

Girton Parish Council

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The Pavilion
Girton Recreation Ground
Cambridge Road, Girton
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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th May, 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 16/54.1

Present: (Cllrs) Williams (Chairman), Barnes, Buckler, Bygott (from item 16/54.2 onwards), de Lacey, Godby, Griffin, Kettle, M Taylor, Whittle.

Cllr L Harford (Cambridgeshire County Council) (until end of item 16/57.1)

1 member of the public

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk)

- 16/49 To elect the Parish Council Chairman for 2016-2017** Cllr Godby proposed that Cllr Williams be re-elected as Chairman, seconded by Cllr Buckler, and approved unanimously.
- 16/50 The Chairman to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office** The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk.
- 16/51 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially County Councillor Harford and the member of the public.
- 16/52 Apologies and reasons for absence** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Harrington and Ranken and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.
- 16/53 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** None.
- 16/54 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**
1. Members of the Public. The member of the public spoke about a large amount of tree-felling to the rear of 39 Pepys Way over the past weekend. Birds and bats, their nests, and black squirrels have all now gone. No planning permission has been applied for. There have also been a couple of bonfires in neighbouring gardens. The member of the public is concerned to know what is happening, and if new properties are to be built. The member of the public has been consulting with Cllr de Lacey who will report to the Ecology Officer at SCDC and take whatever action we can. The Council is grateful to the member of the public and neighbours for information. Cllrs Harford and de Lacey are not aware of any planning applications but there has been a pre-application request to discuss one dwelling in that area. The Chairman also reported that he has been informed by a resident of Weavers Field that a developer has bought several gardens of Pepys Way properties with a view to proposing a housing development.
Cllr Bygott joined the meeting at this point.
 2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) Cllr Harford drew attention to paragraph 2 of her report. She had lobbied hard and has now been offered a place on the Committee. Following the meeting on 25th April regarding sewers at Wellbrook Way, Anglian Water confirmed adoption and sewers works will begin in June, to be completed by August 2016. Highways works at Wellbrook Way will begin after this, and street light works are progressing too.
Cllr Harford requested that all our concerns regarding the A14 upgrade be passed to her.
Crossings on Huntingdon Road were also discussed, together with a suggestion that a crossing be put on Girton Road to make it easier to cross to Thornton Road.
The Chairman thanked Cllr Harford.
 3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) There were no questions arising from Cllr de Lacey's report. The developers are slow to bring forward applications for the NIAB site.

4. Police Report (*Appendix C*) There were no questions arising from the Police Report.

16/55 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th April, 2016 (previously circulated) In item 16/40.3, it should read “30% of these will be part of the government-assisted buying scheme”, and “to provide 40% of affordable housing – but Marshalls only offering...”. These amendments were proposed by Cllr de Lacey, seconded by Cllr Williams, and approved unanimously. In item 16/42, Cllr Williams suggested amended wording to read “Approved contractor was not able to continue and the other contractor had not come back with a figure”, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, and approved unanimously. With these amendments, the Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Whittle, and approved with one abstention.

16/56 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)
The play surface repairs at Wellbrook Way play area have been carried out. The annual play inspections were undertaken on 16th May.
Noted by the Council.

16/57 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To appoint a Vice-Chairman for 2016-2017.

Cllr Barnes had expressed her wish to step down from the post, and was thanked for her service over the past year by the Chairman. Cllr Williams proposed that Cllr Griffin be appointed as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey. Approved with one abstention.

The following business item was brought forward to allow Cllr Harford to be present for the item:

7. To approve the S106 agreement, insofar as it affects this Parish Council, for the Care Home at Wellbrook Way

The issue is that officers have come up late in the day with a change to the S106 – the S111 being a separate agreement between GPC and Hallmark Homes. Their proposal is for two bus stops with RTPI inbound and outbound, with a plan to widen the footpath to allow for a bus stop. A bus shelter at Wellbrook Way had previously been suggested by the Parish Council. The developers' response is that this will delay the start of building and commits them to an unknown sum as the £14,000 quoted may not be enough. Cllr de Lacey proposed a modification to the wording, as follows: “as originally proposed, namely that £36,000 be the Highway Contribution”, this amendment seconded by Cllr Williams and unanimously approved. Standing Orders were suspended to allow Cllr Harford to speak. Cllr Harford said that the Officer would be happy to go back to the County Council if Girton Parish Council and the applicant are happy with the original agreement, and will endorse this. The amended motion was unanimously approved.

