

# Gamlingay Parish Council



## Annual Report 2015 -2016

[www.gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/Gamlingayparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/Gamlingayparishcouncil)  
<https://twitter.com/GamlingayPC>

## Chairman's Report

### Gamlingay Parish Council Chairman's Report 2015 - 16

Hello everybody and welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting. For those of you who don't know me my name is Jackie McGeady and I am the Chair of Gamlingay Parish Council. The theme of our meeting tonight is Road Safety and later I shall introduce you to our guests.

This is my first year as Chair of the Parish Council. It doesn't seem like 12 months ago since I took over as Chair of the Council. Time passes so quickly especially when the Council has had yet another busy year. Gamlingay Parish Council is a very forward looking and innovative council and I think this building the Eco Hub is testament to that statement. Only last week the Eco Hub was named as a regional winner in an annual architecture competition. The accolade was given to the Eco Hub after it was recognised in the eastern division of the prestigious Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) contest. The judges were so impressed with the building that they created a special community award for the Eco Hub.

As I said earlier the Parish Council has had yet another busy year and before I go any further I should just like to give you some facts and figures. We have had:

- 11 Full Council Meetings (monthly)
- 15 Planning Meetings (fortnightly)
- 9 Finance & General Purpose meetings
- 4 General update meetings with the Hub trustees
- 5 Staffing meetings
- 9 Neighbourhood Plan meetings
- 4 Methodist Chapel meetings
- 4 Womens Institute meetings
- 2 S106 Group meetings

Consultations have also taken place with the Bowls Club, the Cinques residents and the Guides; updates with Endurance Estates regarding the West Road Development, The Wale Group regarding the Green End Development, Kier regarding the Station Road Development and Merton College and further consultations with the public regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

We currently have a full complement of 15 Councillors and no vacancies. This is really pleasing because it means that we have a very diverse and dynamic Parish Council representing a wide cross section of skills. In 2015 we said goodbye to Andy Knibbs and during the year we welcomed Adrian Foster and Twony Goss onto the Council. Tony recently won the South Cambs Environment Award and I am sure that both Tony and Adrian will be a great asset to our team.

Each year in February and October we encourage local groups and charities to apply for grants and during the past year we have donated a total of £4812.66 to village and local organisations including:

Gamlingay Environmental Action Group

Good Neighbours

Jelly Tots

Addenbrookes Hospital

Gamlingay Day Centre

Wildlife Trust

Guides

Gamlingay Football Club

Blythe Way Community Centre

Avenalls Way OAP group

East Anglian Air Ambulance

Magpas

GamArch (archaeology group)

Royal British Legion

Sunshine Pre School

History Society

The Firefighters

Play Scheme

Blythe Way Bingo Club

Tuesday Lunch Club

GVC Social Club

GEAG

Over the past twelve months the Parish Council and volunteers from the village have been meeting to formulate a Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood plans become statutory documents when approved by referendum in their locality. This means that the ideas and principles that they contain have to be considered in planning decisions alongside strategic documents such as Local Plans and Local Transport Plans. From a Government perspective neighbourhood plans can help more development to happen more quickly. For Gamlingay it can be about getting the right kind of development in the right place and generating extra funding to offset the cost of that development. So although a neighbourhood plan cannot object to existing planning applications, it can decide the type

of housing needed, set design policies, aim to manage traffic, improve local employment opportunities or identify local heritage assets. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in this ongoing process.

The Butts Play area has been refurbished this year and it was wonderful to see children playing on the new equipment during the Easter holidays. This refurbishment has not been easy and I need to thank Jayne Wright, Leanne Bacon and their team of volunteers from the village for making this happen.

The village charity Forward Gamlingay continues to thrive and we have a very committed team running the Youth Cafe and the Youth Club. The skill and hard work of the staff is to be commended. The Parish Council support this work that Forward Gamlingay do with a contribution of £10,000 every year. It is with regret that I have to report that Pauline Girdwood passed away this year. Pauline had been the Forward Gamlingay Treasurer for over 10 years and she will be sadly missed by everyone who knew her.

I am happy to report that phase 2 of the Hub which comprises an extension at the back and landscaping of the car park and land at the back to connect to the skate park and the establishment of a conference suite has been completed. This was officially opened in December last year by Sebastian Kindersley and Rob Hutchinson and named the Kier Suite. Storage space has been built for the Footballers and Parish Council equipment and also the electric car recently purchased for our handyman. John Mercer has resigned recently as Chair of Gamlingay Community Centre (GCC) after five year's service and on behalf of the Parish Council I should like to thank him for his hard work and enthusiasm in ensuring that the Hub is a great success. I am sure that he will be a wonderful asset to Tony Hurst who succeeds him and I wish Tony all the very best in his new role.

