

Girton Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Wednesday 20th May, 2015 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Girton, at 7.30 p.m. *Residents in the parish were invited to attend this meeting and to speak at Item 15/64.1*

Present: Cllrs: Williams (Chairman), Barnes, Buckler, Bygott, Cockley, de Lacey, Godby, Griffin, Ranken, M Taylor (until end of item 15/68.6), Whittle.

Cllr L Harford (Cambridgeshire County Council)

1 member of the public (until end of item 15/64.1)

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk)

- 15/59 To elect the Parish Council Chairman for 2015-2016** Cllr de Lacey proposed that Cllr Williams be appointed, seconded by Cllr M Taylor. There were no other nominations. Cllr Williams was appointed unanimously, by a show of hands. Cllr M Taylor spoke of Cllr de Lacey's long and excellent service for the village. Cllr de Lacey was given a round of applause in thanks and appreciation. Cllr Bygott seconded Cllr M Taylor's comments, expressing how grateful the Council and community are for Cllr de Lacey's hard work. Cllr de Lacey thanked the Council for their comments.
- 15/60 The Chairman to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office** Cllr Williams signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk.
- 15/61 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman reiterated thanks to Cllr de Lacey.
- 15/62 Apologies and reasons for absence** Cllrs Harrington, Noble and L Taylor had sent apologies and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.
- 15/63 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** None.
- 15/64 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**
1. Members of the Public. The member of the public thanked Cllr de Lacey on behalf of the village's residents, for his many years of dedicated service. He suggested that the County Councillor be invited to sit at the table with the Parish Council at meetings. If a resolution is brought to a subsequent meeting this could be discussed, but could not be discussed at this meeting as it was not an agenda item. The member of the public left the meeting at this point.
 2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*). Cllr Harford reiterated appreciation of how hard Cllr de Lacey works. She apologised for her absence at the Annual Parish Meeting, to which she intended to come but had the wrong venue. There were no questions arising from Cllr Harford's report. She has received no news regarding the Library Strategy Review, which did not end until 10th May, but will bring any information she receives to the Parish Council. A photo booth has been placed in Cambridge Registry Office.
 3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) There were no questions arising from Cllr de Lacey's report. Cllr Bygott apologised for his absence at the Annual Parish Meeting, as he had been in Bedford for the Election Day. Potholes in St Vincent's Close have been reported to the County Council's website.
 4. Police Report (*Appendix C*) There are more incidences of petty crime being reported on e-cops in the Histon area. There had been a suspected attempted burglary in Woodlands Park about a month previously. The Nottingham Knockers are out again in the village. Cllr Godby agreed to investigate the possibility of a village speedwatch scheme.

- 15/65 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th April, 2015** The Minutes were proposed as true record of the meeting by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Barnes, and approved with two abstentions.
- 15/66 To confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 29th April, 2015** The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Godby, and approved with three abstentions.
- 15/67 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**
The annual inspection of play equipment was undertaken in April. The Health and Safety Officer is to be asked to report to the Council on what actions need to be taken.
- 15/68 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To appoint a Vice-Chairman for 2015-2016

Cllr Williams proposed that Cllr Barnes be appointed, seconded by Cllr Godby, and approved unanimously.

2. To approve the dates of Parish Council Meetings for 2015-2016

Cllr Williams proposed that meetings continue to be held on the third Wednesday of the month, seconded by Cllr Godby, and approved unanimously.

3. To approve, agree the sizes of, agree the frequency of meetings of, and appoint members and Chairs to, the proposed Standing Committees for 2015-2016, as follows:

a) Planning Committee. All Parish Councillors are members of the Planning Committee, which meets at least once a month. Cllr M Taylor is happy to continue as Chairman: his appointment was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Bygott, and approved unanimously.

b) Sports and Recreation Committee. Cllr Williams is happy to remain as Chairman until the next meeting. For past meetings, there have been problems with quoracy. Members of the Committee are Cllrs Bygott, Cockley, de Lacey, Godby, Noble and L Taylor, with Co-Opted Members Mr G Clare, Mrs L Miller and Mr C Wilson. Cllr Barnes proposed that meeting dates every other month should be set in advance for all committees, seconded by Cllr Bygott. Meetings can be cancelled if there is no business, or be held quarterly.

