

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 15th March, 2017 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
17/28.1

Present: (Cllrs) H Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Dashwood, Godby, Kettle, Thorrold,
Whittle, L Williams.

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk)

- 17/25 Welcome from the Chairman The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 17/26 Apologies and reasons for absence Apologies had been received from Cllrs
Bygott, de Lacey, Griffin and Taylor, and the Chairman accepted their reasons
for absence.
- 17/27 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda None.
- 17/28 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:.
1. Members of the Public. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.
 2. County Councillor's Report (Appendix A) The regrettable cutbacks on Bikeability provision for schools mentioned in Cllr Harford's report were noted. Councillors queried why the bus stop at the Crematorium cannot operate as usual whilst roadworks are being undertaken. It was noted that a replacement bin is needed at Girton Corner bus-stop.
 3. District Councillors' Reports (Appendix B) There were no questions arising from Cllrs de Lacey and Bygott's reports.
 4. Police Report (Appendix C) Received by the Council. The recent burglary on Cambridge Road was noted. Cllr Godby and the Clerk are attending the Community Safety Day at Cambourne on 18th March.
- 17/29 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th February, 2017 (previously circulated) The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Whittle and approved unanimously.
- 17/30 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)
- 16/140.5 The exterior redecoration of the Pavilion will begin on 14th March.
- 17/19.1 Regular users have been notified about the new fees structure for the Pavilion and sports facilities.
- 17/19.2 The appointed contractor will replace the fencing in late March.
- 17/19.3 Details of the position have been forwarded to CAPALC .
- 17/19.5 A notice has been placed in the bus shelter asking for residents' views prior to the GPC Meeting of 15th March. GTC held a public meeting on 10th March

to inform the village of their proposal..

17/19.6 The appointed contractor completed the first hedging works of the season at the Recreation Ground on 26th February.

Noted by the Council.

17/31 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To approve Girton Town Charity's proposed replacement bus shelter at the entrance to the Recreation Ground Car Park.

An Open Evening had been held on 10th March, at which comments were largely supportive of the design. Graffiti is a potential problem. A noticeboard could be placed in the bus shelter. The bus shelter will be entirely funded by Girton Town Charity. The Chairman has also spoken with architect Tim Brading who will finalise plans within three weeks. The Chairman proposed that it will be a fitting improvement to the village centre, and the Parish Council's endorsement will be sent to Girton Town Charity with the proviso that no permission is given to move the shelter until the new one is ready to be installed. Seconded by Cllr Whittle, and approved unanimously.

2. To approve a contractor to undertake grass cutting at St Andrew's Churchyard in partnership with St Andrew's Parochial Church Council. Last year, the Parish Council undertook to pay for upkeep of the old churchyard, with the Parochial Church Council contracting separately for the new churchyard. The church's contractor has now moved away. The Chairman proposed that the quotation from CGM be accepted provided that Revd Maxwell accepts the costs for the new churchyard. Seconded by Cllr Buckler. Approved unanimously.

3. To approve a draft budget for the financial year 2017-18. This item was postponed until the budget can be finalised at the April meeting with an uplift of 2% in line with fee increases. As we are well within budget, more can be put into reserves.

4. To approve the appointment of Councillors to fill vacancies on Girton Parish Council Committees. At the AGM in May, new Chairs and Committees will have to be elected, so vacancies will be filled then.

5. To approve that the Annual Parish Meeting be held in May 2017, at Girton Glebe School at 7.30pm, with refreshments from 7.00pm onwards. The Chairman proposed that the meeting be held on Tuesday 9th May, seconded by Cllr Kettle. Girton Town Charity is to be invited to speak at the meeting about their village projects.

6. To approve contractors to undertake Pavilion cleaning from 1st April, 2017 - 31st March, 2020 (details tabled) The Chairman proposed that the contract be given to Avocet Cleaning Services Ltd, seconded by Cllr Whittle. Approved unanimously.

7. To approve the annual play equipment inspection of village play areas (Appendix D) It was questioned whether the existing play area at Weavers Field could house a skatepark. The play inspection report will highlight what needs doing for each play area. The Play Inspection Company was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Buckler, and approved unanimously.