Standing Orders were reinstated after Cllr Harford spoke.

Cllr Harford left the meeting at this point.

2. To approve the dates of Parish Council Meetings for 2016-2017.

Cllr Williams proposed that meetings continue to be held on the third Wednesday of each month, seconded by Cllr Whittle. 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 2016-2017, as follows:

NB: For all the Council's Committees, Cllr Williams proposed that membership remains the same as for the previous year, and at the next meeting members should make it known if they do not wish to stay on committees. There have not been enough Committee meetings called during the last year and setting the dates for the next meeting of each committee would be the way forward.

a) Planning Committee. Cllr M Taylor is happy to continue as Chairman.

b) Sports and Recreation Committee. Cllr Williams will continue as Chairman until the next meeting. Two or three meetings are needed per year. Cllr Bygott stepped down from the Committee.

c) Environment Committee. The Chairman has tried to speak with Cllr L Taylor regarding the Chairmanship, without success. Cllr Williams proposed that Cllr

Griffin be Chairman, seconded by Cllr Barnes. Approved unanimously.

d) Finance, Planning and Resources Committee. Cllr Whittle will continue as Chairman. The next Finance, Planning and Resources Committee Meeting will be held in June.

e) Human Resources Committee. The Committee has been without a Chair, since Cllr Cockley left the Council. Cllr Williams proposed that Cllr Buckler be Chair of the Committee, seconded by Cllr Godby and approved unanimously.

4. To approve Parish Council Task and Finish Groups:

a) Emergency Plan Group. Cllr Williams is Chairman. A meeting is to be organised in the next quarter.

b) Office Working Group. The group is no longer needed and will be re-constituted in due course to discuss the bigger plan for the loft and whole Pavilion building.

c) IT Group. The group will meet as and when but is not needed at the moment.

d) Car Park Group. The membership will remain unchanged.

e) Energy Group. The group has lost Cllr Ranken as Chairman, as he wishes to stand down as a Councillor. The group would need to liaise with the Car Park Group over ground-source heating possibilities.

f) Bowls Green Group. The group will be reconstituted if needed.

5. To appoint trustees, representatives and advisors, if necessary, for 2016-2017:

a) Girton Town Charity Trustees. Trustees have recently been re-appointed and appointed at the GPC's March 2016 meeting – see items 16/31.2 and 16/31.3

b) Girton Village Institute Trustees. The Council will ask for reports from GPC-appointed trustees.

c) Cotton Hall Trustees. The Council will request reports from GPC-appointed trustees.

d) Youth Work Liaison Officer. Cllr Kettle will continue in this post.

e) CAPALC Representative. Cllr Godby is to continue in post.

f) Police Liaison Officer. Cllr Godby will continue in this post.

g) Footpaths Officer. Cllr Barnes has stepped down, and was thanked for her work. A vacancy exists at present and a volunteer will be sought from the village, perhaps from Gretton Court.

h) Water Management Officer. Cllr Whittle will continue in this role.

i) Warden of Town End Close Nature Reserve. Mr G Thorpe will continue in post. He was thanked for the excellent job he does in maintaining the nature reserve.

j) Tree Officer. Cllr Griffin will continue in post.

k) Health and Safety Advisor. Mr G Clare wishes to stand down after many years in post, so a vacancy exists. The Council expressed our thanks to Mr Clare for his lengthy service to the village.

l) Child Protection Advisor. The Chairman will check if Cllr L Taylor wishes to continue.

6. To approve the following annual subscriptions: CAPALC, CPRE, Cambs ACRE and SLCC. The Clerk itemised and explained what the subscriptions are for. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, and approved with one abstention.

7. To approve the S106 agreement, insofar as it affects this Parish Council, for the Care Home at Wellbrook Way (details to be circulated) This item was brought forward – please see above.

8. To approve a Histon Early Years Centre Toy Library to be held in the car park at Girton Recreation Ground (*Appendix D*). Approval for a mobile toy library van to visit the Recreation Ground once a month had been given four years ago and never rescinded, but a new Council has been appointed since then so re-approval is needed. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Barnes, and approved unanimously.

16/58 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve payments for the previous month. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Bygott, and approved subject to scrutiny.

