

# 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 20<sup>th</sup> July, 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 16/83.2*

Present: (Cllrs) H Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Bygott (from item 16/83.3 onwards), de Lacey, Godby, Griffin, Kettle, M Taylor, Whittle, L Williams.  
Cllr L Harford (Cambridgeshire County Council) (until end of item 16/83.3)  
Mr M Beavor (Anglia Ruskin University), Ms C Frost (Savills) (until end of item 16/83.1)  
1 member of the public (until the end of item 16/88.1)  
In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk) (until the end of item 16/ 88.1)

- 16/80 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Cllr Harford, the member of the public and representatives from Savills and Anglia Ruskin University.
- 16/81 Apologies and reasons for absence** Apologies had been received from Cllr Harrington, and the Chairman accepted her reason for absence.
- 16/82 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** None.
- 16/83 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**
1. Presentation on proposed Howes Close Sports Ground works by Anglia Ruskin University.  
Martin Beavor, Head of Sport at Anglia Ruskin University, spoke about plans for new facilities at Howes Close Sports Ground, and how the current application differs from the 2014 application. Three years ago, Sport at Anglia Ruskin University was restructured and is now used as a tool to develop leadership. The demand for sports clubs has almost doubled. The facilities at Howes Close are now not fit for purpose (ie too few changing rooms) and Anglia Ruskin University therefore want to redevelop these facilities. The two full sized pitches, one for football the other for hockey, would need floodlighting for training sessions. There will always be a member of staff on site. The facilities will offer training for coaching and refereeing. Although the site is on the greenbelt, the University considers that there are special reasons for using greenbelt. As many neighbours were upset by the 2014 application, Anglia Ruskin have held more drop-in sessions and offers to meet with residents this time. It is hoped to submit the new application by the end of July.  
Key changes in the forthcoming application:
    - a) Intensification of use. At the moment, it's not used much. The original application wanted it open until 10pm. Now, will not go beyond 9pm on weekdays, 7pm at weekends, with the pitches close to neighbours until 6pm. Giving a half hour slot at the end of the last bookings would mean the latest usage would be 9.30pm on weekdays and 7.30pm at weekends. The University need the facility mostly between September and May, and won't use it outside of these times.
    - b) Concerns about noise. An acoustic willow fence 2.5m high will be placed 3m from neighbours' boundary. Students will not be allowed to use the facility without staff being present. A Code of Conduct will be instigated, the University having liaised with Cambs Football Association and Sport England.
    - c) Bookings. No casual bookings will be accepted, with the only accepted bookings being from sports clubs with affiliation to ARU.Mr Beavor acknowledged that some residents are still unhappy, but more are in favour than against. Cllr Bygott reported a change in sentiment from last time. The areas of noise, floodlighting and hours of operation have moved forward. Following

councillors' questions regarding whether the site will follow full Sports England guidance on access, Mr Beavor explained that national government body standards for wheelchair access and accessible changing facilities will be followed and the application meets Sports England guidance.

Mr Beavor and Ms Frost were thanked by the Chairman and left the meeting at this point.

2. Members of the Public. The member of the public did not wish to speak.

3. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) Cllr Harford spoke about parking problems on Thornton Road. Andrew Preston of Cambridgeshire Highways has been very helpful and it is hoped that an application for yellow lines at the Huntingdon Road end of Thornton Road would be looked on favourably. Problems have been exacerbated by contractors' vehicles during domestic building works. The cost to extend these back to The Brambles would be approximately £1500-£1800. Cllr Harford would support an application from the Parish Council for a Local Highways Improvement Scheme grant, and Girton Parish Council would need to contribute 10% of the cost. This would come from the 2017-18 budget. The Parish Council should undertake an informal consultation of residents, with Cllrs Harford and Buckler happy to canvas residents. Cllr Harford also thanked the Parish Council for work on encroachment of gardens onto pavements. After the Parish Council's approach to landowners, the Highways Officer could send a letter, and in some cases could get the work done and then charge the landowner.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Harford, who left the meeting at this point..

4. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Cllr de Lacey spoke about the City Deal. The Deal Board wants to change the City Deal so there is no more affordable housing. There has been inaction regarding 156 Girton Road, where a legal notice has been served. Also, regarding the farm in Washpit Lane where scaffolding is now being produced, and will need a retrospective application. Cllr de Lacey was asked about the A14 Workplace Levy, which is at the proposal stage, and he recommended that Councillors respond to the internet survey. This will cause large parking problems.