c) Environment Committee. Cllr L Taylor had said that he was happy to continue as Chairman. Cllrs Griffin and Ranken agreed to join the Committee, with Cllr Harrington to be asked if she'd like to join too. Other members of the Committee are Cllrs Barnes, Buckler, de Lacey, Whittle and Williams, and Co-Opted Members Dr P de Lacey and Mr G Thorpe.

d) Finance, Planning and Resources Committee. Cllr Whittle is happy to continue as Chairman. Members of the Committee are Cllrs Barnes, Cockley, de Lacey, Noble, L Taylor, M Taylor and Williams. Cllr Whittle proposed that the committee meets quarterly, to be combined with a report from the RFO, but the Committee may need to meet more often in order to plan the budget.

e) Wellbrook Way Development Committee. Matters could be considered as part of the Environment Committee, excepting the Bowls Green. Until the financial situation regarding the bowls green is agreed, it was proposed to have a 'Task and Finish' group, to be led by Cllr de Lacey. Other members of the group are Cllrs Barnes, Bygott, Griffin and Williams, plus members of the Bowls Club.

f) Human Resources Committee. Cllr Cockley agreed to Chair this new Committee, with Cllrs Godby and Griffin as members, and Cllr de Lacey to be co-opted if needed.

4. To approve Parish Council Task & Finish Groups:

a) Emergency Plan Group. Cllr Barnes is to lead, with Cllrs Cockley, Williams, L Taylor, M Taylor and Mr G Clare as members.

b) Office Working Group. Members are Cllrs Barnes, Buckler and Cockley.

c) IT Group. Members are Cllrs de Lacey, L Taylor and Whittle.

d) Car Park Group. Members are Cllrs Williams, Buckler, de Lacey and L Taylor,

with Mr G Clare to be co-opted.

5. To appoint trustees, representatives and advisors, if necessary, for 2015-2016:

- a) Girton Town Charity Trustees. To re-appoint Robin Hiley and Ray Gordon as Trustees of Girton Town Charity for a further term. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, and approved unanimously.
 - b) Girton Village Institute Trustees. Parish Council appointed Trustees are Cllrs Williams, Godby, Mrs L Miller, Mr A Simpson, Mr G Clare and Mrs H Wilson., Cllr L Taylor and Mr A Bennett are Trustees nominated by the Social Club. Revd M Maxwell, nominated by the Church of England, with one vacancy for a representative of the Baptist Church. Cllr de Lacey proposed that this item be deferred to the next meeting. Cllr Godby has details of trustees' length of service. Agreed to defer.
 - c) Cotton Hall Trustees. There are no new trustees to be elected.
 - d) Youth Work Liaison Officer. Cllr Noble had previously agreed to continue in the role.
 - e) CAPALC Representative. Cllr Godby agreed to continue in the role.
 - f) Police Liaison Officer. Cllr Godby agreed to continue.
 - g) Footpaths Officer. Cllr Barnes agreed to take on this role.
 - h) Water Management Officer. Cllr Whittle agreed to continue .
 - i) Warden of Town End Close Nature Reserve. Mr G Thorpe will continue as Warden for the next year.
 - j) Tree Officer. Cllr Griffin agreed to take on this role. Thanks were given to Mr G Thorpe for his help over the past year.
 - k) Health and Safety Advisor. Mr G Clare agreed to continue as Health & Safety Advisor for the coming year, but will step down after this.
 - i) Child Protection Advisor. Cllr Cockley stepped down. Cllr L Taylor would be well-qualified for the role, and will be approached.
- The trustees, representatives and advisors were thanked for their work.

6. To approve the following annual subscriptions: CAPALC, CPRE, Cambs ACRE and SLCC. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and unanimously approved.

Cllr M Taylor suggested that a public meeting be arranged at a future date between GPC and Girton College, for the College to discuss their plans. Cllr M Taylor left the meeting at this point.