8. To approve a contractor to undertake repairs following the recent Electrical Inspection at the Pavilion. Quotations for the works had not been received by the meeting, so the item was deferred to the April meeting.

9. To approve use of Smithy Green for a charity stall for Girton Village Yard Sale on 20th May, 2017. It was suggested that there could be problems if the stall encouraged small children to cross Cambridge Road, whereas it may be

safer to have the stall by the car park. The Chairman proposed that permission be given but to make the applicants aware of safety concerns regarding the proposed site. Seconded by Cllr Dashwood. Approved unanimously.

17/32 Finance and Resource Management

1. To receive the payments schedule for the past month (Appendix E). The payments schedule had previously been checked by Cllr Godby. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Whittle and approved with one abstention.

17/33 Correspondence (to be received)

1. 2nd March : Planned Surface Dressing Works on roads in South Cambridgeshire.

Received by the Council. The Chairman will write to Cambs Highways regarding dangerous potholes on Cambridge Road.

17/34 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (Appendix E)

2. Girton Town Charity. No report this month. The Clerk was requested to contact GTC to ask for a monthly report now that there are no Trustees who are also Parish Councillors.

3. Girton Youth Project.

4. Footpaths. The Clerk is to write to SCDC regarding removal of the fallen tree on the bridleway between Oakington Road and Histon.

5. Water Management. The bank has stopped short of Oakington Road bridge and the Environment Agency says a meeting is to be arranged.

17/35 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes (to be circulated)

1. Planning Committee Meeting of 15th February, 2017

Received by the Council.

17/36 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting

The Planning Officer is to be invited to a future Planning Meeting.

The brambles in St John's Field were noted.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

APPENDIX A

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report to Parish Councils

March 2017

At the February meeting of Economy & Environment Committee members were asked to consider alternative funding arrangements for the Cambridge Park and Ride service. However, there were no real alternatives proposed and committee resolved to note the alternative funding options available, keep them under review whilst continuing to charge for parking and to continue to explore with the Greater Cambridge City Deal the possibility of funding free parking through the proposed Workplace Parking Levy. At its March meeting committee considered a report on a proposed network of greenways. Whilst Cambridge enjoys the highest levels of residents commuting to work by bike in the UK, there has also been significant growth in levels of cycle commuting in South Cambridgeshire. Despite its rural nature, the levels of cycle commuting put it fourth for the UK as a whole. Creating safe, direct and attractive routes will encourage even

higher levels of cycle commuting in South Cambridgeshire and consultation responses on specific projects and on transport strategies have shown there is demand to provide new routes and to improve existing ones.

Sadly the March agenda also included an item seeking approval for a new charge for Bikeability which is so popular and successful in our schools [over 6,000 pupils already trained]. Department of Transport Funding has been split into two pots, with the second one now covering bike maintenance and, whilst the Council is a beneficiary of this scheme, it means that there is less funding for the basic road safety scheme. The result is that the full cost will not be covered and the proposal was for a part charge to be made. Officers have been tasked with investigating options for commercial sponsorship to avoid the need for this and will report back to committee in April.

Agenda packs: February - <http://bit.ly/2ncBr7d> March - <http://bit.ly/2meYGJK>

Road maintenance is one of the subjects that we all have concerns about and at its meeting on 21 February the Highways & Community Infrastructure Committee received a report on the Council's Transport Delivery Plan [TDP] for 2017/18-2019/20. The TDP is a key component of the Council's Highway Asset Management Strategy which adopts a long term, preventative approach for programming highway maintenance. Schemes are prioritised on a condition basis. The calculation for funding on which the Council's maintenance programme relies is complicated by a mechanism implemented by the Department for Transport [DfT] said to incentivise authorities to develop, implement and maintain the appropriate strategies and policies. Failure to demonstrate that it is complying could cost the authority up to £500,000 for the next year. The TDP is part of the Council's evidence that it has the required long term approach. It will also support a bid to Central Government's Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund. Bids must be supported by a minimum contribution by the Council of 10% but notably previously successful bidders committed to funding at least 20% of the cost. The current proposal is that a bid will be made jointly by Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils and will be based upon repairing drought damaged roads in the north of the county. The TDP also shows those schemes that are in the 2017/18 budget [including Girton Road from Wellbrook Court to Huntingdon Road and completion of the footway/cycleway from Bar Hill to Longstanton]. Full details can be found in the appendix to agenda item 1 at: <http://bit.ly/2myuWZ9>

