

Girton Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th September, 2012 at 7.30 p.m. at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Girton.

Members of the public were invited to attend this meeting and to speak at item 12/107.1

Present: Cllrs: de Lacey (Chairman), Clift, Cockley, Godby, Gordon, Hiley, Noble, Simpson, Taylor (until end of item 12/112.8), Thorrold, Westley

County Councillor J Reynolds (from item 12/110.7 to end of item 12/107.2)

PCSO B Mani (until end of item 12/107.4)

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

12/104 Welcome from the Chairman The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

12/105 Apologies and reasons for absence Cllrs Bromwich and Williams, and District Councillor Bygott, had sent apologies and their reasons for absence were accepted by the Chairman. County Councillor Reynolds had sent apologies that he was unable to attend until later in the meeting.

The following item was brought forward.

12/107.4 Police Report (E-Cops) (Appendix C). PCSO Mani reported that there have been five crimes reported in Girton this past month including two burglaries. One burglary took place in Girton Road at the end of last month, in which a gas boiler was stolen. The second burglary, in which high-value items were taken, took place in Cambridge Road. There is a bike thief in the village, and a shoplifter at the Co-Op was challenged by staff and caught on CCTV. A car window was smashed outside the Old Crown public house and a bag stolen from inside the car.

The Swavesey Ward Panel takes place on 20th September, at which policing priorities for the next three months will be set.

In the light of the murder of two police officers in Manchester on 18th September, Councillors expressed their support and thanks for the work which the police undertake both locally and nationally.

PCSO Mani was thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at this point.

12/106 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda. None.

12/107 Public Participation session on agenda items & matters of mutual interest:

1. Members of the Public. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.
2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*). This item was postponed until later in the meeting.
3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*). Cllr Bygott was absent and there were no questions for either him or Cllr de Lacey.
4. Police Report (E-Cops) (*Appendix C*). This item was brought forward.

12/108 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Wednesday 15th August, 2012.

Item 12/99 was corrected to read "Cllr Gordon checks the invoices for the Environment Committee with the work to be done, and the Council has received a credit note for £215. The Sports & Recreation Committee should undertake a similar survey with Recreation Ground contractors. It was recommended that the Chairs of the Environment and Sports & Recreation Committees should check all contractors' work against invoices."

With these corrections, the Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Godby, seconded by Cllr Cockley and approved with three abstentions.

12/109 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

12/43.3 The memorial bench has been installed. There was a dedication ceremony for the bench on 11th September, attended by the late Mr Lipscombe's family, members of Girton United football club and representatives of Girton Parish Council.

12/62.8 The chairs for the Pavilion have been delivered.

12/97 The Chairman's letter to Mr Lansley has been circulated.

12/98.1 The parish notice-board for Wellbrook Way has been ordered.
Noted by the Council.

12/110 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council

1. To approve the Chairman and Vice-Chair to sign an indemnity for South Cambridgeshire District Council in relation to Section 106 payments for the development of land at Weavers Field, Girton (see correspondence item 12/112.2) and for the development of land east of North View, Huntingdon Road, Girton (see correspondence item 12/112.3).

Proposed by Cllr Godby, seconded by Cllr Gordon and approved with one abstention.

2. To approve the cost of erecting and securing the parish noticeboard at Wellbrook Way (*Appendix D*).
Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Godby and approved unanimously.

3. To approve the revised Annual Return as per amendments by Moore Stephens (see correspondence item 12/112.9). Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Godby. The RFO spoke to this item. We have agreed to do what the external auditors have requested – the payment for the landscaping strip at 121 Girton Road is not to be treated in the same way as Section 106 payments, and the £21,000 will become a reserve of Girton Parish Council. The Chairman pointed out that this is purely a paper exercise.

Approved unanimously.

4. To agree to the suspension of Parish Byelaws as necessary, and at the sole discretion of the Groundsman, to permit the holding of a Dog Show and the provision of recreation facilities on the Recreation Ground as part of the Girton Feast. Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Noble. Councillors expressed concern that the Groundsman should not be the only person to take responsibility, and thought a more-detailed proposal was needed. Cllr Gordon queried if the Dog Show could be held on the St John's Field rather than the Recreation Ground. A straw poll was held on the motion 'Given appropriate controls, would the Council be happy for the Dog Show to go ahead?'. There was general approval of this. There are concerns that there should be no possibility of faeces in the playground, and but also safety and access concerns regarding the St John's Field. The Chairman proposed that this item be deferred until next month's meeting. Approved unanimously.

5. To review plans submitted for alterations to the Girton Recreation Ground Car Park (*Appendix E*).
Proposed by Cllr Gordon, seconded by Cllr de Lacey. Mr T Brading was thanked for preparing the plans. We cannot get an approximate cost of the project until the plans are approved. Concerns were raised regarding the bus shelter at the entrance to the Recreation Ground Car Park, and the number of disabled parking spaces –there should be 5% or more disabled spaces as close to the Pavilion entrance as possible and one at the other end of the car park. The cost of the proposals will be met by Section 106 monies and the monies received from the sale of the strip of land at 121 Girton Road. It was queried whether intentions about trees could be clarified – St Andrew's Church is removing the cherry tree and a few others on their land, but no trees will be sacrificed so the path can go ahead. It was suggested that steps be taken to deter cars going over the edge of the footpath, with some sort of buffer to be recommended to the architect, eg concrete double kerb.

Cllr de Lacey proposed to have the plans costed and to come back to the Council with figures. The Council's comments will be put to the architect. Seconded by Cllr Gordon. Approved with one abstention.

6. To agree to replace the metal rope ravine bridge net on the Wicksteed Rainbow play equipment at Girton Recreation Ground (*Appendix F*). The quotation from Wicksteed was proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Hiley and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Reynolds arrived during the following item.