7. To approve the re-location of the bus shelter at the corner of Thornton Road / Huntingdon Road to the stop opposite the allotments (Appendix D) Proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Griffin. Cambridgeshire County Council are happy to relocate the two redundant bus shelters as a result of works on Huntingdon Road. The first of these is shortly to be relocated close to Churchfield Court. Preliminary discussions have taken place with residents in Cambridge Road, but there is currently no timescale for the relocation. Cllr de Lacey is to take this forward. Approved unanimously.

8. To approve a draft response to Cambridgeshire County Council's consultation on Local Validation List for applications for planning permission (see correspondence item 15/70.1) Cambridgeshire County Council is the planning authority for waste and minerals. The council's approval was proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Williams. Approved unanimously.

9 To agree a fee for Impington Village College Model Aeroplane Club to use toilet facilities at the Pavilion during their Club Day on 31st May, 2015. Cllr Williams proposed that Cllrs Buckler, de Lacey and Williams meet with the Clerk and Bookings Administrator on 21st May to discuss. Approved unanimously.

15/69 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve payments for the previous month (*Appendix E*). Cllr Cockley had

checked the payments before the meeting, and was happy with them. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, and approved with one abstention.

2. To approve the appointment of an Internal Auditor. The Clerk has details of an accountancy firm in Chatteris who were recommended as experienced internal auditors for Parish Councils, and the Council approved that she contacts them.

15/70 Correspondence (to be received)

1. 15th April: Consultation on Local Validation List for planning applications
 2. 3rd May: Letter from Girton Town Charity regarding bowls green.
 3. 8th May: CAPALC E-Bulletin May 2015
 4. 11th May: Information on Travel for Cambridgeshire organisation
 5. 12th May: Correspondence regarding possible commercial premises in Girton
 6. 12th May: Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire consultation
- Received by the Council.

15/71 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix F*). Cllr de Lacey had written to the local GP surgery to say that there would now be 84 beds, not 72, at the new care home in Wellbrook Way. It was suggested that the Chairman and Cllr de Lacey meet local General Practitioners, to discuss the impact of the new care home on GP services.
2. Girton Town Charity. No report this month.
3. Girton Youth Project. Cllr Noble had sent apologies. No report this month.
4. Footpaths. No report this month.
5. Water Management (*Appendix G*). Cllr Whittle was thanked for his report.
6. Wellbrook Way Development Committee. The Committee had met on 18th May. The Bowls Green Task and Finish Group formed this evening (item 15/68.3e) will write to arrange a meeting with the Bowls Club.

15/72 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes

1. Planning Committee Meeting of 15th April, 2015 (previously circulated)
- Received by the Council.

15/73 Matters raised by Members (for information only)

Former-councillor J Thorrold's wife died on 19th May, and Cllr de Lacey will visit him to extend the parish council's condolences.

Concerns about the erection of a fence on land at Oakington Road have been forwarded to Cambridgeshire County Council.

The Clerk will check on progress with the kiosk project.

Proposals for a task and finish group to consider solar panels on the Pavilion will be brought to a subsequent meeting.

The graffiti on a redundant property on Huntingdon Road was noted, and a zero tolerance policy on graffiti suggested.

Concerns were raised regarding cyclists using footpaths in the village.

A proposal to put 'Girton' on bus shelters on Huntingdon Road could be brought to a subsequent meeting, in a bid to maintain the village's identity.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting shall be made available on the website.

There is fly-tipping and garden rubbish on Footpath 4, and Cllr Griffin agreed to investigate.

The meeting closed at 9.18pm

APPENDIX A

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report to Parish Councils

April/May 2015

At Council's Annual General Meeting this division's former representative, the late Cllr John Reynolds was appointed Honorary Alderman and his widow, Diana Reynolds

accompanied by a beautiful black Labrador, accepted the certificate. Thus the Council acknowledged John Reynolds' immense contribution in life but Mrs Reynolds told members that, even now, he will keep an eye on what the Council is doing as his ashes were scattered on the mound that dominates the grounds of Shire Hall.

There was one question from a member of the public which related to the withdrawal of the Milton to Impington school bus service. There are obvious benefits to encouraging walking/cycling to school: health and wellbeing of students as well as a reduction in traffic congestion and carbon emissions. However, routes must be safe and concerns raised by Milton residents seem to indicate unease in this respect as well as, what seems to be an unfortunate, recurring theme, lack of communication/engagement with residents.