2. To receive a financial report for the end of the financial year 2015-16. As the

RFO was not at the meeting, this item was postponed to a later meeting.

3. To approve the appointment of an internal auditor. The Clerk is to contact the accountant who undertook the internal audit last year. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved unanimously.

16/59 Correspondence (to be received)

1. 25 April: Letter of thanks from St Andrew's PCC for churchyard mowing agreement.
2. 11 May: Correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate regarding the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon upgrade approval.
Received by the Council.

16/60 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix E*) There were no questions arising from the Chairman's Report.
2. Girton Town Charity. The Town Charity's report will be brought to the Annual Parish Meeting on 19th May.
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix F*). The Youth Project will have a stall at the Annual Parish Meeting.
4. Footpaths. The Footpath Officer's report will be included in the Chairman's Report at the Annual Parish Meeting.
5. Water Management. Cllr Whittle reported on proposed bank repairs downstream of Oakington Road bridge.
6. Bowls Green Task and Finish Group. No report this month.
7. Energy Task and Finish Group. No report this month.

16/61 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes

1. Planning Committee Meeting of 20th April, 2016
Received by the Council.

16/62 Matters raised by Members (for information only)

It was noted that this item should only include items which the Council needs to discuss at the next meeting.

Cllr Buckler proposed double yellow lines be placed at the Huntingdon Road end of Girton Road and Thornton Road, and will bring an agenda item to a future meeting. Regarding the graffiti problem, Cllr Buckler suggested approaching IVC with an anonymous reward for information.

Cllr Buckler suggested that the bus shelter near the church needs painting.

The kiosk near the Church has been vandalised, and BT need to be alerted to its state as it is still in commission.

Regarding the book-exchange kiosk, quotations for decoration and restoring the kiosk to the vertical are being sought by the book-exchange committee.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

APPENDIX A
Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report to Parish Councils
April/May 2016

Normally at this time I would be saying: elections are over and it's back to business as usual. However, this year elections might be over but we still have the EU Referendum to come on 23 June - an extremely important event on which as many people as possible should have their say. I start this month's report therefore with a plea that we all encourage as many people as possible to register to vote. There is evidence that a lot of young people are not yet registered and this referendum has particular importance for the younger generation. This referendum affects their future and I believe we should do all we

can to encourage them to participate. They can register on line at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or by calling: 03450 455214. They will need to provide their national insurance number. Any queries about registration can be addressed to: elections@scambs.gov.uk or by calling 03450 455214. The deadline for registering to be able to vote in the referendum is 07 June.

At Council's Annual General Meeting [AGM] on 10 May it considered a motion proposing that officers should be requested to develop an options appraisal for the future use of Shire Hall. With approval given by the vast majority of members, officers will now work on an appraisal that considers: all alternatives to indicate the most effective way for the Council to deliver the services that are currently hosted at Shire Hall; alternatives to Shire Hall that will allow the Council to most effectively fulfil its democratic duties/responsibilities; potential alternative uses of Shire Hall. A motion relating to the government's proposal to force all schools to become academies by 2020 was withdrawn due to the fact that there has subsequently been some amendments proposed. However, the government's position is not completely clear and doubtless this will spark further debate in the future. The AGM is also the meeting at which committee membership is approved. For the forthcoming year I have been appointed to the following committees: Adults; Economy & Environment; Health; Planning. I am also pleased to report that I have been successful in lobbying for a properly constituted committee to oversee the Council's investment programme. As the programme includes proposals to develop land in the Council's ownership for housing with consequent impacts on residents, I had insisted that the previous working group must be replaced by a formally constituted committee and agreement for this was given at the

AGM. Full agenda: <http://tinyurl.com/jcydve3>

One of the items on the agenda for Economy & Environment Committee when it met in April was an update to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan [ROWIP]. The ROWIP forms part of the Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan [LTP], and was first adopted in October 2006 as part of the LTP 2006-2011. The main focus of the ROWIP is the management of the local public rights of way network and securing an improved network of local public rights of way. The Council has a statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to keep the ROWIP up to date and reviewed within 10 years and this review was intended to meet its obligations under the Act and reflect the Council's future ambitions whilst recognising its financial challenges. Full agenda: <http://tinyurl.com/hm6x9sb>

