

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 20th January, 2016 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 16/04.1

Present: Cllrs: Williams (Chairman), Barnes, Buckler, de Lacey, Godby, Harrington, Kettle, Ranken, L Taylor and Whittle.

1 Member of the public (until end of item 16/04.1)

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk), M McKay (RFO)

16/01 Welcome from the Chairman The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

16/02 Apologies and reasons for absence Apologies had been received from Cllrs Bygott, Griffin and M Taylor and from County Councillor Harford, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.

16/03 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda None.

16/04 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:

1 Members of the Public. Mr R Jones spoke about the possible need for a Park and Ride in the north of the city, to reduce traffic coming through Girton, particularly with the predicted increase in traffic from Northstowe in the future. A traffic survey through the village could be useful. Negotiation with Cambridgeshire County Council is needed.

Cllr Williams has been in correspondence with Heidi Allen MP regarding A14 upgrade concerns. The issue is to be raised with Cllr Harford.

The member of the public was thanked, and left the meeting at this point.

2 County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) There were no questions arising from Cllr Harford's report.

3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Cllr de Lacey explained that because the JDCC meeting had been cancelled, he had been to the NW Quadrant Sub-Committee meeting on January 20th. Girton was well-represented by three attendees including himself. Cllr Harford's report 'New Community Blues' is to be spoken to at the next meeting.

Officers are still looking at how to make the pinch-point on Huntingdon Road safer for cyclists and will report back to Cllr Harford.

On the issue of the Neighbourhood Plan, this was well-researched five years ago and now needs to be changed into a Neighbourhood Plan. Cottenham has undertaken an online survey. There are some places in Girton where development could be possible and it would be best if residents do this rather than developers coming in. Development is not wanted on the St John's fields, which offer open spaces.

4 Police Report (*Appendix C*) Neighbourhood Watch have Care Quality Commission leaflets for distribution.

16/05 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th December, 2015 (previously circulated) The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Williams. Cllr de Lacey proposed an amendment to item 15/160.3 as follows: Financial Regulations were suspended on the ground that the Council is unlikely to be able to attract three quotations. Approved unanimously.

16/06 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)
15/160.2 The new Open Spaces contract has begun.

- 15/160.3 Clearance works on Footpath 4 will be undertaken in early February.
15/160.5 Pond works at Town End Close will be undertaken before the end of February.
15/160.11 MUGA refurbishment works are scheduled for 21st-22nd January
Noted by the Council.

16/07 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To approve a parish council budget for 2016-2017 (previously circulated) Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Whittle. A nominal increase of 1.5% would give an increase of £1262. The number of Band D equivalent households has risen from 1804 to 1841, meaning that the precept per Band D household has gone down 0.5% The only significant increases are for the churchyard maintenance contribution and contribution to bowls green maintenance. Approved unanimously.

2. To approve a precept request of £109,768 be sent to South Cambridgeshire District Council, for 2016-2017 (details tabled). Proposed by Cllr Whittle, seconded by Cllr Williams. This represents a 1.5% increase. Approved unanimously.

3. To approve that the decommissioned telephone kiosk at the junction of Girton Road and Pepys Way be turned 90° to allow safe access for its use as a book exchange, management of which will be undertaken by a community group. The kiosk is now owned by the Parish Council, and is to be passed on to a community group to be run as a book exchange, all costs to be covered by the group. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Harrington. The Community Group has been unsuccessful in finding an alternative site. If the kiosk was turned 90 degrees it would have two obscured sides. Cllr Williams proposed an amendment that the community group be allowed to keep it as it is, if wished, seconded by Cllr Godby. Approved unanimously.

4. To approve the use of 10-Acre Field for a circus visit in June 2016, subject to conditions. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr de Lacey. The Circus may use the field if they can provide their own water and power, give a donation for the field's use to the Council, and indemnify the Council against claims. It was noted that Girton Feast begins on 1st July, so the field would be needed then. Approved unanimously.