Most residents will be aware that the Council has been working over the past 15 years to secure and deliver a new cemetery, as the Stocks Lane cemetery is almost full. Many of you will have seen the new cemetery being built on St Mary's field at the back of the Emplins, just off St Mary's and I am pleased to report that this is very nearly finished. My thanks go to Kirstin Rayner and the cemetery working party and also the Turbine Tithe committee for their grant of £1000 which has enabled us to deliver the sensory garden.

New outdoor space has been provided at the side of the WI Hall and the Rainbow Playgroup who use the Old Methodist Chapel are feeling very cosy now that we have installed new underfloor heating.

Millbridge Brook Meadows and Lower Field is nearly two year's old now and despite some very windy and wet weather recently, is looking really beautiful. Once again the Turbine Tithe committee came to our rescue with a grant of £800 to enable Emma Grimshaw and her team to erect a willow dome on the meadows. So thank you to Emma, her team and the Turbine Tithe committee. I am also very grateful to the group of volunteers who cleared the brook just recently and also to Sean Halton who removed some rather large trees that had fallen into the brook. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful country park on our doorstep and it is great to see that the community as a whole are working together to keep this beautiful area tidy.

The allotments on Long Lane continue to be a huge success and are now totally managed by the users who are known as the Gamlingay Allotment Gardeners Association (GAGA).

The Library here in the Hub continues to be very successful. This is a fantastic facility with 4796 visitors recorded in 2015.

Speeding in the village is a great concern for us all. Our Speedwatch volunteer group was set up some two year's ago by myself but when I became Chair I handed over the responsibility of co-ordinator to Hayden Jones. We have purchased all our own equipment so we don't have to hire it from the Police, giving us the flexibility of when we can carry out a Speedwatch check. Hayden is doing a fantastic job and the group is always very active. Speedwatch signs are to be purchased and placed at strategic points throughout the village. Now the light nights are here, and hopefully the weather is going to get better, you will be seeing a lot more of the speedwatch volunteers on the streets of Gamlingay.

We are blessed with our District and County Councillors Sebastian Kindersley and Bridget Smith

who keep us fully informed on everything that is happening outside the village. They are also an invaluable asset connecting us with Cambs District Council should we have a problem or need to secure the right information and help on an issue. We have had tremendous support from them in fighting off the speculative planning applications such as at West Road Gamlingay and we have all been fighting hard to ensure that a level of employment is retained at the Green End development.

I am sure that you are all aware that Bridget also works tirelessly for the Parish Council in her role as Project Facilitator. Just recently Bridget organised two very successful Business Development Workshops. They were hosted by the Parish Council in the newly opened Kier Suite and attended by representatives of over 50 businesses. Bridget and the Parish Council are very pleased to be able to work in partnership with South Cambs District Council to deliver a programme of events aimed at securing the economic development of our village. Well done Bridget

Here are some of the other duties carried out by the Parish Council throughout the year which are crucial to the smooth running and attractive appearance of our village:

Cutting the grass in all public areas

Checking and managing tree safety

Keeping the cemeteries tidy and well cared for

Checking safety and maintaining the play equipment at the Butts

Nagging highways to repair potholes

Litter picking

Clearing rubbish

Caring for and maintaining the WI and Old Methodist Chapel

We have to remember that the Council couldn't function without the hard work and dedication of the people I am now going to mention.

I am sure you will have seen Keith Woolcott our handyman driving around the village in his new electric car. He hasn't been reported by our Speedwatch Group yet so I think he

must be keeping to the speed limit. Keith is a great asset to the Parish Council so thank you Keith.

Thank you to our volunteer litter pickers especially Tony Goss and Gary. Also thank you to all those who make a point of picking up other people's dog poo and other rubbish on Millbridge Brook and Holly walk. It is much appreciated.

Library Manager Kate Laugharne and her volunteers are the reason why the Library in the Hub is such a great success. I should like to thank them all for creating such a welcoming environment for the many children and adults who frequent the Hub every day.

We are so fortunate to have two wonderful Clerks in Kirstin and Leanne. They have a multitude of skills and are so professional in their approach to everything relating to Parish Council matters. They have been a great support to me in my first year as Chair and I thank them for this.

Finally, I should like to thank my team of fellow Councillors for their help and support this year. Their enthusiasm and tenacity is second to none and I am proud to say that I have a great team of people behind me. A special thank you to Sarah (my vice chair) for just being there whenever I have needed her advice or clarification on anything at all. Thank you Sarah.

Jackie McGeady  
Chair of Gamlingay Parish Council

## Welcome to the Annual Report on the activities of the parish council.

The parish has 2809 electors  
15 parish councillors

With the exception of August, the parish council meets on the second Tuesday throughout the year. The Finance and General Purposes committee meets on the fourth Tuesday each month. Both this meeting and the council meeting are preceded by a meeting of the Planning committee.