Cllr Bygott spoke about the Congestion Consultation which ends on 10<sup>th</sup> October, with the consultation on Devolution closing in the last week of August, also available on the SCDC website. There is a large groundswell of opinion against it. Cllr Bygott voted against the 'elected mayor' proposal, then voted for the proposal in general. The concept of an elected mayor has not worked elsewhere in the country, including Bedfordshire. An elected mayor would have the power to veto any decision.

5. Police Report (*Appendix C*) Cllr Godby will attend the Neighbourhood Watch Executive Committee Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July.

**16/84 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th June, 2016** (previously circulated). In item 16/66.3, the word 'replaced' should be substituted for 'replace'. With this amendment, the Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved with two abstentions.

**16/85 To confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016** (previously circulated). The Chairman proposed the Minutes as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Whittle. Approved with three abstentions.

**16/86 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**

16/69.2 A request has been made to SCDC for new dog bins at Wellbrook Way.

16/69.3 Contractors have been notified that the island at Duck End/Woody Green will be left with more-natural growth.

16/69.5 It was not possible to hold a Parish Council stall on Feast Day due to lack of volunteers to man the stall.

16/69.6 A local taxi firm having raised questions about the Car Share Scheme, a decision on Council support for advertising the venture will be postponed until satisfactory answers are received to the questions raised.

Noted by the Council.

**16/87 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To receive revised quotations for car park renovations at Girton Recreation Ground. The Chairman proposed that Cllr Griffin be added to membership of the Car Park Working Group, and then proposed that the meeting move on from this item.
2. To receive a proposal on the merits and siting of a graffiti wall. Cllr M Taylor has spoken with the leader of Girton Youth Project, who will submit a proposal to the Parish Council. Cllr M Taylor had been sent a document by Tim Shuker-Yates of Girton Youth Project, and agreed to forward this. Mr Shuker-Yates and Cllr Taylor had spoken at the Annual Parish Meeting about a graffiti wall, which would be an activity which teenagers could enjoy. Graffiti courses are run as part of the summer programme for Girton Youth Project. Concerns were expressed regarding if the wall became a place to spray threats etc but Mr Shuker-Yates had said that the drawings are planned meticulously, with a code of conduct saying that no graffiti artist will spray over others' work unless he thinks he can do better. Girton Youth Project would monitor for anything inappropriate. Regarding concerns about territorial group antagonism, this doesn't seem to have happened elsewhere, and generally a designated wall does not cause friction and stops graffiti elsewhere. A site in Girton would be a simple plastered board with Youth Project members to do the bricklaying and plastering. A suitable site would need to be found in the village. The Council cannot make a decision until a proposal is received.
3. To receive a proposal on how to get interest in a community orchard. Cllr M Taylor spoke about Cambridge Past Present and Future's involvement with the Community Orchard in Coton, preserving ancient fruit trees native to the area. If a range of fruit and nuts are planted this would lead to more biodiversity. Crops could be given as community gifts, eg to the elderly. Cllr M Taylor would like to form a sub-group with a couple of other councillors. A location would need to be found, the group to be independent. Cllr Ray Manning of South Cambridgeshire District Council has given advice to Oakington Orchard and may be able to help. There are already Community Orchards at the top and bottom ends of Wellbrook Way. Cllr Griffin spoke of the Woodland Trust's offer of free saplings to schools and community groups.
4. To appoint a task group to evaluate options for revamping the village web site and/or establish a separate Parish Council web site. Cllrs de Lacey and L Williams will work on this, to establish costs either for a whole village website or separately for the Parish Council.

**16/88 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve payments for the previous month (*Appendix D*). The invoice received for churchyard grass cutting is £50 more than quoted, and the Clerk will follow this up. With this exception, the Payments Schedule was approved. The Clerk and member of the public left the meeting at this point.

Exclusion of Press and Public

The following statement, if proposed, seconded and approved permits the exclusion of press and public: "I propose that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item number 16/88.2 in accordance with Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that, if present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended)"

2. Following National Association of Local Council Clerks guidelines, to approve a salary increase of 1% for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 for Girton Parish Council employees. Approved by the Council.