5. To approve refurbishment works on play equipment at the Recreation Ground (*Appendix D*) Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Buckler. The replacement seats are at the suggestion of the Health and Safety Officer, following the Playground Inspection Report. Approved unanimously.

6. To approve the replacement of a hot water-heater at the Pavilion at a cost not exceeding £250.00 (tabled at the meeting). Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Whittle. Approved unanimously.

7. To appoint new members to Parish Council sub-committees to replace members who have left the Council.

Cllr Williams proposed the following appointments. Cllrs Kettle and Buckler are to join the Sports & Recreation Committee. Cllrs Bygott and Godby are to join the Finance, Planning and Resources Committee. It was suggested that the Emergency Plan Task and Finish Group could perhaps link with British Red Cross's emergency planning. Approved unanimously.

8. To agree a response to the Cambridgeshire County Council Greater Cambridge City Deal Consultation. Councillors will respond as individuals, by the deadline of 15th February. The effect of traffic on Huntingdon Road will be a major issue as the plans will create difficulties at the Victoria Road crossroads.

16/08 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve payments for the previous month (*Appendix E*) The Payments Schedule had been checked by Cllr Whittle prior to the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Whittle. Approved unanimously.

16/09 Correspondence (to be received)

1. 12 Jan 2016: Over Day Centre Annual Report
Received by the Council. A copy of the Over Day Centre's letter will be forwarded to Girton Town Charity.

16/10 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix F*). The Chairman will write again to Heidi Allen MP and the Planning Inspectorate.
2. Girton Town Charity. No report this month. The Clerk asked for a report, but the Trustees are not meeting until the end of the month and all publically-available information has been published in Girton Parish News.
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix G*) Cllr Kettle has met with Girton Youth Project's leaders. She is concerned about provision for girls attending GYP. Cllr Kettle is to meet with Trustees from Girton Town Charity, to discuss.
4. Footpaths. Footpath 4 is to be cleared next month.
5. Water Management. There are additional flooding concerns on Oakington Road following heavy rain, although the level of Beck Brook is currently low.
6. Bowls Green Task and Finish Group. Cllr de Lacey has been in communication with the Bowls Club. Mr C Wilson is to produce a management plan – an estimated £1500 of material and time would be needed for this year, £500 to be donated by the Parish Council, £1000 by the Bowls Club. The Parish Council would also have to allow for extra hours to sponsor Mr Wilson to work for the Bowls Club. Mr Wilson is confident that he will have the time to undertake these duties. The Bowls Club are reasonably happy with the proposal Cllr de Lacey was congratulated on achieving a favourable outcome for all concerned.
7. Energy Audit Report for Girton Pavilion (*Appendix H*) Cllr Ranken suggested that decisions be made regarding the prioritisation of works which might be needed, the time span and costs to be considered to improve energy efficiency. The sub-group should continue working on this and bring proposals to a later full Council meeting. A ground source heat pump would give the highest return and may benefit the church. The report shows the Pavilion building to be very efficient. The report is useful in terms of thinking about longer term strategy. Costings for implementing a ground source heat pump whilst undertaking car park works would be useful.

16/11 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes

1. Sports and Recreation Committee Meetings, 7th December, 2015 and 12th January, 2016.
2. Planning Committee Meeting, 9th December 2015
3. Environment Committee Meetings, 9th December 2015 and 12th January, 2016. Received by the Council.

16/12 Matters raised by Members (for information only)

Residents who have expressed interest in becoming Councillors should get in touch with the Clerk or existing Councillors to discuss.

The PCSO will be notified about inconsiderate parking on the corners of Girton Road/Thornton Road and Huntingdon Road/Thornton Road.

The campaign for speed-reduction wheelie-bin stickers within the village was noted. The proposal for additional car parking spaces for St Vincent's Close sheltered housing will be looked at by Cllr de Lacey.

The meeting closed at 8.43 pm.

