

Girton Parish Council

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The Pavilion
Girton Recreation Ground
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Minutes of the meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th February, 2019 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Girton, at 7.00 p.m.

Residents in the parish were invited to attend this meeting and to speak at Item 19/15.3

Present: (Cllrs) Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Dashwood, de Lacey, Godby, Griffin, Kettle, Rodger, Thorrold.

Cllr L Harford (Cambs County Council), Cllr T Bygott (SCDC) (until end of item 19/16), Cllr D Ousby (Madingley Parish Council) (until end of item 19/15.1)

5 members of the public (one until the end of item 19/15.1)

In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk)

19/12 Welcome from the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the members of the public, Cllr Ousby of Madingley Parish Council, County Councillor Harford and District Councillor Bygott.

19/13 Apologies and Reasons for Absence. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Cockley and Hickford, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence.

19/14 Members' declarations for items on the agenda. None.

19/15 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:

1. Madingley Parish Council's Local Highways Improvements grant application. Cllr David Ousby spoke about Madingley Parish Council's proposal to permanently close The Avenue. It is currently closed to through traffic under a temporary order from Highways England, and is due to re-open and be linked to the local access road. Highways England have been asked to wait until the LHI application has been decided.

The form of closure could allow access for farm/emergency access, with access always available for anything other than motorised traffic. There have been no problems with fly-tipping, travellers or other anti-social problems since the closure, and 75% of Madingley villagers support it. Trinity College wish to have access to The Avenue, and have objected. The logical place for the closure to be would be at the junction with the local access road. Dry Drayton are waiting to see what will happen if Madingley gets LHI funding. Madingley would still proceed without LHI funding and would like Dry Drayton to make their feelings known. Cllr Harford suggested that the LHI process is uncomfortably late, and she would like to talk to Madingley Parish Council about this, following-up issues with Dry Drayton. It was questioned why The Avenue would be more affected by the local access road, rather than currently carrying on to the A14. Cllr Harford commented that there would be no adverse impact on any villages except Dry Drayton.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Ousby. Cllr Ousby and a member of the public from Madingley left at this point.

2. Parish Council website. Ms A Giles spoke about progress on the new parish council website, which will be in WordPress. The domain would be free for a year, and as we don't wish to sell via the website the £3/month package would be fine. It's not known what would happen to the old website at this point. Negotiation will be necessary regarding control of the website between GPC and Girton Parish News. The Council will review the matter again once ready to float a beta version. The Chairman thanked Ms Giles.

3. Members of the Public. The members of the public present did not wish to speak.
4. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*). Cllr Harford always understood that the closure of The Avenue would be temporary. A Traffic Regulation Order would be needed to close it permanently, and Girton Parish Council would be consulted once the TRO was applied for. Cllr Harford will look into how much support Madingley's LHI application has, and it's important to wait and see. The application shouldn't come at the expense of other villages, but shouldn't be inappropriately opposed by a neighbour if a village wants to do something good for their residents. An overall assessment of what's in everyone's interests is needed. The Chairman thanked Cllr Harford for her report.
5. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Cllr de Lacey was requested for a definition of 'customer portal' in his report. This will be a do-it-yourself service portal to give easier access to documents and people at SCDC. Wellbrook Way residents have been given a mid-March date to move back to their homes following subsidence works – this was to have been last December. Cllr Bygott reported on the East/West Rail consortium made up of public bodies including SCDC. CamBed Railroad are concerned residents mainly around Bassingbourn looking for alternative places to put the railway. Girton Parish Council would like to be kept in touch with this initiative. The Chairman thanked Cllrs de Lacey and Bygott for their reports.
6. Police Report (*Appendix C*) The Chairman has received correspondence regarding a shed burglary in Pepys Way, but the police are not investigating.

19/16 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th January, 2019 (previously circulated). The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Rodger, and approved with one abstention. Cllr Bygott left the meeting at this point.

19/17 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only).

19/18 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.