My first attendance at Health Committee was on 12 May. There was a very long agenda that included items for both scrutiny and decision. As part of its scrutiny function the committee considered further reports on the termination of the UnitingCare contract. It is clear that some fundamental errors were made in the process of setting up the contract but that these are acknowledged by those responsible and that action is being taken to ensure that they are not repeated in the future. Full agenda: <http://tinyurl.com/hcdngpp>

The Devolution debate continues with the government holding firm to its position that the Cambridgeshire/Norfolk/Suffolk deal is the only one to be had in the face of dwindling support from even those councils who first expressed positive positions, e.g. Norfolk and Suffolk. Discussions continue among constituent councils to progress proposals for what

are being described as 'brother and sister' deals for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and Norfolk & Suffolk. These would see an elected mayor for each of the areas and the current pot of money being offered for the 3 Counties deal divided proportionately. All constituent councils will meet by the end of June to vote on the current proposal.

I am sure that everyone is aware that the Secretary of State has now given approval for the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme. For those wishing to read more about it the following link provides access to most aspects of the project:

<http://tinyurl.com/k5wnjlu> Highways England [HE] is liaising with the Council with regard to the design of the local road elements of the scheme, flood mitigation, and the scheme legacy. A Liaison Group has been formed from key officers to interface with HE, and representatives from Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Huntingdonshire District Council are invited to meetings. The Group meets every 6 weeks, and sub-groups lead on Design, Traffic, Assets, Environment and Legacy.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published new draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council. A 6 week public consultation on the Commission's new draft recommendations has now started and closes on 20 June 2016. You can view the Commission's new draft recommendations at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4143> where you can find interactive maps, a report and guidance on how to have your say. In fact the recommendations are exactly the same as the first time round and one can only speculate on the reason for the second consultation. However, it is recommended that anyone who responded to the first consultation now responds to this one.

The Wings for Life World Run took place on Sunday 08 May and along with a great many people I enjoyed the opportunity to cheer on the runners in the sunshine. Please do let me have your feedback on the organisation of the event as I believe that it may well come to Cambridgeshire again next year. I know that some concerns were voiced this time so it would be good to provide feedback to ensure that these can be addressed before the next event.

As I write only advance notice is available of a consultation on improving cycleways along Huntingdon Road which is due to start on Monday, 16 May. This phase 2 of improvements will be for the section between Richmond Road and Histon Road. I am sure that this will be of interest particularly to Girton and will forward fuller details as soon as I have them.

Lynda

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APPENDIX B

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey

11. 5. 2016

To begin at the end: Cllr Ray Manning announced on 11 May that he has decided to step down as Leader of the Council. He has been Leader all the time I have been a Councillor and his departure is likely to mark some significant changes. At least one of the possible successors is likely to be far more conciliatory and incorporative to opposition members, and such a change would be enormously welcome and for the good of the District.

This follows the elections in which the LibDems did well in gaining three seats, including the one vacated by independent Robin Page; the other three independents standing (including myself) were returned with comfortable majorities. I read with interest the manifestos of the Conservative and Labour candidates in Girton. Last month I mentioned the importance of a Neighbourhood plan for Girton and I am delighted that Mark McCormack stated 'I will work with the Parish Council to re-establish the Girton survey and Girton village plan'. I am sure the Parish Council will give him full support as he leads this important project and I hope he will also join the Council. It will also be good to welcome Alastair Simpson back to the Council where his 'fresh perspective' will be much valued.

The April JDCC was preceded by a briefing on the Highways Safety Audit process. This was particularly interesting because we tend to be told, as a planning committee, that a design 'has passed a safety audit'; yet it was pointed out that planning law trumps highway law so that statement should not stop us raising concerns about highway matters.

We then looked at an application for the Airport ('Wing') development and raised a number of concerns. I expressed concern at the condition that a home could be occupied when 'a road and/or footway linking that building to a public highway network is completed to binder course level'. Residents of Wellbrook Way will understand why.

With the start of the bowling season I have received complaints about inconsiderate parking around the Wellbrook Way green. I met a trustee of the Charity to discuss the problem and we have come up with a solution which should allow Club members to park on the undeveloped ground.

I have once again chaired a panel to investigate a grievance brought against a Parish Council. These can be enormously time-consuming (the initial panel meeting took 11 hours to interview witnesses and assess the evidence) but worth-while if they lead to an outcome in which the Council can put itself on a better footing. I am pleased that such concerns are unlikely to emerge in Girton, but there is no ground for complacency.