As we start the new municipal year the Council is beginning to recognise that it has to work differently. It's not easy to turn a tanker; it takes time and the County Council does seem to bear some resemblance to this mighty category of shipping. Last October a member's motion to Council focusing on the need to plan services in a more outcome focused, coherent and efficient way was unanimously supported. Building community resilience was at the heart of this motion. Following the meeting of Council members were offered the opportunity to attend a presentation by Cormac Russell, an international speaker and trainer who has been acclaimed for his work in building communities. You may be interested to view his style: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwvUU-h1crY> Highways & Community Infrastructure Committee [H&CI] approved the formal start of procurement for the Highways Services Contract in the form of a long-term strategic partnership. The report acknowledged that efficiency savings targets have been exceeded within the current contract but greater savings will need to be achieved long term whilst placing an increasing emphasis on the quality of work. Details: <http://bit.ly/1GMD8vw> On a local level a recent meeting with the Highways Officer responsible for general road maintenance in our area highlighted how tiny the budget for this is. However, in the new climate of encouraging collaboration between councils at all levels, a longstanding problem in Bar Hill may be resolved by the parish council working with the county council. Certainly it seems Highways is, at long last, committing to resolving the issue.

Other aspects of infrastructure funding were discussed at the Economy & Environment Committee [E&E] meeting. The Integrated Transport Block [ITB] government funding has been cut from £5.707m [2014/15] to £3.190m [2015/16]; thus the county council's priorities have to be reviewed. ITB funding is for smaller scale transport improvement projects such as schemes for road safety, bus priority, walking/cycling and transport information. cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Meeting.aspx?meetingID=874

The consultation on the proposals for Cambridge Central Library was extended to 10 May in acknowledgement of the high level of public concern about the changes. Members benefited from a briefing at which Kora, the proposed partner, was represented by its managing director, Roger Perrin. His was an interesting contribution; I noted verbatim his responses to members' questions relating to the exclusion of low income groups: "You're assuming that we want to make a lot of money out of them [the new services]" and: "Mostly we won't charge for them". Again there was criticism of the lack of communication particularly to members during the 18 months that negotiations have been underway.

Meanwhile around 166 members of frontline library staff have taken part in the national e-learning programme designed to improve their digital skills and confidence when helping the public. The programme, funded by The Society of Chief Librarians and Arts Council England, helps library staff to recognise barriers people face when getting online. The programme includes equipping staff to support people with various disability needs and is aimed at strengthening their role as digital champions. Library staff will now be running a variety of events in libraries across Cambridgeshire; ask at your local library for details.

Floods & Water Responsibilities: The Government has confirmed that Lead Local Flood Authorities will become statutory consultees in relation to Surface Water and Sustainable Drainage [SuDS] for all major applications [10 properties or 0.5 hectares and upwards]. It is anticipated that the volume of applications requiring a County Council response will be 300-400 a year. Some 'seed' money has been provided by Government for the first year and options are currently being considered for funding the resource required.

Cambridge North Station: Current traffic management arrangements in Milton Road will now continue until the end of the works in June. Plans to change them have been dropped as the minor benefit to cyclists would be outweighed by dis-benefits to pedestrians. When

work ends it is likely that the main bus carriageway will be closed off while pedestrian and cycle links will be opened. There is no firm confirmation yet from Network Rail as to the timescale for submission of a new planning application for the station.

Park & Ride Parking Charges at Longstanton and St Ives sites: the launch took place on Thursday 14th May. Managers, co-ordinators, contractor engineers and extra helpers were on duty from 05.30 to assist customers with any queries about the new ticket machines. The first day seems to have gone smoothly with no major technical issues and no complaints have been received from customers as yet. A minor issue with the high speed of vehicles coming through the cameras at Longstanton will be resolved by placing a 50mm speed hump across the entrance which will also improve pedestrian/cyclist safety. Cones have been strategically placed meanwhile. Advance publicity seems to have helped the launch and encouraged people to set up 'bill per usage' accounts on line. A total of 610 were set up ahead of the go-live date and 76 daily/weekly permits were also set up. Helpers will continue to be at the sites until Sunday 24 May.

