

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 August, 2015 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Girton, at 7.30 p.m.

Residents in the parish are invited to attend this meeting but not to speak.

Present: Cllrs: Williams (Chairman), Barnes, de Lacey, Godby, Kettle, Noble, Ranken, and Whittle.

Cllr L Harford (Cambridgeshire County Council)

1 member of the public

15/110 Welcome from the Chairman The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

15/111 Apologies and reasons for absence Apologies had been received from Cllrs Buckler, Bygott, Cockley, Griffin, Harrington and M Taylor. Apologies were also received from the Clerk who was on leave. In her absence, Cllr de Lacey agreed to clerk the meeting.

15/112 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda None.

15/113 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:

1. Presentation by Jane Johannesen of Care Network. The Chairman noted that Ms Johannesen had had to give apologies owing to illness, and hoped she would be able to address a future meeting.

Cllr Lynda Harford reported that plans for Chesterton Station had been approved by the JDCC that morning.

15/114 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To approve a contractor to undertake pitch drainage works at Girton Recreation Ground by the end of August 2015 (details to be circulated). As quotations were not yet available the Chairman withdrew this item.

2. To propose a suggestion for the naming of the new Care Home at Wellbrook Way. The name 'Wellbrook Care Home; was suggested. The Chairman promised to pass this on.

15/115 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve payments for the previous month (previously circulated) Approval of the payments was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Whittle. Cllr Whittle had checked all the payments before the meeting. He noted that the electricity account was for at least two quarters. Cllr Barnes noted that the budget was £6500 for the year. Approved unanimously.

2. To receive a Quarterly Financial Report. The report had not been circulated.

15/116 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix A*). Received. Comments were made on the Charity's proposals for the Wellbrook Way Open Space.

2. District Councillor's Report. Received.

15/117 Matters raised by Members (for information only)

It was noted that a report from the Pavilion PV Task and Finish Group, should be available at the next meeting, and one from the Feast Committee would be available as soon as available.

The meeting closed at 19.45pm

APPENDIX A
Chairman's Report
13th August 2015

It has come to light that as part of the Highway's Agency consultation process on the A14 upgrade, they have developed and submitted "Statements of Common Ground" with various interested parties including many Parish Councils both near and far. Girton PC seems to have been totally overlooked, throughout the process, which began a year ago! I have drafted a letter to the HA and the Examiners pointing this out and requesting our inclusion. Meanwhile a response has appeared on-line to our questions submitted in the last round of consultation. Our complaint about the safety of the new local road as it enters the Huntingdon road into Cambridge has been addressed by a modification which requires A14 traffic for Cambridge to leave and join the local road at an earlier point before this road crosses the A14 and reaches a roundabout which links to the Cambridge road and a spur from the A428. Our request for consideration of variable speed limits as an alternative to a local road seems to have fallen on deaf ears; the excuse being that non motorways do not have such things! I shall respond to the latest consultation stage with a repeat of this question. All parishioners are invited to make their own submissions also. I also attended an *ad hoc* meeting of local Parish Council Chairmen to hear about a plan from Madingly PC to add a bus way route to the Girton Interchange to obviate the need for a good deal of a separate new bus way which has been proposed linking Cambourne to Cambridge. My (obvious) conclusion is that we are building homes in the wrong place for easy access to the growth in jobs.

Following consultation with Wellbrook Way Residents Association, (WWRA), meetings have been held with Girton Town Charity and a plan finalised for the provision of a car park and flat green space next to the Bowls Green. See attached plan. This has been submitted to WWRA for comment. We shall also request that the small area of grass currently inside the Bowls green fence in the NW corner of the plan be made into an open picnic area, outside the fence.

Immediately following the last PC meeting on July 15th a brief discussion was held amongst councillors on the recruitment process for the Finance Officer. The HR Committee felt that a wider response was required before a selection could be made and that the post should be re-advertised with a new timetable in place. The redrafted advertisement will be placed in the GPN, and other local parish magazines and suitable web sites. Our Clerk has agreed to provide temporary cover for the position with the assistance of our previous RFO, Natalie Stone, who has kindly agree to step into the breach. The feasibility of managing the accounts on spreadsheets rather than Quickbooks is being explored by a third party.

Hallmark the Care Home developer has finally met with the local GP service and submitted their plans to SCDC. They have requested a meeting to satisfy any concerns we might have so I have asked them to come to the September PC meeting. If this is too late for the planning process an earlier meeting with me, the vice chair and Douglas de Lacey (as former chairman involved historically with this negotiation) will be arranged. Hallmark has also requested suggestions for suitable names for the facility.

Haydn Williams

(Please see also plan forwarded separately)

APPENDIX B
Report from District Councillor de Lacey

On 17 July our new MP Heidi Allen met a group of opposition Members to discuss her role within the District. I then had an individual meeting with her. She is very prepared to be involved in even small local issues and should prove a valuable ally.

The 29 July Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee meeting approved the final items in the Phase 2 development -- the total Section 106 payments (£73M) and the conditions to be attached. It was a stormy meeting as we were again starved of hard information, and several of us felt obliged to vote against what we see as inadequate provision and protection.

On July 30 there was an all-Member session on the Boundary Commission proposals, though it was quite poorly attended. A questionnaire had sought to establish just how great our workload is, though it was suggested that feedback from Parish Clerks would be more useful. However much (or little) work we do, the Boundary Commission (BC) wants to increase the

proportion from 2000 residents per member to 3000. Since they are working on their projected 2010 figures, this again puts Girton in the invidious position of requiring 1.5 Councillors. There are two separate but related issues:

* Do we want all-out elections once every 4 years, or an election for each of 3 of the 4-year cycle?

* Do we want all Wards to be 3-Member Wards or should we continue with the present mix of 1-, 2- and 3-Members?

We noted that unless we go for all-out elections we shall be obliged by the BC to make all Wards 3-Member. I do need a lot more feedback from you my constituents on these issues! There will be consultations but the timetable is very tight.

There have been moves by the road safety charity Brake to establish a 50mph limit on the A14 (something for which I have long campaigned) and I was given a chance by ITV to reiterate my arguments on 3 August in a 30 minute interview filmed at the A14 bridge and including shots of some incredible driving. In the event around 10 seconds of the interview were broadcast.

The South Cambs Council Leader has joined other Cambridgeshire leaders in calling for greater devolution for Cambridgeshire. I am not perfectly clear of the issues and shall shortly be meeting our CEO to discuss them (and other things). Watch this space!

Finally I spent a very enjoyable evening on 5 August with Girton WI celebrating 100 years of the WI movement and 97 years of its presence in Girton; a proud record.

Douglas de Lacey

19. 8. 2015