Apologies and reasons for absence** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Garner, Hiley and Williams, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.

**12/82 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** Cllr de Lacey outlined the new rulings regarding declarations of interest. It is hoped that there will be more guidance from central government about disclosable financial and non-financial interests. As an employee of Cambridge City Council, Cllr Taylor declared that although he may contribute to discussion about the NW Cambridge development he must be careful what he says.

**12/83 Public Participation session on agenda items & matters of mutual interest:**

1. Members of the Public.

The two members of the public present at the meeting did not wish to speak.

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

Cllr Reynolds spoke about the press release regarding the A14 plans. There will be a briefing with officers on 19th July, and will know more details following this briefing. The Northstowe issue also needs consideration. Cllr Reynolds expressed his sympathy to Girton residents affected by the floods of 14th July. The portfolio-holder has seen the flood sites. It was noted that both the rivers affected in Girton are now Cambridgeshire County Council's responsibility, and where there is a flooding danger these need to be maintained. Cllr Reynolds was questioned about plans about Oakington Road bridge. Cllr Reynolds was also questioned about the A14 toll road – it is not known if this will be built and financed by a private company.

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

Cllr Bygott expressed his sympathy for the Girton flood victims, and wanted to add his name to those campaigning for the Oakington Road bridge to be replaced. He expressed his thanks to Cllr Bromwich for his report on flood risks in Girton, written before the latest floods.

Cllr de Lacey hoped that councillors will look carefully at the small print when responding to the Health and Wellbeing consultation on where South Cambridgeshire's major health care emphases should be.

4. Police Report (E-Cops) (*Appendix C*)

In addition to those incidents in the police report, play equipment has been damaged at Cotton Hall, and milk bottle thefts have been reported in Sterndale Close.

Cllrs Reynolds and Bygott left the meeting at this point.

**12/86.6** This item was brought forward.

6. To affirm the Parish Council's concern that it should be involved in the management of open spaces within NW Cambridge, and to request that the JDCC consults with the parish before any agreement on open space (see correspondence item 12/88.11) Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Gordon. The Council agreed to treat Tracy Mann as one of our own officers, and invited her to the table. Cambridge City Council has just approved the joint venture with the University, and Girton Parish

Council should have the right to speak on this. Ms Mann apologised for the lateness and limited circulation of the paper considered by the Scrutiny Committee. In principle, the University's Community Strategy gives more detail for the involvement of Girton parish – 40% of the development is in Girton parish boundary. The University intends to manage all the facilities it builds, and it is an unusual development because the developer is staying put after the development has gone ahead. Ms Mann queried if the Parish is interested in having land in the same way as at Wellbrook Way and Weavers Field. The Parish Council would need to think more before making a decision on this. Tracy Mann agreed to organise a meeting with university and city council officers drafting the agreement. Much of the green space will be in the Girton area of the development. It was agreed that an informal extraordinary meeting would be needed to discuss this issue. Ms Mann noted that a Growth Forum for development across North Cambridge is being set up with representatives including those from Parish Councils and city residents' associations, at the end of September 2012.

Approved with one abstention.

Ms Mann was thanked by the Chairman, and left the meeting at this point.

**12/84 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Wednesday 20th June, 2012**

The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Thorrold, seconded by Cllr Godby and approved with one abstention.

**12/85 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**

1. 12/74.3 Report on flood risks in Girton has been distributed to interested parties. Cllrs de Lacey and Bromwich will draft a letter to Andrew Lansley MP about the floods of 14th July.
2. 12/74.4 The Parish Council's response to the RoSPA report has been sent to the consultants who wrote the report (see correspondence item 12/88.6). A response to the letter is yet to be received.

**12/86 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council**

1a To agree to suspend Standing Orders so that the Parish Council may discuss the following item. Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Godby and approved unanimously.

1b To approve the new quotation to provide concrete bases for the picnic benches agreed in item 12/62.7 (*Appendix D*) Proposed by Cllr Noble, seconded by Cllr Clift. The Chairman apologised that the correct information regarding the cost of the bases had not been made available at the May meeting. It will cost £390 to excavate and lay the concrete bases. Approved unanimously.

2. To request that Cambridgeshire County Council install dropped kerbs on Thornton Road (see correspondence item 12/88.1) Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Godby. Following a safety audit at the NIAB site, dropped kerbs will be installed there to aid wheelchair users, and the Council proposes to suggest that dropped kerbs also be put in at the junction with Thornton Road. Approved with one abstention.

3. To approve the revised complaints procedure for Girton Parish Council. There is a change in the law which means that the register of interests, code of conduct and complaints procedure all need to be revised. A decision on the Code of Conduct will be made by SCDC within the next month. The revised complaints procedure will be produced in the light of this decision. Cllr de Lacey proposed that this item be withdrawn from this agenda and considered at the September Parish Council Meeting.