**16/89 Correspondence (to be received)**

12<sup>th</sup> July: Howes Close Sports Ground Plans and Proposals Literature Received by the Council. Cllr de Lacey spoke of correspondence regarding the idea of mini 'park and ride' areas around the city, which would mean that Girton would need a very significant car park, the idea being inappropriate for the village.

**16/90 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix E*) The Chairman deferred discussion about finance matters.
2. Girton Town Charity. No report this month.
3. Girton Youth Project. Cllr Kettle will attend the meeting of local parish council representatives to discuss provision for young people, to be held at Oakington Pavilion on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2016. She'll also contact Mrs J Knights, Girton Town Charity Trustee, to see if she wishes to attend.
4. Footpaths. No report this month. No volunteers have come forward to be Footpaths Officer.
5. Water Management (*Appendix F*) Cllr Whittle was thanked for his report.

**16/91 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes**

1. Finance, Planning and Resources Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2016  
Received by the Council.

**16/92 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.** None.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

**APPENDIX A**  
**Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report to Parish Councils**  
**June/July 2016**

A meeting of full Council was convened to debate the details of the Cambridgeshire/ Peterborough devolution deal. There were 5 amendments proposed of which only one was supported. It referred to work being done with district councils on delivery plans for the affordable housing element of the deal and with all constituent bodies on scrutiny and funding of the mayoral office that has been a non-negotiable element of the deal till now. Public consultation on the deal commenced on 04 July. Council will meet in October to consider the responses to the consultation.

To respond to the consultation: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/devosurvey/>

Members also voted unanimously to approve the proposal that Gillian Beasley's role as Joint [with Peterborough City Council] Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service should be made permanent. They also approved the proposal that she will now be supported by the appointment of a Deputy Chief Executive. Agenda pack: <http://tinyurl.com/h7m58f9>

There is a full meeting of Council scheduled for 19 July but the agenda is very thin. There is one item for members to approve the recommendation from General Purposes Committee on the Treasury Management Quarter 4 and Outturn Report. In addition to the usual opportunity afforded to members to ask oral questions there is also a motion relating to the outcome of the EU Referendum. For anyone wishing to attend, the meeting is at Shire Hall starting at 13.30.

Both the Greater Cambridge City Deal [GCCD] Assembly and Board met in July. A request was made at the Assembly's meeting for an update on the GCCD and its funding in the light of both the result of the recent EU Referendum and the devolution proposal. The response was that it is still too early to say if the predictions of a recession as a result of the former will be realised. In the event that there is a recession the housing delivery rate would slow and this might have implications for some GCCD funding streams. It was said that there are already some implications for the skills element and that the situation is being closely monitored. In terms of the security of City Deal funding it was clarified that the agreement with Government committed funding for the first tranche of the GCCD with funding from the second and third tranches becoming available on the basis of independent economic assessments. It was emphasised that the commitment from Government in that respect had not changed but to unlock future funding allocations, the GCCD must be able to

demonstrate that it was able to deliver and provide evidence of the benefits that were realised.

There continues to be much discussion about the Histon and Milton Road proposals as well as those aimed at tackling congestion in the city and which are currently the subject of public engagement. There is some interesting work going on through the Smart Cambridge project to support the work on congestion through use of technology including the development of an 'app' that will allow travellers to access very accurate bus arrival times. At both meetings consternation was expressed about the counting of housing to meet the 1,000 additional units commitment in the GCCD. The proposal to allow housing built outside village frameworks as a result of permissions given for speculative applications made due to South Cambridgeshire's 5 year land supply situation was robustly challenged. The main argument was that the deal specified that the 1,000 units would be provided on 'rural exception sites'. These sites have always been defined as exceptions that provide affordable housing only thus inferring that all 1,000 should be affordable. Those who were part of the original GCCD negotiating team have clarified that, from the government perspective, the objective of this target was to accelerate delivery of housing generally. It was also pointed out that the world has changed since the deal was negotiated and many other factors now come into play: planning guidance has deemed that such sites should be permitted to include some market housing to support viability; the lack of a 5 year land supply means that land that would only have been available for exception sites is now coming forward for market housing [much more profitable for the landowner]; the sites being given permission in these circumstances do almost always provide 40% affordable units. Officers will now have to review the proposal.