1. To approve publication in Girton Parish News of an invitation for offers for redundant computer equipment. Since the equipment upgrade, the Parish Office has a redundant laptop and PC and should put an invitation for offers in the Girton Parish News. The desktop would be sold minus the hard drive and the laptop needs a new battery and new operating system. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey, and approved unanimously.
2. To approve a contractor for installation of a new CCTV system at Girton Pavilion. The Council has been trying to upgrade the CCTV system since September 2017, during which time quotations have been received telling us what we need, which has been part of the problem. Girton Town Charity will come back to the Council regarding CCTV coverage for the art installation. Cllr Griffin proposed Bambridge Lee Electrical (formerly Eastern Security Systems), seconded by the Chairman, and approved unanimously.
3. To approve a contractor for Open Spaces and Wellbrook Way Open Space Maintenance. This item was deferred to receive quotations.
4. To consider a response to the Bedford Cambridge Rail link consultation proposals (consultation closes 11th March). Five routes are being discussed at present, none of which concern Girton. The Council will discuss at a later date.
5. To consider a response to Madingley Parish Council's LHI application. It is too late to influence this decision. The Chairman proposed to write to Madingley Parish Council to say we don't feel we have enough information, seconded by Cllr Godby, and approved unanimously.

19/19 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve the payments schedule for the past month (*Appendix D*). The Payments Schedule had been checked by Cllr Godby before the meeting. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Godby, and approved unanimously.

19/20 Correspondence (to be received)

1. Correspondence regarding Planning Committee Meeting of 15th January, 2019
2. A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme Application for a Non-Material Changes to reclassify as a motorway.

19/21 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix E*). The Chairman queried if any progress has been made regarding repairs to the car park access road.
2. Girton Town Charity Report (*Appendix F*)
3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix G*)
4. Footpaths Officer. No report this month.
5. Water Management Report. No report this month.
6. Telephone kiosk. Cllr Buckler reported that progress was being made, with a couple of positive responses. Girton Youth Project could also be involved. It was queried how to fit a lock to the kiosk.

19/22 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.

Cllr Harford was thanked for progressing pavement repairs on Girton Road.
The 'Gorgeous Girton' Twitter account is now up and running.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm

APPENDIX A Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report January/February 2019

The *County Council* met at the beginning of this month to approve its budget and set council tax for 2019/20 in the context of its 5 year business plan. The overall objective is to continue to protect and invest in vital services whilst using service transformation, efficiency, investment and commercialisation to offset cuts in funding. The transformation of the way the Council works is a key factor in delivering best value for money and to support this the budget includes an increase of £4.764m in the transformation fund. The Council will also carry forward the £9.1m remaining balance of the smoothing fund that was created last year which will continue to act as a contingency, as it did recently when £3.4m was used to safeguard valued children's services in the face of rising demand. The Council's commercial projects to date are due to return a profit of £11.2m in 2019/20 including £1m from the Soham solar farm which this month met its annual £1m income target 2 months ahead of schedule. The money derived from commercial activities is a key element of the funding required to support delivery of front line services and this month saw a proposal to generate solar power at Babraham Park & Ride. The project would involve putting carports over parking spaces to support solar panels. The Council has completed a high level business case to support a planning application in 2019 with construction starting in 2020.

The coming year and, as importantly, the 5 years ahead continue to provide considerable challenges due to the changes in central Government funding. The decision this year has therefore been taken to raise council tax by 2.99%, the Government's proposed maximum, in addition to the 2% precept for social care. This will allow for increased budgets to be allocated for services that support vulnerable adults and children and for highways maintenance.

Members acknowledged the contribution that staff make to the council, and reflecting on the unpalatable one-off saving of £930,000 that was made this year by imposing 3 days of unpaid leave on staff earning over £26,000 per annum [or pro rata], rejected an Officer proposal that this should be repeated in future years. As has been widely reported in the press, to show solidarity with staff, all but one county councillor has committed to giving up an equivalent sum of 1.2% of their councillor's allowance.