A new 2 year contract for Bikeability cycle training has been awarded to the incumbent supplier, Outspoken Training. The scheme which delivers training to national standards across all schools in Cambridgeshire is fully funded by the Department for Transport. 7,675 young people participated in 2014/15.

A photo booth has recently been installed in the Cambridgeshire Register Office and can be used during normal opening hours for photos required in connection with ceremonies and for passport application photos. Passport photos are £5 and visa photos are £7.

Please note: users ideally need to bring the right change in £1 coins.

Please do let me know if you have any questions about these or any other local or strategic matters. I look forward to seeing you all at your usual monthly meetings.

Lynda

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APPENDIX B

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey

13. 5. 2015

On May 1st South Cambs Group Leaders met the Planning PFH. This is becoming a regular event and extending beyond its original remit of keeping us in touch with the progress of the Local Plan -- on which there is still frustratingly little to report, though the PFH thinks that if there had been real grounds for rejection the Inspector would have indicated that by now. Meanwhile continuing unwelcome speculative applications have at least served to bring us a little closer to the targets we are obliged to meet. The Northstowe PFH then gave an update. Our concern was that nothing seems to be happening, and the PFH was trying to present the dual argument that this was because the HCA, like everyone else, is in purdah for the election, but that actually a lot was happening.

We also discussed the transition from S106 to CIL. The local council fixes the CIL rates, and we have not yet done so, apparently for fear that the necessary Government Inspection of this may jeopardise the Local Plan. So we are in danger of receiving neither. Investigations are continuing.

Then a week later there was the little issue of the elections. In the District elections I lost one of my Independents and the Liberal Democrats lost two seats, all to the Conservatives who now have 38 seats of 57. The LibDems have 11, Labour have 1 and there are 7 independents one of whom is so independent she will not even join my group. The Leader is suggesting a revision of committee sizes whose purpose seems only to reduce the number of opposition seats particularly on Planning. The opposition is not happy

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX C
Police Report: April / May 2015

In the afternoon of the 12/05/2015 two properties have broken into, one in St Margarets Road the other in Bandon Road, Girton. Mainly cash, jewellery and electrical items were stolen.

James Sutherland (Police, Chief Inspector, South Cambridgeshire)

I'd like to take the chance to update you on some of the crime prevention work and other issues that are currently going on in South Cambs.

As many of you will know, Operation Oaklands is our long-standing initiative to deal with burglaries and vehicle crime in South Cambs. We are constantly evolving the operation to be able to give you the best information and support to make your home and property safe. Next week (Wednesday 29th April) we will be in Hardwick where we will be testing a new property marking system for use on power tools, lawn mowers and other items that are regularly stolen from sheds and garages. We'll be providing this service free of charge to local residents and if it is well received we'll include it in all of our 'Oaklands' activities in the future. If you are a resident of Hardwick please come down to the school from 6pm with property that you would like marked. Your local PCSOs will also be there with the usual range of smart-water kits, shed alarms and other products that we make available at cost price.

Speeding continues to be a concern in many of our villages. Over the last year we've made big efforts to tackle this problem. Firstly many villages now have Community Speedwatch Schemes- if you live in a village that doesn't have one please speak to your Parish Council and encourage them to make contact with Brian Robbins- our CSW co-ordinator- and he can help them establish one (brian.robins@cambs.pnn.police.uk) . Secondly, we have set up the SCSpeedTeam- a small group lead by Special Constables who are out and about in villages carrying out speeding enforcement with the laser devices. This team only operates in village locations where you have told us they are needed. We're about to take stock of our enforcement actions over the last few months and refresh the list of where we should be focusing our attention next. So if speeding in your village is still a problem, please let us know by requesting some enforcement action by filling out this simple online form- it only takes a minute and is a big help to us.

<http://www.tinyurl.com/SCSpeedTeam> . You can follow the work of the team and give us feedback by following us on Twitter- @southcambscops . It's also the best place to get quick-time info from us on incidents, road closures or urgent appeals for information.