Full details of GCCD Assembly meeting: <http://tinyurl.com/jc33wc2>

And GCCD Board meeting: <http://tinyurl.com/jnduyp4>

The Economy & Environment Committee were asked to confirm the county council's technical endorsement of the Cambridgeshire Flood & Water Supplementary Planning Document [SPD]. The original recommendation for it to adopt the SPD was amended to allow for the local planning authorities to scrutinise the document and for it to be endorsed through the respective member process of each district council. I asked that the county council's flood team should be aware of the concerns that are being expressed by local parish councils/residents almost without exception on applications, particularly the flood of speculative applications currently coming forward in South Cambs, about matters relating to drainage. I asked that officers responding to consultations on applications be very clear about concerns they might have about drainage proposals. I pointed out that, planning officers and committees rely on expert advice to support any refusal and defend any subsequent appeal. Agenda pack: <http://tinyurl.com/zuz9bja>

The agenda for the Health Committee included scrutiny of the planned consultation on collaboration between Hinchingsbrooke Health Care NHS Trust and Peter & Stamford NHS Foundation Trust and consideration of items on the effectiveness of 'Stop Smoking' services and a 'Healthy Weight' strategy. Agenda pack: <http://tinyurl.com/zyytrcr>

There were no items of local interest on the Planning Committee agenda in June but committee will consider the deferred application for the pyrolysis plant at Thriplow at its meeting on 21 July. This has attracted many objections relating to the Imperial War Museum operations at Duxford.

I took advantage of its open day to make a very useful visit to the highways depot in June. I was able to discuss matters raised by Bar Hill, Dry Drayton, Girton and Lolworth and will be able to report individually at your forthcoming meetings.

The weather seems to be improving slightly to allow us to enjoy the many village days, fayres and fetes that are a feature of this time of year. I look forward to attending as many of these as possible.

Lynda

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## APPENDIX B

### Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey

13. 7. 2016

Following a Council briefing at which it was clear there were very great reservations over the devolution proposals, a new deal was unveiled covering only Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The SCDC Leader feels it is the best we could hope for; my own view currently is that the financial reward is comparatively small and the concentration of power in the hands of a single Mayor is the opposite of localism. It is also quite unclear how this integrates with the City Deal. The media reported that at an extraordinary meeting on 28 June the Council approved the proposals. We did not; we merely agreed they could go out to consultation. I hope the Parish Council might respond. Details are at [www.scambs.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/devolution) and the deadline is Tuesday 23 August.

Planning issues remain a major concern. As well as our Local Plan and manifest lack of a 5-year housing supply, affordable housing is likely to take another major hit as the City Deal board wishes to re-define 'Local Exception Sites' to include all sites not in the Local Plan. The effect of this is to renege on the promise of 1000 new affordable homes for local people as part of the Deal. Meanwhile City Deal transport plans seem to get more bizarre; the blinkered focus on buses (at a time when, the Cambridge News reports as I write, bus passenger numbers are significantly declining) and refusal to respect our countryside augur ill for our future. The latest idea is a sort of mini Park and Ride in each village and our Parish Council has been asked for its views.

The City Deal is also consulting on a package to ease congestion in Cambridge including a 'workplace parking levy' which is currently planned to extend up to the A14 thus including part of Girton Village. I am opposed to anything which appears to divide the village. Details at [www4.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/citydeal/congestion](http://www4.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/citydeal/congestion) and deadline October 10. The City Deal design guide is also extremely poor and I hope there will be an obligation to consult our own planning Quality Panel on all proposed development.

Another area of planning we discussed was the growing importance of Neighbourhood Plans and I have agreed to sit on a Task and Finish Group to produce guidance for parishes. I asked Mr McCormack (who put such plans high in his manifesto in May) to lead one for Girton but so far have had no response. If he is unwilling I hope the Parish Council might actively seek a champion.

The Corporate Governance Committee expressed concern at the risks involved in shared services; and outrage that only a couple of years ago we were forced to provide Government with £20M to gain complete control of our housing stock; now we are having to sell it off and give much of the proceeds to the Government.

We now have a new Head of Planning, shared with Cambridge City and Huntingdon, and I have had two meetings with him to discuss his priorities. If he is successful we can hope that our dismal record on planning applications will be greatly improved. I have received assurances that the decision notice for the GTC community hall is just about to be issued, and I have raised concerns at top level about the inaction over 156 Girton Road.