The subject of roads is high on the agenda of most people when they consider the impact of new development particularly when it is major development such as that proposed on the old barracks site at Waterbeach. A six week consultation on proposals for a new town north of Waterbeach opened on 27 February and closes on 10 April 2017. The consultation on the outline application has begun after plans for the homes and facilities were submitted by Urban & Civic - the developer of the former Ministry of Defence land. The outline planning application proposes 6,500 homes as well as space for retail, office, research & development and light industrial uses, a secondary school and community facilities. Visit www.scams.gov.uk/waterbeach to view the planning application and have your say. Consultation events are also taking place at St John's Church Hall, Station Road, Waterbeach, CB25 9HL on Saturday 18 March [10.00-14.00]; Thursday 23 March [15.00-20.00] and Wednesday 29 March [15.00-20.00].

The progress report presented to the Greater Cambridge City Deal Board noted that 2016/17 marks the start of tangible delivery with the first transport infrastructure projects now being constructed. It was also reported that the Housing Development Agency has been established and is delivering new homes; 100 affordable homes have been delivered in the current year. It recommended new resource allocations following significant changes to the external environment in which it operates [most notably the

establishment of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and the Brexit decision] and reported that work to develop a longer term investment strategy is underway. Agenda pack: <http://bit.ly/2mzFSal>

Locally I can report that Stagecoach seems to have accepted that a single decker bus was an inadequate alternative to the 95 bus service and is now providing a double decker. A small victory but it seems unlikely that the case for reinstating the 95 service will be accepted. Stagecoach has the freedom to make decisions on a purely commercial basis. Let's hope for some viable alternatives coming forward in the future under devolution.

Painfully slow progress is being made on relocating the bus stop at Cambridge Crematorium following the suspension of the original one due to A14 upgrade works. I followed up on this immediately it was brought to my attention more than a month ago. It now seems that the required health and safety test has been carried out and, although the location first proposed was not acceptable, an alternative has been identified which is likely to be approved. Hard standing has to be created so that the new location is safe for both pedestrians and wheelchair users. I will continue to chase and keep you updated.

The Wings for Life World Run 2017 will be held in Cambridgeshire again this year. The date for the event is Sunday 07 May and again the start time is midday. The route starts at Parker's Piece and follows a route through some of South Cambridgeshire's villages. An initial letter was sent out in December to over 65,000 residential and business properties and two information events were held in Cottenham and Over during February. A second letter is due to go out in April. This second letter will include information about the event including a route map and road closure timings.

Please can you use your websites and any social media access you have to make residents aware. Last year's event was very enjoyable although the weather was possibly warmer than entrants would have preferred. I have already contacted some of the businesses on the route and will continue to do so to make sure that the event's impact is minimised. Full details on their website:

<http://www.wingsforlifeworldrun.com/gb/en/cambridge/>,

As always I welcome your questions and comments on the foregoing and any other local or strategic matter in which you are interested.

Lynda

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Follow me on Twitter: @2whit2whoo

APPENDIX B

i) Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey

14. 3. 2017

My apologies that I shall again miss a Council meeting: I am coming to the end of my extended visit to family and friends in Australia. The waste collection changes were not all smooth sailing and I am concerned that one resident had appalling treatment at the hands of our Call Centre. I received a most inadequate apology from SCambs but shall take this further when I return home.

Last month I wrote of the increasing problems of speculative development, and commented 'Our political leaders seem incapable of taking any lead in grasping this nettle'. No sooner had I posted it than the government published a White Paper on planning. The summary includes proposals to 'Hold developers to account for the delivery of new homes through better and more transparent data and sharper tools to drive up delivery'. We shall see. The Council (at the meeting I could not attend) approved a Corporate Plan which has as one objective to 'Secure the delivery of a wide range of housing to meet the needs of existing and future communities'. A great goal but we still lack the means to achieve it, and the proposed actions to achieve it talk of 'influencing' developers -- just how?