4. To collect completed 'Register of Members' Interests' forms from Parish Councillors  
Councillors gave the Clerk their completed forms, with those outstanding to be forwarded to the Clerk by 19th July and she will then forward all the forms to SCDC before the 28th July deadline.

5. To express Girton Parish Council's dismay at Girton's lack of representation on the Cambridge fringes Joint Development Control Committee and to request that our Chairman (as a Member of South Cambridgeshire District Council) be allowed to represent Girton's views as a full member of the JDCC. Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Cockley. It was decided that there was no need for Cllr de Lacey to leave the room for this item, and he continued to chair the meeting. Neither of Girton's District Councillors have been offered a seat on the JDCC, and Cllr de Lacey is startled that South Cambs ruling group doesn't think that the JDCC should have a Girton representative. Cllr de Lacey would be allowed to speak as a member of the public but not to comment. Cllr Reynolds, though a member of the JDCC, is not part of the planning authority. Approved with two abstentions.

6. This item had been brought forward and was considered earlier in the meeting, please see above.

7. To approve the attached draft for inclusion in the August edition of Girton Parish News, to establish approval from the community for the construction of a bowling green at Wellbrook Way (*Appendix E*) Proposed by Cllr Gordon, seconded by Cllr de Lacey. It has been a long time since parishioners have been asked for their views on this matter. The item would be put forward for inclusion in the August and September editions of Girton Parish News, and circulated on village notice boards. Approved with one vote against.

**12/87 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve payments for the previous month  
Proposed by Cllr Godby, seconded by Cllr Cockley and approved with one abstention.
2. To approve the balance sheet (*Appendix F*)  
Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Thorrold and approved with one abstention.
3. To receive the Finance Report from 1st April 2012 to date (*Appendix G*)  
Received by the council. The Chairman thanked the RFO for her work.

**12/88 Correspondence (to be received)**

1. 14 June 2012 Correspondence about kerbs on Thornton Road and Whitehouse Lane
  2. 14 June 2012 Correspondence about NIAB Junction
  3. 15 June 2012 Correspondence regarding Interim Planning Policy Guidance on the protection of public houses in Cambridge.
  4. 15 June 2012 Correspondence regarding Consultation on Cambridge City Local Plan Issues and Options Report 2012.
  5. 19 June 2012 Correspondence about footpaths and road surfaces in Girton
  6. 22 June 2012 Girton Parish Council's response to RoSPA report
  7. 22 June 2012 Correspondence about public space and almshouses at Wellbrook Way
  8. 27 June 2012 Correspondence about Wellbrook Way parking
  9. 27 June 2012 Correspondence about Wellbrook Way grass cutting
  10. 1 July 2012 Standards Committee Newsletter – June 2012
  11. 4 July 2012 Correspondence regarding NW Cambridge open spaces
  12. 6 July 2012 Publicity about South Cambs Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation
  13. 9 July 2012 Correspondence about Girton Parish Council 2012 Annual Return
  14. 10 July 2012 Correspondence about internal auditor for Girton Parish Council
  15. 11 July 2012 Letter about Northstowe Joint Planning Committee Meeting, 20th July 2012
- The correspondence was received by the council.

**12/89 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix H*)
2. Girton Town Charity. The charity has received a reasonable number of applications for the new almshouses. Re: correspondence item 12/88.7, the proposal is with the GTC's lawyers.
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix I*). The youngsters are to assess the level of interest in fundraising for a new skate-park.
4. Footpaths. Nothing to report this month.
5. Bowling Green Committee. Nothing to report this month.
6. Wellbrook Way Development Committee. Cllr Gordon has met with residents and undertaken a tour of the remedial and maintenance works. The stream has now been cleared, and this work prior to 14th July's floods allowed the water to flow away. Cllr Gordon is to ask the Wellbrook Way Residents' Association to let the Parish Council know if there is rubbish dumped in the ditch.

**12/90 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes**

1. Planning Committee Meeting of 20th June, 2012 (previously circulated). Received by the Council.
2. Planning Committee Meeting of 11th July, 2012 (previously circulated). Received by the Council.
3. Environment Committee Meeting of 11th July, 2012 (previously circulated) Received by the Council.

**12/91 Matters raised by Members (for information only)**

There are concerns regarding 'cold-calling' from charities' 'chuggers', and whether callers need a licence for such.

Concerning street traders in the village, it was re-iterated that the fish and chips van and fresh fish van are the only ones with licences to trade in the village.

The possibility of moving the bus shelter on Cambridge Road to a site more-suited to Wellbrook Way residents was raised, and Cllr de Lacey agreed to investigate.

Concerns were raised about the large amount of water emerging from the grating on the corner of High Street and Cambridge Road. Cllr de Lacey has reported this several times, and Anglian Water have looked at it.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.