ARU is submitting a revised application for Howes Close. This was rejected in 2015 as being inappropriate development in Green Belt. The 'very special circumstances' put forward were that the City desperately needs more sports facilities; I successfully argued that this was not the concern of South Cambs. However we now have a joint sports strategy. It is not clear to me that this should permit the development; residents have raised significant concerns with me and I shall continue to express those concerns to the Planning Committee.

To close with good news: Hallmark Care Homes have agreed to make over the S111 payment on or before 1 September.

Douglas de Lacey

**APPENDIX C**  
**Police Report for June/July 2016**

CF0272300616

BURGLARY IN A DWELLING (Thornton Road, Girton)

24/06/2016 16:00 - 27/06/2016 08:00

Over 3-4 day period unknown persons have entered building site and stolen tools from within house.

26/06/2016 09:00 - 27/06/2016 09:00 (Cambridge Road, Girton)

Overnight a number plate has been stolen from a vehicle parked on the road.

CF0273090616

CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO A VEHICLE (Weavers Field, Girton)

26/06/2016 02:30 - 27/06/2016 07:00

Unknown offender has removed driver's side window wiper.

CF0295690716 (Weavers Field, Girton)

Between 17:50 hrs and 18:00 hrs on 10/07/16 unknown person has taken a hedge trimmer which was left unattended on a driveway to a house.

On 16/07/2016 unknown offenders have stolen numerous pints of milk from multiple addresses in Fairway, Girton.

**APPENDIX D**  
**Payments Schedule for Girton Parish Council – July 2016**

**Girton Parish Council**

**July 2016 Payments**

Current Bank Account 61498334 /

**General Parish Expenses**

| Chq No   | Payee  | Expense Description                   | Details                   | Net       | VAT     | Cheque Total |
|----------|--------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| 20/07/16 | 104149 | Local Council Public Advisory Service |                           | 25.00     |         | 25           |
| 20/07/16 | 104150 | Cambridgeshire ACRE                   |                           | £85.50    | £17.10  | £102.        |
| 20/07/16 | 104241 | Hilary Seaward Ltd                    |                           | £250.00   |         | £250.        |
| 20/07/16 | 104242 | South Cambs District Council          |                           | £27.50    |         | £27.         |
| 20/07/16 | 104243 | Avocet Cleaning Services Ltd          |                           | £457.00   | £91.40  | £548.        |
| 20/07/16 | 104244 | Paul Laston Garden Services           | Inv 790                   | £560.00   |         | £560.        |
| 20/07/16 | 104245 | Paul Laston Garden Services           | Inv 791                   | £650.00   |         | £650.        |
| 20/07/16 | 104246 | Brookfield Contracting & Farming Ltd  |                           | £900.00   | £180.00 | £1,080.      |
| 20/07/16 | 104247 | The Play Inspection Company Ltd       |                           | £225.00   | £45.00  | £270.        |
| 20/07/16 | 104248 | Glasdon UK Ltd                        |                           | £75.19    | £15.03  | £90.         |
| 20/07/16 | 104249 | A to Z Supplies                       |                           | £50.95    | £10.19  | £61.         |
| 20/07/16 | 104250 | British Gas                           |                           | £27.12    | £1.35   | £28.         |
| 20/07/16 | 104251 | Peter Graves Florist                  |                           | £333.28   | £66.72  | 400.         |
| 20/07/16 | 104252 | South Cambs District Council          |                           | £678.00   |         | 678.         |
| 20/07/16 | 104253 | CMR Wilson                            |                           | £37.08    |         | 37.          |
| 20/07/16 | 104254 | Linda Miller                          |                           | £92.53    |         | 92.          |
| 20/07/16 | 104255 | CMR Wilson                            |                           | £1,221.81 |         | 1,221.       |
| 20/07/16 | 104256 | Linda Miller                          |                           | £665.20   |         | 665.         |
| 20/07/15 | 104257 | Susan Cumming                         |                           | £990.02   |         | 990.         |
| 20/07/15 | 104258 | Norman Lewell                         |                           | £241.66   |         | 241.         |
| 20/07/16 | 104260 | Michael McKay                         |                           | £265.96   |         | £265.        |
| 20/07/16 | 104261 | HMRC                                  |                           | £584.33   |         | £584.        |
| 20/07/16 | 104262 | CGM Group East Anglia Ltd             | Inv 199351.199352, 199374 | £299.43   | £59.88  | 359.         |
| 20/07/16 | 104263 | CGM Group East Anglia Ltd             | Inv 199373, 199451        | £414.42   | £82.88  | 497.         |
| 20/07/16 | 104264 | Altrad Beaver 84                      |                           | £440.10   | £88.03  | 528.         |
|          |        |                                       |                           | 9597.08   | 657.58  | 10,254.      |