Last month I mentioned rumours about a potential expansion behind Pepys Way. I gather that a pre-application request has been submitted for a single new dwelling but the Council knows of no further plans.

Finally, I wish to note the passing of one of Girton's most significant figures: the polymath scientist Professor Sir David MacKay, who among other achievements spent 5 years at DECC in which he changed the face of global climate change concerns. His funeral at the Arbory Woodland burial site was a celebration of a great man, and we were led to the graveside by a samba band, dancing, laughing and crying. I asked one person how she had known David and why she was here. 'I met him at a Festival of Ideas event', she said. 'He changed my life.'

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX C

Police Report for May 2016

Between 04/05/2016 17:30 and 06/05/2016 08:00, a theft from a vehicle took place in High Street, Girton. Unknown offender(s) has gained entry to the rear of a pick-up truck & stolen a number of power tools (Makita battery drills and grinders). CF0186730516 refers.

CF0193790516

THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE (Manor Farm Road, Girton)

10/05/2016 19:00 - 10/05/2016 23:25

Unknown offender has stolen both number plates from victims vehicle while it was parked to the rear of Gretton School.

APPENDIX D

Mobile Toy Library Request

Dear Douglas

Could I please request that we would be able to park the Mobile Toy Library Van at the Recreation Ground as we did previously. We have had numerous requests for it to return on a Monday. We would be looking at it being there once a month on a Monday at the same time as Bobtails baby and toddler group to enable the parents to access when they attend their session.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes

Maria Lam, Histon Early Years Centre

APPENDIX E

Chairman's Report

11th May 2016

The updated S111 agreement relating to the revised Wellbrook Way Care Home Planning Application has been further amended to include index linking of the sum to be paid to the PC and has now been signed by our side. The planning application itself has been in SCDC's hands since last August but is still not officially approved. Councillor de Lacey has been attempting to establish the reasons for this and it appears to relate to agreement of S106 payments for a real time passenger information sign and bus stop near Wellbrook. The sticking point is now the positioning of the bus shelter in relation to the existing stop. Attempts to progress the transfer of the grassed area at Wellbrook Way from the PC to GTC are still making little if any progress. The delay seems to be at the Land Registry which has yet to finalise the earlier transfer to the PC from Taylor Woodrow. Solicitors for both PC and GTC are trying to make headway but communication on developments is minimal. The GTC reserved matters application to SCDC is making equally slow progress having been submitted in January with no apparent outcome as yet.

The appearance of the road closure signage relating to the Wings for Life run on May 8th led to a flurry of parishioner concerns. Lynda Harford kindly investigated the way in which the permission for this was granted by the County Council and it appears that information on the implications for residents could have been better communicated. In the event, there were few if any problems arising in the village, and many people turned out to support the runners/racers on their way.

Finally, hurrah, hurrah, hurrah, as mentioned near the top of the agenda, the Wellbrook Way play area surface has at last been repaired. This took about 11 months to complete following major obfuscation by Taylor Woodrow who promised to take responsibility for the inadequate installation but refused to get on with it. Many thanks to Susie and Linda for pursuing this to its conclusion. The costs are to be met by our insurers but I hope we can still chase TW for a complete refurbishment to the required standard to prevent further problems arising.

APPENDIX F

Summary of Girton Youth Project Report for April 2016

Now that the weather is improving we are spending a lot more time outside with organised games for the Monday group and getting involved in whatever the older ones want to arrange. Our Easter activities revolved around our most successful trips from previous years and all were either full or oversubscribed. All of our trips went really well and we have been asked to

do them all again this summer. The Bouncy Castle day was popular, and apart from some poor behaviour from a young person from Histon and a little rivalry went pretty well

Our partnership with the Circuit young people's network is now underway with a six week co-funded project with artist Jack Cornell. He is doing 2 hours a week with members of the group to produce work for an exhibition at The Junction on Saturday 11th June.

Following a meeting with Impington Village College initiated by our silver arts award participant, we are in discussion about a number of painting projects, including murals and hosting a workshop for a small group of their pupils.

We have appointed Ryan Day as our new Team Leader, he has been with us for a few weeks now and is already fully involved in the club activities and outreach work at Girton Glebe.