The Council continues to communicate its message to central Government about the inequity of funding. Unlike over 90% of councils, Cambridgeshire now receives no revenue support grant at all from Government. If it were funded even at the rate of the average county council, it would receive an additional £19m each year and avoid the need for the council to pass on council tax increases to residents. The Leader of the Council will be writing again to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to remind him of the need for fairer funding for Cambridgeshire. Agenda pack: <https://bit.ly/2UO1M8j>

Acting in my role as a substitute member I attended the January meeting of **Economy & Environment Committee** [E&E]. Item 5 on the agenda was “Integrated Transport Block Funding [ITB] Allocation Proposals”. ITB funding is Government grant that is allocated locally to a range of activities. Some concern was raised by members about the low level of funding for air quality monitoring [£23,000]. This money goes to district councils and it is they who carry out the work. Reassurance was given by Officers that this is only part of the funding available for air quality monitoring and that all planning applicants are required to contribute to monitoring and mitigation of the impact that their proposals may have. For Bar Hill Division there was interest in a funding allocation that was included in ‘Delivering Transport Strategy Aims’. The list of projects that will be funded in 2019/20 includes a new footway/cycleway that will link Dry Drayton to the new nonmotorized users’ path towards Cambridge that is being delivered as part of the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon project. Having worked with Dry Drayton Parish Council and a large contingent of residents over the past year, it was extremely pleasing to have confirmation that the project will receive £175,000 of funding for this. Agenda pack: <https://bit.ly/2sq66yb>

Whilst not called upon to sub at the E&E meeting in February I did attend as the agenda included items on the new developments at Waterbeach and Bourn airfield and particularly one on a proposal to extend the funding on contracted bus services to the end of 2019/20. Following concern that had been raised with me by residents about possible changes to local bus services I wanted to confirm the reassurance I had given that the technical changes to funding arrangements had been misinterpreted as changes to services. Responsibility for bus services now lies with the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority [CPCA] which levies the County Council [CCC] for the cost of bus contracts. Until the review of bus services that the CPCA is undertaking is complete, it is effectively returning the levy to CCC for 2019/20 and the Council will continue to maintain the requisite contracts for that time. I have confirmed that the tender specification will be for exactly the services that are currently provided. However, I have asked to be kept updated on progress towards awarding the contracts as it does require a provider’s bid to exactly mirror that specification to avoid any changes actually resulting. Agenda pack: <https://bit.ly/2tezOqC>

There was nothing of particularly local interest on the agenda for **Highways & Community Infrastructure Committee**’s January meeting. Agenda pack: <https://bit.ly/2UMS31T>

I was though called upon to sub for a colleague on the Local Highways Improvement panel for one of its full day sessions. Whilst there were no applications for Bar Hill division to be considered this year, there was an application by Madingley Parish Council which provoked understandable concern from Dry Drayton and I also attended the panel session when that application was considered to offer Dry Drayton’s views and my support for them. The panel’s recommendations will be presented to committee for approval at its March meeting.

I also attended the January meeting of **Children & Young People Committee** as most of its agenda was taken up with matters relating to education. I was particularly interested to listen to the debate on the Schools Funding Formula item which included notification of the transfer of £1.7m of Dedicated Schools Grant funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. It is evident that schools’ funding and its calculation is incredibly complicated but what is clear is the consistent underfunding of Cambridgeshire’s schools and the authorisation of the transfer of this money is only really like rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic. Annual data for educational outcomes was also reported to committee. South Cambridgeshire is generally the highest achieving district. However, it is sad to see that across the county the gap in attainment between children on free school meals and those not, remains stubbornly high. Agenda pack: <https://bit.ly/2TFt40x>

Locally two of our primary schools are currently considering conversion to academy status and I am following the process closely in both cases. I shall be writing to the Director of Education to let him know how dis-spiriting it is to hear that one of those schools is prompted to consider such a