I receive a lot of correspondence about PCSOs- I know how much they are valued by local communities. Rest assured that they are fully budgeted for and will be staying in South Cambs. We are currently holding a couple of vacancies due to transfers/resignations but we will fill these at the next round of recruitment. I am asking our PCSOs to become more involved in the 'safeguarding' agenda. We have an ageing population in South Cambs as well as a lot of vulnerable people who live in the community. I'm also sure that you will have seen the recent media coverage about child sexual exploitation and the risks that exist on-line for our children. I want our PCSOs to play a bigger role in schools and care-homes to make sure that we are protecting the most vulnerable members of our community and that we are dealing with the new types of crimes and threats that didn't exist ten years ago. This doesn't mean that they won't be visible in local villages however- quite the opposite: the core role of PCSOs will always be the visible face of local policing.

Finally, we are making some changes to how we use this e-cops system. Our Histon sector officers have been piloting a system where we send out a daily update on all the crimes that have taken place within a sector- burglaries, vehicle crime and criminal damage. This has been very popular as generally people want to know what is going on and the more information we give you, the better able you are to protect your home and possessions. So we are going to be rolling this out in the Sawston and Cambourne districts as well. This means you will be hearing from us more regularly, hopefully with information that you find useful. As ever, please let us know what you think and how we can make the service better for you.

Chief Inspector James Sutherland (Area Commander- South Cambridgeshire)

22nd April, 2015

APPENDIX D

RE: New locations for bus shelters

Dear Dr de Lacey,

Further to our site meeting yesterday please find attached:

1). Plan with what our records show to be adopted highway highlighted green. On this plan I have used blue pins to indicated the street lights / bus stop flag pole and a red pin as a suggested

possible location for the shelter. Having measured on site with yourself yesterday I believe there is sufficient highway verge to install the shelter, so as not to impede the footway. We need to ensure the roof overhang of the shelter is kept back. We require normal street furniture to be set back 450mm from the edge of the carriageway, as I explained yesterday. From our measurements you should be able to acquire double this at approximately 900mm. I have also attached some photos of the possible location, although poor quality, sorry.

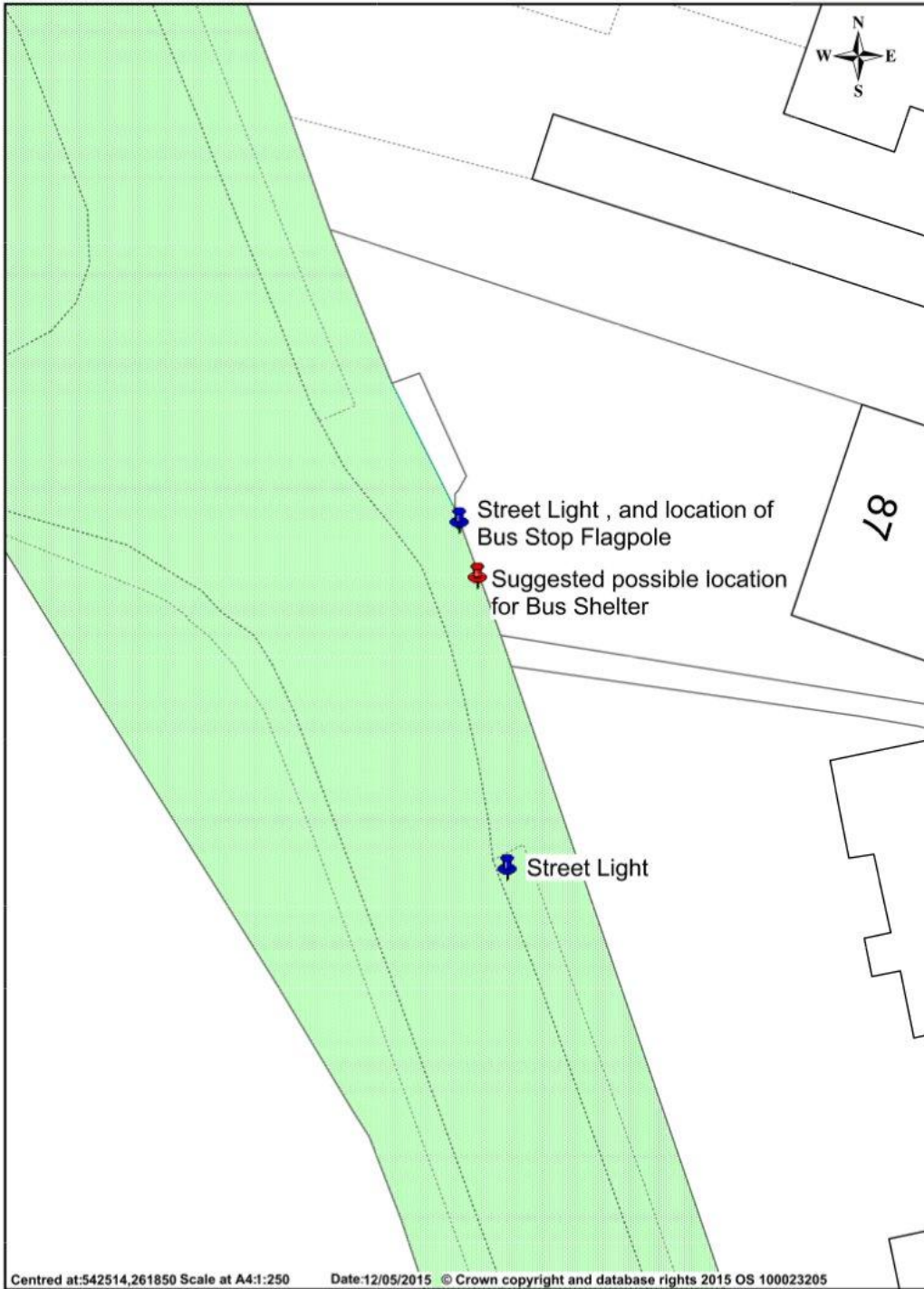
2). I have also draw the bus shelter dimensions to reflect those of the shelter we measured on Huntingdon Road yesterday, and a google image to accompany these measurements.