7. To agree to the placing of 'No Smoking' signs at the Girton Recreation Ground play area, Weavers Field play area and at Wellbrook Way play area, the latter when the open spaces are the responsibility of the parish council (*Appendix G*). Proposed by Cllr Godby, seconded by Cllr Noble. The signs would be a polite request – Cllr Hiley proposed an amendment that the sign should read 'Please do not smoke where children play', seconded by Cllr Noble and the amended motion was approved with one abstention.

Standing Orders were suspended at this point so that Cllr Reynolds could speak at the open session.

12/107.2 The Chairman thanked Cllr Reynolds for his two reports (*Appendix A*). Concerns were raised that the County Council are upgrading their computer system to an obsolete version – Cllr Reynolds replied that the upgrade will cost the County Council nothing and Microsoft will train staff. There were concerns for cyclists and pedestrians at the junctions on Huntingdon Road. Cllr Reynolds spoke of innovative ways of treating traffic in Denmark which may be considered in the Northstowe development. Regarding road

markings on Huntingdon Road, re-surfacing is going on. Some Girton residents believe that 'In Touch' is a parish magazine, and Cllr Reynolds was asked to clarify that it is a Conservative publication.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Reynolds, who left the meeting at this point, and Standing Orders were reinstated.

8. To agree the Parish Council's response to South Cambridgeshire District Council's Strategic Housing Implementation Plan (*Appendix H*). Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Gordon. Approved with two abstentions.

9. To agree the Parish Council's response to Cambridgeshire Health Authority's Health & Wellbeing survey (*Appendix I*). Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Gordon. Approved unanimously.

10. To agree the Parish Council's response to the SCDC Grants and Partnership Funding arrangements (*see correspondence item 12/112.10 and Appendix J*) Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Gordon. Approved with one vote against and two abstentions.

12/111 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve payments for the previous month.

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

2. To approve the balance sheet (*Appendix K*).

Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Cockley, and approved unanimously.

3. To receive the Finance Report from 1st April 2012 to date (*Appendix L*). Received by the Council. The Chairman thanked the RFO for her work.

12/112 Correspondence (to be received)

1. 13th August 2012: Correspondence regarding NW Cambridge development

2. 20th August 2012: Correspondence regarding the payment of public open space contributions

3. 21st August 2012: Correspondence regarding the payment of public open space contributions

4. 21st August 2012: Correspondence about bus service and shopping facilities in Girton

5. 29th August 2012: Residents' response to Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

6. 29th August 2012: Letter regarding the appointment of external auditor

7. 31st August 2012: Confirmation of renewal of data protection entry

8. 8th September 2012: Minutes of Wellbrook Way Residents Association Meeting

9. 10th September 2012: Correspondence regarding Annual Return, comments from external auditors

10. 11th September 2012: Correspondence about SCDC Grants & Partnership Funding arrangements

The correspondence was received by the Council. Cllr Taylor left the meeting at this point.

12/113 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report. The Chairman had nothing to report this month.

2. Girton Town Charity. The Charity received 25 applications for the Wellbrook Way almshousing, and 13 families/couples are to be interviewed. The trustees hope to make their decision regarding allocating the housing, in October with a view to residents being in by Christmas. Members of the Girton Parish Council would welcome a visit to the almshouses. The Charity has also made a grant of £5,000 per year to Cambridge Headway for three years. Funding has been given to the charity 'You can Bike Too', funding special bicycles for use in Milton Country Park. The Citizens Advice Bureau currently run an outreach session in the Pepys Way Surgery on Monday afternoons, but increasing demand for doctors' services mean that this can't continue. Orchard Close or St Vincent's Close Community Centres are possible venues. Following the Annual Strategy Day in July, from the beginning of January a scheme will be introduced to provide up to £1,500 of additional care or respite care – the Charity hopes to announce the details when contracts are in place.

3. Girton Youth Project. Cllr Noble has had an informal meeting with Tim Shuker-Yates regarding the young people's involvement in next year's Girton Feast. Tim Shuker-Yates has a meeting with the director of the NW Cambridge development project to discuss the possibility of a skate-park.

4. Footpaths. It was agreed to mention the need for householders to keep their hedges cut back to their boundaries and particularly to manage overhanging brambles, in the October edition of Girton Parish News.

5. Bowling Green Committee (*Appendix M*). Cllr Gordon, Graham Clare and Peter Gibbs had a meeting with consultant Roger Driver on 18th September. The provision of car parking is one of the planning additions, and it may be advisable to raise the fence height to 1.8m.

6. Wellbrook Way Development Committee. Cllr Gordon is to talk to the Wellbrook Way Residents Association. It is hoped to have a community building and pavilion with car parking on the new piece of land. There have been complaints from residents about the lack of progress on the remedial and maintenance horticultural works, and Cllr Gordon has addressed these in a meeting with the contractors.

12/114 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes

1. Planning Committee Meetings of 15th August and 4th September, 2012. Received by the Council.
2. Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting of 5th September, 2012. Received by the Council.

12/115 Matters raised by Members (for information only)

The question was raised whether the Parish Council byelaws could be extended to cover all new locations in Girton, such as Wellbrook Way and Weavers Field play areas.

The Sports and Recreation Committee are in discussion with the Tennis Club over fees, and an informal meeting will be held on 20th September.

There is concern about dog faeces being left on the dog-walking route. The Parish Council cannot put in more dog-bins on the dog-walking route because the route is not accessible to SCDC operatives' vehicles. A private contract to empty dog-bins would cost an annual £200-£300 per bin.

Regarding the installation of the picnic benches, it was queried whether this should now be undertaken in the Spring, but the contractor has promised to install the bases in October so this should go ahead now.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.