APPENDIX A Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report to Parish Councils December 2015/January 2016

Finance

On 17 December the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced the publication of the provisional 2016/17 settlement in an oral statement to the House of Commons. The headline position for the Council is an approximate 19.8% reduction in central government funding for 2016/17. In addition there are cuts to other grants given for

specific purposes. The largest component of the reductions is in the Revenue Support Grant [RSG], the main revenue government grant. The Council will see a reduction of £20.3m in RSG, to £33.35m, in 2016/17 and a number of grants previously given to the council separately have been amalgamated into RSG. All factors being taken into account means the real, like for like, year on year reduction in RSG is £23.5m or 41%. In addition to the amalgamation of various grants into RSG, the cuts to the grant are greater than expected because government has also effectively redistributed RSG between different types of local government and this has not favoured shire counties and districts.

As mentioned in last month's report, councils with responsibility for Adult Social Care [ASC] are permitted to levy up to an additional 2% of council tax above the referendum threshold to alleviate pressures in ASC funding. Subject to Parliamentary approval, this additional flexibility will be allowed in each of the five years of this Parliament. However, as suggested might be the case by the details of the Comprehensive Spending Review in November, no funding has been announced to offset the pressure on care costs caused by the introduction of the National Living Wage. It is expected that this pressure will be £4.9m for the Council in 2016/17.

At its meeting on 14 January, General Purposes Committee [GPC] agreed that the Council's Chief Finance Officer should write to the Secretary of State [in line with DCLG's request for notification by 15 January] stating that the Council is not currently minded to set a 2% ASC precept for 2016/17. This will be a decision for full Council at its meeting in February.

GPC also agreed a proposal for Milton Keynes Council to join Local Government Shared Services [LGSS]. The appropriate terms remain to be negotiated by designated officers and members and agreed by both Cambridgeshire County and Milton Keynes Councils. In line with the Council's ambitions as a developer GPC also agreed to progress plans for the development of land on Rampton Road, Cottenham. The recommendation was amended to include exploration of the possibility that this development could be brought forward as a Community Land Trust and to reflect a commitment that the council would work with the local community in doing this.

Full agenda/decisions: <http://tinyurl.com/gmo3var>

Among the decisions taken at its January meeting Adults Committee agreed to recommend to GPC that the opportunity to levy the ASC precept was not taken up [as above]. It also recommended the removal of some previously identified savings including £150,000 for older people's day services. Full agenda/decisions: <http://tinyurl.com/hy2j7h6>
Health Committee in its scrutiny role conducted a brief, first review of the failure of the Uniting Care Partnership. This review focused on ongoing support for clients in the aftermath of the failure. A more in depth review of the causes for the failure will be conducted by the committee during January. The next scheduled meeting of the committee is 21 January. Full agenda/decisions: <http://tinyurl.com/pyrcsrd>

Highways & Community Infrastructure Committee's January agenda included consideration of the feedback from local councils, Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership, the Police and public through a consultation on proposals for street lighting. As a result the committee decided to reduce by 2 hours the period when street lights will be switched off. They will now be switched off between 2am and 6am. The committee also endorsed a list of savings with the exception of that which would be achieved through the withdrawal of funding for school crossing patrols.

Full agenda/decisions: <http://tinyurl.com/zbzrxn4>

The City Deal consultation on better bus, cycling and walking trips commenced on 14 December and runs until 15 February. To give your views on proposals for Milton Road: <http://tinyurl.com/jehrndk> and Histon Road: <http://tinyurl.com/htl54xp>

Although there were no applications to be considered by the Joint Development Control Committee [Cambridge Fringes] members of the committee attended a briefing on the new Wing Development. There was much discussion about the viability arguments put forward by the developer to support a level of 30% of affordable housing. Members expressed strongly their disappointment that the developer had refused to agree to a review mechanism similar to that included for Phase 2 of Northstowe.