move partly through its disenchantment with the level of support it pays the Council for. **Health Committee** has met twice since my last report. This committee is responsible both for the Public Health budget and for scrutinising the performance of NHS providers. January's meeting was attended by the Clinical Director of Hinchingsbrooke to answer questions from the committee on the recent CQC Report that gave an overall rating of the hospital as 'requiring improvement'. Some concern was expressed by members about the reliability and consistency of assessment by CQC. This is not an organisation that the committee scrutinises but members are considering how they may have this concern addressed. Report: <https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/RGN90>
Agenda pack: January meeting: <https://bit.ly/2I4LCpv> February meeting: <https://bit.ly/2URvYz9>
As a member of this committee I also attended a meeting of the NHS Sustainability & Transformation [STP] Board which has 27 members. Much of the debate time was taken up with the items on A&E performance and delayed transfers of care [DToC]. A&E departments are getting busier, treating 243 more patients on average each week this year compared to last. Projects to reduce numbers include identification and re-routing to more suitable resources those who attend on multiple occasions and work to reduce the level of attendances from nursing/care homes. I also attended the meeting of the Cambridgeshire Health & Wellbeing Board [H&WB]. The STP Board's DToCs report was also considered here emphasising that this remains the highest priority for all. Agenda pack - STP Board: <https://bit.ly/2WVviuO> H&WB: <https://bit.ly/2MYEjP0>
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority appointed a new Interim Chief Finance Officer [S73]. Details of this and the CPCA budget and business plan: <https://bit.ly/2DqOEie>
The **Greater Cambridge Partnership**'s consultation on the Cambourne to Cambridge busway - Phase 2 has now opened. The closing date is 31 March 2019. Full details: <https://bit.ly/2ULCHdW>
East West Rail's consultation on the route options for Bedford to Cambridge is also open for comment until 11 March 2019: <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/haveyoursay>
Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel met in January. Members' agenda included a report on the proposed precept: <https://bit.ly/2UQnhW8> Changes have also been announced to the way the police deal with lost/found property: <https://bit.ly/2GAtDoo>
The 2019/20 budget and precept report presented to members of **Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire & Rescue Authority** can be read at: <https://bit.ly/2E20xgl>
I look forward to receiving any questions or comments that you have about the items in this report or any other matters either at your February meetings or by email.

Lynda

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APPENDIX B

i) Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey 7. 2. 2019

We began the Civic year on 9 January with a 200-page Cabinet agenda.

Scrutiny Committee reported our concerns over the way our ICT services handled a major outage which lasted several days; a Task and Finish group will look at the underlying problems. Cabinet examined an Area Action Plan

(AAP) for Cambridge Northern Fringe (CNF), which if proved sound will be, like the Local Plan, a major basis for our decisions on development. CNF is the land to the south of the A14 stretching from the Science Park to the new railway station. Assuming the water works can be relocated it would represent a major new development. We made a large number of suggested improvements, and the Plan now goes out for consultation. We then looked at our joint (City and SCDC) Statement of Community Involvement: a comprehensive statement of how we shall consult on our future plans. No surprises in the document, which itself is now out to consultation. A lot of stress is put on consultation with parishes; in the past the invitation to Parish Councils has not always been clear as to the significance of such meetings, and I hope for improvements here and much more Parish involvement. Finally we looked at monitoring of housing delivery, and were told that in future we shall also be presented with the City's results as we move towards

a joint Local Plan. Because Government guidance has changed it was not possible to make much useful sense of the figures, though the Lead Member for Housing noted with concern the current time lag of up to a year for addressing issues raised.

Members have been given a preview of our new Customer Portal. While conceding that a primary purpose is to reduce pressure on staff, the presenters argued that it should actually enable 'customers' (you, dear reader!) to get the information they really need more quickly and easily than through the help-desk. I am innately sceptical about such claims but it does look well-designed; I'll report on progress.

The Town Charity's application went to Planning Committee on 16 January, and was rejected on a majority vote. This will delight the neighbours, but disappoint 17 people with Girton connections who might have found affordable homes through the scheme.

Another massive agenda (405 pages) for Scrutiny on 22 January. A major item was a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD, one down from an AAP) for Waterbeach, and it was good to have immediate feedback -- albeit not precisely positive -- from two public speakers, the Chairman of the Waterbeach Parish Planning Committee and a representative of the Waterbeach Cycling Campaign. We were accused of designing the SPD around the current planning application which is largely true: given it was submitted before we had a Local Plan we had no option. The SPD makes the best of a bad job, or at least the job before us. We looked at a number of issues raised by the document, aware that it is not able to redefine policies, and must comply with the Local Plan. It now goes to Cabinet with our comments. We then scrutinised the draft budget and Cabinet's business plan, and it was really good to see Cabinet members (more than half sat through our 4+-hour meeting) taking notes and clearly taking our views on board. These also go to Cabinet.