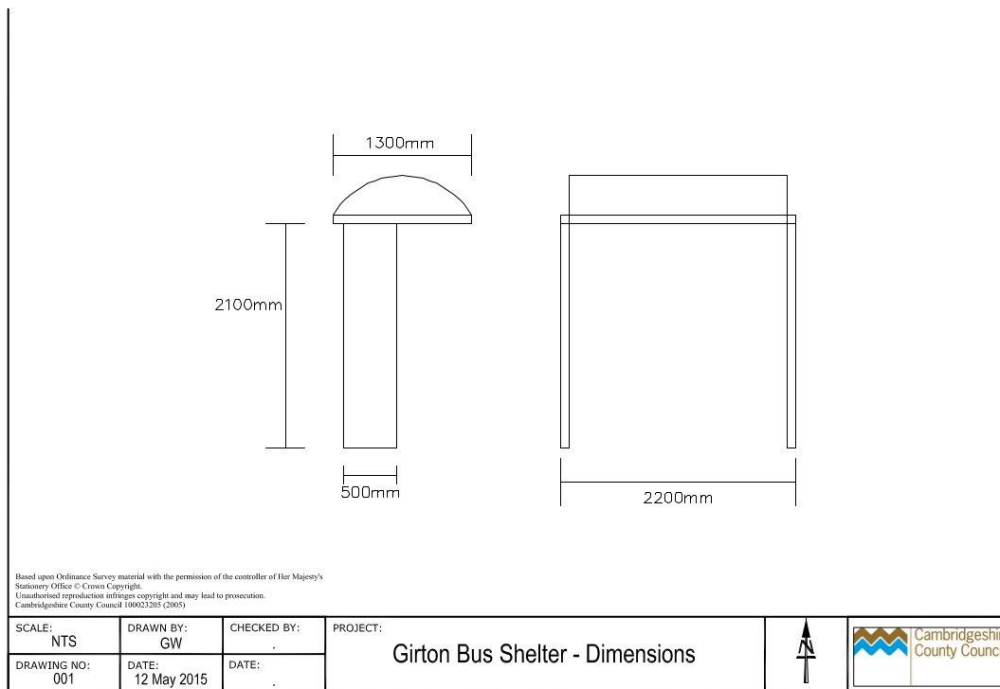
I hope this helps and should you require any further information please don't hesitate to ask. Again you will require utility drawings before contractors installation. If this shelter is not due to be installed for some time, would recommend you wait until closer to the time of installation as the information is only valid for 3 months.