For those interested in finding out more about what Community Land Trusts [referred to in GPC report above] are and how they benefit local communities: <http://clteast.org>

I shall be attending a meeting on 22 January the purpose of which is advertised as being

to celebrate the success of the Connecting Cambridgeshire project. There are many questions to be asked about the provision of 'superfast' broadband and I am looking forward to asking them.

My best wishes to you all for 2016 and I look forward to seeing you all at your first meetings of the new year .

Lynda

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APPENDIX B

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey

15. 1. 2016

Following my December report on the meeting at the University primary school I received strong representations from parents who felt I had misrepresented them. I regret that they feel I cast their road safety campaign in an unfair light and apologise if this was so. The parents' representatives do agree that my proposed changes would be an improvement but rejected my term 'compromise' as it does not solve two of their main concerns, namely the lack of a safe, attractive cycling route back from the school to Girton, and the 'pinch-point' in the northbound Huntingdon Road cycle path. Discussions about the Eddington Avenue junction continue.

My December report was necessarily early so this has been a long month, but little has happened. The JDCC meetings, and most others, have been cancelled for lack of business, though the JDCC was briefed on affordability at the Wing site. This has however given me time for reflection, and I was stimulated by a recent newsletter from John Hipkin, an Independent member of both City and County Councils. 'Cambridge is on the move', he writes, 'but where is it going?' I have frequently mentioned in my reports the Greater Cambridge City Deal, a Government initiative worth up to 500 million pounds to stimulate growth in the 'greater City' of Cambridge and environs -- which of course includes us. The initial offer of the Deal seemed very exciting. But as the details emerged, so did the negatives. To my mind the very concept of a 'growth agenda' is problematic. The arrival of AstraZeneca HQ in Cambridge was hailed as a great success. One result was the immediate inflation of house prices in neighbouring villages. This is hardly a benefit for current residents and their children. For villages to the north of the City -- such as Girton -- the growth agenda entails more housing with the concomitant threat to our Green Belt. I successfully argued against ARU's attempt to improve its sports facilities at Howes Place on the grounds that this was specially precious Green Belt; but how long will we be able to stand out against Greater Cambridge's growth? The Local Plan, recently re-submitted to government inspection, leaves Girton's Green Belt intact -- for the moment. But Girton College is arguing as I write for 'very special circumstances' to permit its expansion in its own grounds (in the Green Belt).

Our Parish Plan demonstrated an overwhelming preference for the retention of all our Green Belt. This Plan is now due for revision, and needs to be incorporated in a Girton Neighbourhood Plan to set the parameters for development here in Girton over the coming years. The team which produced our current Plan did a fantastic job. I think the Parish Council ought to consider how best the village can produce a worthy successor?

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX C

Police Report for January 2016

CF0017920116

On the 13/01/2016 unknown offenders have stolen a delivery van, the keys were left in the ignition, this occurred at approximately 10:40 hrs on Church Lane in Girton.

CF0018490116

Between the 10/01/2016 and the 13/01/2016 unknown offenders have stolen an unlocked Burley double seated trailer from a car port in Thornton Road, Girton.

CF0018730116 and CF0018740116

Between the 13/01/2016 and the 14/01/2016 unknown offenders have caused damage to the side curtain of a lorry and stolen 5 pallets (approx. 500 units) of Tommee Tippee nappy sangenic containers. This occurred whilst the vehicle was parked up along the A14 east bound near Girton.

If you have any information which may assist with the investigation into the above crimes then please call 101, reply to this message or call crime stoppers anonymously 0800 555 111.