It also set its council tax for the coming year at an increase of 3.84%.

UK Power Networks have again reminded us of their free 'Priority Services Register' to help protect vulnerable people in the event of a power cut. If anyone who might need such assistance should get in touch either with UKPN on 0800 169 9970 or with me.

Plans are moving ahead for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority mayor and cabinet. The Shadow Cabinet will meet on Monday 20 March with a proposal to appoint the Chairman of Hunts DC, Cllr Robin Howe, as its Chairman. It will approve a budget for the Authority with £1M for the mayoral election alone. All I have seen suggests that this will result in the exact opposite of 'localism'. The mayor will be elected (if anyone bothers to vote) in May.

South Cambs has very narrowly avoided being 'designated' by the Minister of State for Planning and Housing -- this is the equivalent of a school being put into 'special measures' and would have been yet another disaster for our authority. The Minister's letter makes it clear that he expects us to do better in the future and will keep a very close eye on our progress.

Douglas de Lacey

ii) District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott

South Cambridgeshire Blue Plaques

An interesting pastime for visitors to London is reading the blue plaques on houses and other buildings commemorating people who have lived or worked in them, and who have made some contribution to our society. They can also record the location of famous events. The London Blue Plaques scheme was founded in 1866 - the first in the world - and has installed over 900 plaques.

Cambridge City Council followed suit in 2001 and has so far commemorated 6 events and 23 people, including The Discovery of DNA, Alan Turing, John Maynard Keynes, Frank Whittle, William Wilkins and Ludwig Wittgenstein.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/blue-plaques

www.cambridge.gov.uk/blue-plaque-scheme

I have recently joined the board of the Cambridge Blue Plaques organisation and am keen to bring blue plaques into South Cambridgeshire. I will be bringing a plan before the District Council later this year to this end, and am preparing a list of notable people

and events in the District worthy of commemoration.

Would you like to make a blue plaque suggestion?

People to be commemorated should:

- * have a local connection with the district
- * have made a significant contribution to the life of the area and its residents
- * be eminent through their profession of calling
- * have been dead for at least ten years

Events to be commemorated should:

- * be instantly recognisable to the majority of the general public
- * have significance in the history of the district or country as a whole
- * have occurred at least ten years ago

If so, I would be interested to hear from you.

Repair cafe to fix broken household items

In February's issue, I mentioned the repair cafe held in Girton in January - a place for villagers to get broken items fixed instead of buying new ones. It aims to tackle the rise of the throwaway culture by reducing the number of items going in to the waste stream, whilst also saving people money and preserving traditional repair know-how and skills.

I would like to commend the hard work put into organising the event by Sustainable Girton and the Friends of Girton Glebe.

By popular demand, further repair cafes have been scheduled:

- * Memorial Hall, Home End, Fulbourn, Sunday 13 May, 2-5pm
- * St Andrew's Centre, Histon, Saturday 30 September, 10.30am - 1.30pm

For more information on any of these event including how to book items for repair, please visit <http://circularcambridge.org/repaircafe>

Cllr Tom Bygott
cldr@bygott.net
07765 475 513

APPENDIX C

Police Report for February/March 2017

Date Occurred: 17/02/2017 19:10 - 17/02/2017 23:00

Location: The Brambles, Girton, Cambs

Description: Unknown offenders have entered the address through an upstairs window, and taken several items before leaving through the conservatory at the back of the address.

13/03/2017 18:00 - 14/03/2017 07:30

Cambridge Road, Girton

Offenders have caused damage to the lock on a shed and a container at the same premises.

A Community Safety Day will be held on Saturday 18th March, 9:30am - 12:30pm at South Cambs District Council HQ in Cambourne. The event is aimed at Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch Members or anyone who is interested in setting up a Neighbourhood

Watch Scheme.