Kind regards,

Gavin

Girton Bus Shelter Possible Location





APPENDIX E
Payments for May 2015 Tabled at the Meeting

APPENDIX F

Chairman's Report
13. 5. 2015

Following my comments on the dog walk in this month's GPN, I received several responses (it is good to know that some people do read GPN!) explaining that they are frightened to use the official walk because of the dog in the bungalow. I therefore went to talk to the owners, and they explained that they have already fenced off the area between the house and the road so that their dog is now contained well away from other dog walkers.

I have again met a County officer who has confirmed that it is possible to erect a bus shelter at the allotment stop without intruding on private land or users of the highway. If the Council approves we shall consult the owners of the three properties most affected. We do not yet know when this shelter will be available for replacement.

The Annual Parish Meeting was not particularly well attended despite our best efforts. I think we have to accept that the village is happy enough with our efforts not to be interested in attending in droves. The meeting endorsed our budget, and by a show of hands indicated that it regards flooding as a whole-village issue which will strengthen our hand in negotiations, and indeed in choosing to allocate funds.

The Vice-Chairman and I have met the Land and Development Manager of Hallmark Care Homes, the company which will be responsible for building and running the proposed home in Wellbrook Way. They are not happy with the plans submitted by Frontier and approved by SCDC and showed us a new proposal which is certainly more imaginative and should be much more attractive. It proposes an increase in occupancy from 72 to 84 rooms, but on a smaller footprint. They hope to receive planning permission from SCDC as soon as possible, and to begin construction in the autumn. Sadly this means that the S111 payment to the Parish Council (which is unaffected by these developments) will not be paid in time to finance summer work on the car park.

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX G
Flooding and Drainage Report for Parish Council Meeting on 20th May 2015

As already reported, the re-location of the service pipes and reinstatement of the area around the Oakington Road Bridge has now been completed. Whilst this will not solve the flooding problem it should reduce the risk from a 1 in 20 year event to that of a 1 in 50 year event.

As progress appeared to have gone quiet recently, I sent an email to the Environment Agency asking for an update on the Flood Risk Management Scheme. I received a reply that a new project manager had been appointed to progress the scheme and that appraisal and design of the scheme was scheduled for the current financial year. If they are able to go to construction, this would take place in 2017/18. As usual they emphasised that this was dependent on finding some additional funding, without which nothing would proceed.

As Councillors may be aware, on 15th October 2014, the Council voted unanimously “To agree in principle a financial contribution towards flood defences in Girton” but at the time the size of contribution was not discussed. I presented a brief update on the scheme at the annual Parish meeting on 7th May 2015 and in response to a question from the floor, our Chairman asked those present if they thought the cost was just the responsibility of those in the flood area, or whether they thought that the wider community should share the cost. A show of hands indicated that those present regarded flooding as a whole village issue and so this can be taken into consideration when preparing the Parish Council Budgets for future years.

The Environment Agency have also completed “bushing” work on the stretch of Beck Brook downstream of the bridge, and although this is welcome, we are continuing to request that they complete the work down to the bridge on Gatehouse Road.

Several residents, including myself, have registered as interested parties to the A14 widening consultations, in order to make the case for some joined up thinking in the design of the run-off from the new carriage ways. The widening of the road presents an opportunity to actually reduce the flood risk downstream, rather than just maintaining the current position.

The flooding from the Washpit and Beck Brook is not the only flood problem in Girton and on 6th May I visited the area behind 91 Thornton Road with Brian Bromwich and the residents of no 91. The ditch there was excavated by South Cambridgeshire District Council a few years ago and is now becoming overgrown, with fallen trees and other debris interfering with the flow of surface water. The responsibility for maintaining this section of the ditch lies with the landowners, who until recently were the Girton Town Charity. However, it was confirmed at the meeting of the Wellbrook Way Development Committee on 18th May that we, the Parish Council, now have responsibility for the woodland and hence the ditch. A more detailed inspection is required to identify whether the debris is caused by natural decay in the woodland or fly-tipping from the houses backing onto the ditch.

Douglas Whittle
Flood and Drainage Officer