Again there were no plans ready for the JDCC, but we had a useful update on our joint Housing Strategy whose goal is to provide housing but also to give greater choice for purchasers. We discussed the tension between affordability and sustainability, to which there is no solution. We then had a developer presentation on the hotel planned for Eddington. We challenged (of course!) the parking provisions and were told that guest car parking must be booked with a room booking: this will allow proper allocation for electrical vehicles. There is an over-provision of 20% on cycle parking.

On 23 January we had an evening to celebrate staff achievement. Staff could nominate each other (and we could nominate staff) for 5 excellence awards: 'Star of 2018'; 'Community Champion'; 'Innovation Award'; 'Newcomer of the Year' and 'Team of the Year' -- I am delighted that the last went to our waste collection service team who had a particularly difficult year, weather-wise, in 2018. We offered a hog-roast (with suitable alternatives) and I believe that a good time was had by all.

On a more sombre note on 25 January I attended the funeral of former Councillor Edgar Monks, who had retired shortly before I joined the Council.

The next day I went to the Winter Fair in St Giles' Church where two charities were raising money for their causes and had asked me to speak.

CamCRAAG takes food, shelter and clothing to the refugees still hopelessly camping around Calais while the Whitworth Trust runs a home for vulnerable and homeless young women in Cambridge. And we had heard only days before the Fair, that this home will have to close under County Council cuts.

Between them they raised over £11,000 through the Fair and a sponsored sleep-out, on one of the windiest, wettest nights of the year so far. They did not press me to join them for the sleep-out, though my PA had kindly(?) offered me a sleeping bag.

The block of flats in Wellbrook Way is still being repaired after major subsidence, and residents are still battling with the developer's bureaucracy. At the end of February the developer offered residents a meeting to discuss progress, and I attended to support them. Some of the issues over temporary accommodation have not been handled well, and compensation is still a word the developer will not use. I am pleased that Heidi Allen's office has taken an interest and is actively supporting the residents.

At a dinner in Corpus I was sat next to the Bursar for the first half of the evening, and next to the Master

and Daniel Zeichner for the second.

Although it was not supposed to be a working dinner it was very helpful to get a Bursar's view of the forthcoming Local Plan, and a Master's and MP's views on education. The Mayoress was also present and accorded all the honour her late husband would have had: she was invited to propose the toast to the College.

February 6 was Cabinet: now 600 pages of agenda, 400 more-or-less repeats of Scrutiny, though our views had been considered and incorporated. The Leader steered us through the complexities and our views were welcomed and made a difference. Cabinet approved a business plan which puts a significant stress on working with Parish Councils, and to this end is arranging at least one PC forum. I know that some Parish Councils think these a waste of time, but under the new regime they could be very significant in getting local views heard and incorporated. Thanks to the activity of a single Councillor, Cabinet agreed to sign us up to the Disability Confident scheme; the Leader noted with approval that Members now have a real ability to influence Council policy. And thanks to the eagle eyes of another we are not now in danger of working for 'metal wellbeing'. A lot of this now has to go to full Council for ratification -- an even larger Agenda pack!

Douglas de Lacey

ii) District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott Increase in Council Tax on empty homes

The South Cambridgeshire District Council Cabinet has recommended an increase in Council Tax on properties that are left empty. This is scheduled to be decided by the full Council on February 22nd. There is currently a 50% Council Tax surcharge on properties that are left empty, which will be replaced by:

- From 1 April 2019, double tax on homes that are empty for two years or more
- From 1 April 2020, triple tax on homes that are empty for five years or more
- From 1 April 2021, quadruple tax on homes that are empty for ten years or more

So, after 10 years a Band D property would attract £6,982 Council Tax a year, or £13,964 for Band H, using the 2018-19 rates.

Their plan is to discourage property owners from not renting out properties that could be rented out. There are currently 180 properties in the District that have been empty for two years or more, a low number by national standards, or about 4.5% of the size of the housing waiting list.

Many of our housing problems are caused by 'land banking', where developers get planning permission and then wait many years before building the houses. Householders who apply for planning permission must start building within three years or lose their permission, but developers are allowed to delay indefinitely. Fixing that problem would have a much greater impact on our limited supply of housing than increasing these penalties much further.