**APPENDIX E**  
**Chairman's Report**  
**14<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

Regrettably completion of the Annual Return, which was approved for submission to the internal auditor on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, was subsequently fraught with difficulties. Agreed timescales were not met which resulted in the internal auditor withdrawing. A new auditor was identified and the necessary paperwork provided by the Clerk. The signed off Return was delivered to the external auditor to an agreed revised timetable. Reasons for these issues are being explored with the Finance Officer.

Good news at last on the S111 payment associated with the new Care Home development in Wellbrook Way. Hallmark Homes propose to begin work in September and we will receive the payment by this date. The car park plans are being revisited and costings refreshed. The GTC intention to provide a new boundary fence and the new footpath along side it, means that we shall need to obtain separate costs for this to the rest of the car park.

As PC chairman I received an invitation to the Glebe School 65 year celebration on July 7<sup>th</sup>. I was unfortunately away on business that week so passed the invite to our vice chairman Andy Griffin who attended in my stead.

Anglia Ruskin University have developed new plans for their playing fields at Howes Close. I attended a meeting to discuss these on the 12<sup>th</sup> and representatives will attend our 20<sup>th</sup> July meeting to provide an outline to all Councillors. They believe they have met the objections which lead to the rejection of their previous plan.

I received notification (as a private individual) of a Local Liaison Forum (LLF) being set up for the proposals for Histon Road and Milton Road changes. The attached list of interested Councils had no mention of Girton PC or our District Councillors. I queried this but was told the list had been prepared for the Western Orbital road proposals "which are not relevant to Girton". I have pointed out that I am already involved with that group but apparently villages as far afield as Sawston and the Shelfords and community groups in Cambridge are more relevant than we are! The first meeting of the Histon/Milton road group was held when I was away and I requested that Girton be included. However, to date I have received no response. We have received a comment on the dated appearance of the village web site. I have for some time been considering how this could be improved and would welcome suggestions and help from Councillors in achieving this.

Haydn Williams

**APPENDIX F**  
**Water Management Report for GPC Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

The County Council Highways Department carried out a structural survey and load tests on the Oakington Road Bridge and their report, received on 5<sup>th</sup> July, confirms that the Bridge is structurally sound and they are not considering replacing it. In response to their report I asked the Bridge Engineer about the possibility of lowering the invert under the Bridge by half a metre to increase its' capacity. They have forwarded my request to their "Major scheme design team" to see if this is feasible and I await their reply.

I have not given up on the possibility of incorporating some flood mitigation measures into the A14 Upgrade designs and continue to raise this with the Environment Agency (EA). In addition, our MP, Heidi Allen, is supporting us and I have received the following email from Paula Wade, her Senior Parliamentary Assistant:

- "Heidi has had discussions with the EA about flood betterment work as part of the A14 upgrade. The EA are pressing Highways England for the work to be funded from the legacy money allocated to the project and Heidi will also continue discussions to ensure Girton benefits."

Last year the EA undertook some bushing work to Beck Brook downstream of the Oakington Road Bridge. They did not complete the whole stretch up to Gatehouse Road and I have asked



them to include this in their programme for the current year. They have said that it should be done towards the end of the year, but there is no guarantee that it will be.

Repairs to the bank slips downstream of the Oakington Road Bridge has been undertaken and completed by the County Council, who are the Riparian Owners of that stretch of the brook. Although the standard of their sheet piling work was rather poor, it looks better now that it has been backfilled.

I have another meeting with the EA scheduled for early August when Brian Bromwich will be able to attend. We hope to get the EA to agree on what the 1 in 100 year flood flows for the Washpit and Beck Brooks are. Without this basic data all subsequent analysis is flawed and it is not possible to determine design flood levels with any accuracy. We need this to determine which properties will be at risk of flooding in the future, as more severe rainfall events occur due to global warming.

Douglas Whittle  
Flood and Drainage Officer, Girton Parish Council