APPENDIX D

Quotations for Annual Inspection of Play Equipment – Girton Parish Council

The Play Inspection Company

Outdoor Annual Inspection for three play areas = £281.25 (includes VAT)

RoSPA

Commercial Play Areas – £90.00 + VAT per site

Non Commercial Play Areas – £66.50 + VAT per site

Any additional items over five per site – £3.50 + VAT per additional item”

APPENDIX E: Payments Schedule for Girton Parish Council – March 2017

General Parish Expenses

Site	Chq No	Payee	Expense Description	Net	VAT	Cheque Total
15/03/17	104414	The Information Commissioner	Data Protection Registration Renewal	£35.00		£35.00
15/03/17	104415	Linda Miller	Expenses: stamps and office supplies	£28.90		£28.90
15/03/17	104416	Cathedral Leasing Ltd	Hygiene services at Girton Pavilion	£67.59	£13.52	£81.11
15/03/17	104417	Avocet Cleaning Services Ltd	Pavilion cleaning services	£457.00	£91.40	£548.40
15/03/17	104418	A to Z Supplies	Kitchen rolls, loo rolls, washing up liquid, staples	£68.44	£13.69	£82.13
15/03/17	104419	Altrad Beaver 84 Ltd	Fencing hire at Wellbrook Way	£195.60	£39.12	£234.72
15/03/17	104420	British Gas	Electricity usage at Bowls Green	£8.40	£0.42	£8.82
15/03/17	104421	Lee Honeybourne t/a Honeybees Fencing	Fitting disabled parking sign at Rec Car Park	£20.98		£20.98
15/03/17	104422	Pettitt Sports	Football pitch white lining paint	£78.00	£15.60	£93.60
15/03/17	104423	MD Contracting and Farming Ltd	Hedge cutting at Girton Recreation Ground	£695.00	£139.00	£834.00
15/03/17	104424	CMR Wilson	Salary	£884.00		£884.00
15/03/17	104425	Linda Miller	Salary	£683.81		£683.81
15/03/17	104426	Norman Lewell	Salary	£241.46		£241.46
15/03/17	104427	Susan Cumming	Salary	£997.43		£997.43
15/03/17	104428	HMRC	Income Tax and National Insurance	£464.97		£464.97
				£4,926.58	£312.75	£5,239.33

APPENDIX F

Chairman's Report

9th March 2017

Following a meeting with our architect and GTC it was agreed that the design of the proposed new bus shelter be modified to reduce its size from a 6 metre diameter hexagon to something nearer the current dimensions. The positioning of the shelter will also be adjusted forwards so that it takes up less of the car park space. A new design has been provided and our architect is finalising plans for use in the tender process. In order to obtain public opinion on the proposal a notice has been placed in the shelter which

to date has not prompted the voicing of any opposition. At GTC request I have also provided a statement to the effect that the PC cannot contribute financially to the new bus shelter as it is not a PC requirement that it be moved. GTC was asked to delay their proposed public meeting on the issue until after our March meeting but has nevertheless decided to stay with their planned date of March 10th. As we have not passed any resolution to this effect we cannot officially support the proposal at this meeting, but will debate it at next week's PC meeting.

After discussion with the Bowls Club, agreement has been reached to continue with current maintenance arrangements for the Bowls Green.

Following my attendance at a feedback session on the consultation process relating to the A14 upgrade planning process, I have been invited to attend a presentation on a draft report on the research but unfortunately it is on a date on which I am committed elsewhere. I have requested a copy of the draft in order to make any comments.

Amongst correspondence received this month have been requests to press for resurfacing of the main road throughout Girton, requests to remove a fallen tree blocking a bridleway between Girton and Histon, and a request to press householders to trim back hedges to the boundary of roadside pavements. We gather that the Girton road is to be resurfaced, but that there is no plan for the equally pot holed Cambridge road. We have questioned this. Reporting the fallen tree to South Cambs., did not produce much response so I have removed the bulk of it myself to make the path usable. The issue of overgrown hedges is being followed up but it appears that the most serious offender being complained of has drastically reduced the hedge in question.

Haydn Williams