These charges do not apply to second homes, and there are exemptions and discounts for many types of situations, such as during probate (after the death of the owner), or if the owner is in a nursing home or hospital, or away caring for someone. These are set out in more detail in a document called Understanding Your Council Tax Bill, sent with each tax bill and available at:

<https://tinyurl.com/SCambsTaxDesc>

Brexit preparation update

Following on from my story last month about preparing for a No Deal Brexit, I have found that International Driving Permits are available at Histon Post Office (for £5.50).

There is one additional item for the list: EU countries may refuse to recognise the GB letters on a number plate when accompanied by an EU flag. This can be rectified either by using a GB sticker (available at Halfords for £2.39) or replacing the number plates with the Union Flag GB design (from £16 at Halfords).

The full list of official government advice can be found at: www.gov.uk/prepare-eu-exit

East West Rail route consultation

A consultation is open until March 11th on the route of the East West Rail between Bedford and Cambridge. There are five specific options being reviewed - three via Bassingbourn and two via Cambourne. In Bassingbourn there is strong local opposition to their local routes, and an organisation

promoting a route between Dry Drayton and Madingley, and between Oakington and Girton:
<http://www.cambedrailroad.org>

This route doesn't feature in the five options, but oddly enough forms the northern boundary of the main map of the consultation area. It is important that we make clear that we value our countryside as well. To take part in the consultation, visit:

<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/haveyoursay>

Copies of the Consultation Document and Technical Report can be read on paper at South Cambridgeshire District Council office in Cambourne, or at the City Council Regent Street office, and a written form filled in.

Cllr Tom Bygott

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APPENDIX C

Police Report – January/February 2019

26/01/19 – Out Building Residential Burglary – Pepys Way, Girton Crime ref 35/6123/19

27/01/19 – Residential Burglary – Bandon Road, Girton. Crime ref 35/6480/19

APPENDIX D

Payments Schedule – February 2019

(circulated separately)

APPENDIX E

Chairman's Report

13th February 2019

Details of the car park white lining requirements were agreed with contractors and the work was completed today. Space limitations were resolved by substituting two additional disabled spaces near the car park entrance, to facilitate Church goers, for 3 undersized conventional spaces. The car park is now all but complete with only the white lining remaining to be completed. A couple of incidences of poor tarmac finish are to be reported back and hopefully remedied. The contract price has been agreed and the invoice received. Cllr Harford and I continue to chase the County Council for action on the adjacent service road.

Action to have the GTC Community Hall building contractors repair the playground fence at Wellbrook Way is still awaited but is still being chased on a weekly basis. The old fencing is of a different design to the new installation so additional materials are awaited. Similarly a response from the insurance underwrites on their tree works adjacent to 1 Duck End is still awaited and being chased. A further request to reduce trees adjacent to Woody Green to alleviate tree root damage to neighbouring property is being investigated.

We have received further concerns about speeding in Thornton Road and have directed the complainant to join the proposed speed watch group. Hopefully they can develop evidence to support speed reduction measures. Concerns about parking near the ends of Thornton Road have been reported to PCSO Tony Martin, who is to investigate. Cllrs. Harford, Hickford de Lacey and I are to review all 'highways' improvement requirements for the village and develop a plan for priorities and implementation.

Haydn Williams

APPENDIX F

Girton Town Charity Report – February 2019

Golden Geese return to Girton with new Sculpture Railings

Funded by Girton Town Charity (GTC) as part of its remit to improve public space for residents, the sculpture railings reflect elements of Girton's history – and they are already a hit with villagers. They replace the missing cast iron fence that was removed during the Second World War, defining the boundary of the graveyard at St Andrew's Church.

In addition to the sculpture railings, a resin gravel footpath and a new bus shelter have been installed by GTC and the adjacent car park has been refurbished by Girton Parish Council.

The inspiration behind the railings is the locally-born and now internationally-renowned artist Matthew Lane Sanderson who was commissioned by the Charity in 2015 to design a set of railings with a Girton context. The railings show Golden Geese reflecting Girton's long and unique relationship with geese, as they were an important source of feathers for quills used by scholars and scribes at Cambridge University Colleges.