Regards
Safer Neighbourhood Team

APPENDIX D**Costings for Replacement Play Equipment**

2 x cradle swing seat @£119.00 (plus VAT)

5 x Rocking horse seats @ £17.00 (plus VAT)

Delivery Charge of £10.12 (we hope only one delivery charge if both items are ordered together)

Hopefully, the equipment can be fitted by Graham Clare and Chris Wilson, 'in-house'. These works have been recommended by Graham, our H&S Officer. The products are only made by Wicksteed, so it is cost-effective to deal directly with them.
Parish Clerk

APPENDIX E**Payments Schedule for Girton Parish Council – January 2016****General Parish Expenses**

Date	Chq No	A/c	Payee	Expense Description	Details	Net	VAT	Total	Cheque Total
20/01/16	104112		W F Senate	8 Lamps		26.48	5.29	£31.77	31.77
20/01/16	104113		CMR Wilson	Salary		£1,101.19	.00	£1,101.19	£1,101.19
20/01/16	104114		Linda Miller	Salary		£673.66	.00	£673.66	£673.66
20/01/16	104115		Norman Lewell	Salary		£241.46	.00	£241.46	£241.46
20/01/16	104116		Susan Cumming	Salary		£983.42	.00	£983.42	£983.42
20/01/16	104117		Mick Mckay	Salary		£513.92	.00	£513.92	£513.92
20/01/16	104118		South Cambs District Council	Non-Domestic rates		£672.00	.00	£672.00	£672.00
20/01/16	104119		Cambridgeshire Acre	Payroll support – Oct-Dec 2015		£74.10	14.82	£88.92	£88.92
20/01/16	104120		A-Z Educational	Stationery supplies – folder, paper, post-it notes		£31.04	£6.21	£37.25	£37.25
			A-Z Educational	Stationery supplies – pens, A4 notebook		£24.55	£4.91	£29.46	£29.46
20/01/16	104121		HMRC	NI and Income Tax		£646.00	£0.00	£646.00	£646.00
20/01/16	104122		Atlas Tree Surgery	Crown Lifting of London Plane, Smithy Green		£140.00	£28.00	£168.00	£168.00
20/01/16	104123		Avocet Cleaning Services Ltd	Pavilion Cleaning Services – December 2015		£492.00	£98.40	£590.40	£590.40
20/01/16	104124		Linda Miller	Expenses – stamps, postage, wall chart		£43.84	£0.00	£43.84	£43.84

APPENDIX F
Chairman's Report
14th January 2016

Our MP Heidi Allen has followed up our request to provide flood mitigation in the A14 upgrade design by writing to the planning inspectorate on our behalf. She is to look into our other concerns and respond appropriately. Following liaison with her office I am also to write to the planners reiterating our concerns.

Following a Safety Inspection of our MUGA we were advised to undertake a basic refurbishment of the surface by removal of surface sand and debris with some replenishment. We have instructed our contractor to carry out this work next week.

After much further prodding from our Clerk, BT have finally removed their equipment from the disused phone box in Girton road. This can now be handed over to the community group for refurbishment as a book exchange.

After two further meetings of the Bowls Club task and finish group an agreement on maintenance of the Green nears completion. The Club will provide most of the materials and some labour and the PC will provide some of our Grounds man's time and an additional sum for the shortfall in material costs. We will budget £500 for this.

After considerable delay in communication with our solicitor, at last some progress appears to be being made in the land transfer to GTC at Wellbrook Way.

Haydn Williams

APPENDIX G
Summary of Girton Youth Project Report – November/December 2015

Now that it's dark so early we are depending upon indoor games and activities, but for the third year running we have reinstated a favourite outdoor game of hide and seek in the dark.

Reviewing the year I've noticed the Monday group's numbers are equivalent to 2012. I will therefore need to focus my efforts on building links with the Glebe Primary again. However, the numbers for the older Thursday group are the largest they've ever been and this has been reflected in the additional activities we've been able to offer, such as:

- Ice skating at the ice rink at Parkers Piece on our last day of the year.
- Completing the long term painting project at Bar Hill Primary School, painting a storage container they had on the premises.
- A 4 piece mural outside the Cambridge YMCA building.
- A two day Photoshop editing and website development workshop at the University of Hertfordshire.
- Volunteering at Cambridge United football match to promote the YMCA.

We will be having a conversation with a young artists group called Circuit to see if they can help us put on an exhibition in Cambridge.

APPENDIX H
Recommendation Report following Energy Audit
(forwarded separately)