Ann Bonnett, Vice Chair GTC said: "It is very exciting to see the fruition of this project, with the sculpture railings now installed and enhancing this central area of our Village, together with the new bus shelter, footpath and refurbished car park. "We have been delighted by early reactions from residents who are thrilled to see such an exciting addition at the heart of our village. Comments have included 'the railings and sculpture are absolutely terrific' and 'what a contribution to the village and to think that they will give pleasure for years to come'. After consultation with local people and the Rev'd Mandy Maxwell, Matthew researched and developed a series of visual icons based on local history which are incorporated in the design. The structure, created in the Artist's studio, has been made from galvanised steel to ensure long life, with illumination above."

Matthew added: "We are delighted that GTC commissioned us to produce these railings and to have the opportunity to create an artistic screen that will incorporate elements of village history. Its location between the car park and St Andrew's Church which is 700 years old, has required sensitive handling and we are so pleased to have had the support of the Rev'd Mandy for the project. Last but not least, Cambridge is my hometown and so is a special place for me to create a bespoke statement which will last for a long time."

Matthew was originally based near Cambridge and his work is well known in this area, with sculptures at Melbourn and Sawston Cemeteries; Cambourne and Bottisham Village Colleges; giant seed pods at the entrance to the Unwins site at Impington; gates at St Faith's School and the chronophage (time eater) on the Corpus Clock in the city centre. He also has many sculptures located throughout the UK and overseas including in China, South Africa and the USA.

Residents will have noticed a significant change to the area around St Andrew's Church with the installation of new sculpture railings, footpath, bus shelter and refurbished car park, marking the culmination of a long-term project to enhance this part of the Village.

Educational Grants 2018/2019

Applications for an Educational Grant are invited from young people over 18 leaving secondary education and moving on to higher education and some training schemes or NVQ qualifications Level 4 and above. The Grant covers books, equipment, tools or other direct costs relevant to the course and is a maximum of £275* per year for up to four years. Next payment date for grant applications received will be July 2019. Applicants must have lived in Girton for a minimum of two years immediately before leaving secondary education.

Contact the GTC office for an application form.

22 High Street, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PU.

Open 10.00am – 1.00pm Tuesday-Thursday.

01223 276008

email gtc@girtontowncharity.co.uk

* Terms and conditions apply

High Street Development

Girton Town Charity's application for building 16 almshouses on the High Street was refused by seven votes to four, at the South Cambridgeshire District Council's Planning Committee on 16th

January 2019. All members supported the pressing need for affordable accommodation for the over 55s. However the current design did not meet with unanimous approval.

Dr Robin Hiley, Chairman GTC said: “We were obviously disappointed that our proposals were not approved by South Cambridgeshire District Council but we were heartened by the support expressed for our objective to provide affordable accommodation for the over 55s.

“As the Council’s own study has indicated, there is significant demand for affordable homes for the over 55s. We remain firmly committed to deliver these almshouses and will now be reviewing all our options moving forward.”

The William Collyn Community Centre is a new purpose-built facility in Wellbrook Way, Girton, available for Village activities and local groups as well as corporate and independent bookings from the wider community. During the next few weeks, the interior will be completed, and Cambridgeshire ACRE, our partner implementing the William Collyn Centre, is advertising for a Centre Manager. Once this person is in post, GTC will be organising a formal opening as well as an Open Day for the Village to drop in and find out more about this exciting new Community building. In the meantime, if you would like to make a booking for 2019 or have any other enquiry, please contact Girton Town Charity: 01223 276008 email: info@williamcollyn.co.uk

APPENDIX G

Summary of Girton Youth Project Report – January 2019

Girton Youth Club has kicked off the new year with a positive start. Numbers for the Monday cohort continue to be high come rain, snow and more rain! The recent winter weather has certainly not dampened their spirits and the Monday group still love nothing more than a game of manhunt at the rec. We did, a couple of weeks ago, ask that we remain inside as it was bitterly cold. The young people did well to adapt and play games. Although, limitations of Cotton Hall regulations around ball games can be tricky. The Monday group have previously requested a film night, so that is an idea we are keeping up our sleeves for another rainy day!

The Thursday cohort have been a bit more affected by the cold, with the classic ‘it’s too cold to leave my bed’ line being used a lot. Having said that, numbers have still been good and youth group has been a great way for the young people to hang out in a warm and relaxing environment. Activities have included; table tennis, card games, PlayStation, and teaching some ‘cool’ dance moves.

Frances Roach