All meetings now take place at the Eco Hub, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay. Agendas are posted on notice boards outside the Eco Hub on Mill St and on the website [www.gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)

### Responsibilities

- Recreation ground, Butts playground, Skatepark, BMX track, Millbrook Meadows and the lower field, St Marys field, Merton Field (off Greenacres – leased from Merton College), open space at Chapelfields, Northfield Close and the Pitt on Waresley Rd and Cinqes Common (managed by the wildlife Trust on the PC's behalf)
- The Old Methodist Chapel and the WI Hall
- Cemeteries (Stocks Lane and new cemetery at St Marys field)
- Maintenance of closed churchyards (St Mary's and the Baptist Chapel)
- Gamlingay Eco Hub (leased to Gamlingay Community Centre Ltd)
- Grass cutting of the above areas and verges within the village
- 47 street lights

### Staff

All part time - 2 clerks (job share), grounds man, 2 cleaners, library manager and project facilitator.

### Plans for 2016-2017

Complete Neighbourhood Plan.  
Complete scheme for parking improvements for Church Street  
Open new permissive footpaths (delayed)  
Support new Community Speed Watch team  
Further improvements at the Butts playground.

### Allotments

The parish council provides 88 allotments for the parish.  
The allotments are situated on the North side of Long Lane, adjacent to the track that leads up to the permissive path to Gamlingay Woods and 8 at Green End.  
Gamlingay Allotment Gardeners Association (GAGA) is responsible for the running of the allotments. They can be contacted on [gamlingay.allotments@gmail.com](mailto:gamlingay.allotments@gmail.com)

<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2015/2016</b>		
<b>2014/15</b>		
£269,150.85	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	£1,026,560.49
£1,282,559.28	ADD TOTAL RECEIPTS	£714,297.58
£525,149.64	LESS TOTAL PAYMENTS	£1,514,227.04
£1,026,560.49	BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD (BOX 8)	£226,631.03
<b>BANK RECONCILIATION</b>		
<b>31.3.2015</b>		<b>31.3.2016</b>
£179,828.49	CO OP CURRENT ACCOUNT	£184,255.13
£108,562.63	SANTANDER CURRENT ACCOUNT	£108,563.75
£698,822.23	UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	£744.98
£50,501.60	BOND	£0.00
£884.35	CASH IN HAND	£513.50
£12,038.81	OUTSTANDING DEBITS	£67,446.33
£1,026,560.49	(BOX 8)	£226,631.03
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
	<b>ASSETS</b>	
£9,730.89	DEBTORS	£9,252.02
£1,026,560.49	CASH IN HAND	£226,631.03
£1,036,291.38		£235,883.05
	<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
£2,101.10	CREDITORS	£0.00
£994.02	ACCRUALS	£18,586.11
£1,033,196.26	ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES (BOX 7)	£217,296.94
	NET ASSETS	
	REPRESENTED BY	
£277,636.05	GENERAL FUND BROUGHT FORWARD (BOX 1)	£1,033,196.26
£1,282,304.97	ADD TOTAL INCOME (BOX 2 + 3)	£713,818.71
£526,744.76	LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURE (BOX 4 + 5 +6)	£1,529,718.03
£1,033,196.26	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD (BOX 7)	£217,296.94
	THE ABOVE STATEMENT REPRESENTS FAIRLY THE FINANCIAL	
	POSITION OF GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL AS AT 31.3.2016	



	AND REFLECTS ITS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE DURING THE YEAR	
	APPROVED BY COUNCIL - DATE	
	MINUTE REFERENCE	
	SIGNED CHAIRMAN	
	SIGNED RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER	
	<b>CREDITORS</b>	
£2,101.10	None	£0.00
	<b>ACCRUALS</b>	
£994.02	RETENTIONS	£18,586.11
	<b>DEBTORS</b>	
£1,340.50	RAINBOW/SUNSHINE PRE SCHOOL	£2,884.00
£80.00	GARDENING CLUB	£172.80
£230.00	RECREATION FIELD INCOME	£0.00
£0.00	FORWARD GAMLINGAY	£43.20
£80.50	RAINBOWS	£79.20
£1,400.00	WILDLIFE TRUST	£1,400.00
£3,131.00	TOTAL	£4,579.20
£6,599.89	VAT RECOVERABLE	£4,672.82
£9,730.89	TOTAL	£9,252.02
£0.00	<b>PREPAYMENTS</b>	£0.00
	<b>ASSET REGISTER</b>	
£0.00	ASSETS PURCHASED/ACQUIRED (INCLUDED BELOW)	£66,649.33
	<b>PROPERTY/LAND HOLDING</b>	
£0.00	ECO HUB	£30,000.00
£72,000.00	METHODIST CHAPEL	£72,000.00
£0.00	WI HALL	£0.00
£0.00	CEMETERY SHED	£0.00
£1.00	ALLOTMENTS	£1.00
£1.00	NORTHFIELD CLOSE PLAY AREA	£1.00
£1.00	THE PITT	£1.00
£1.00	CINQUES COMMON	£1.00
£1.00	RECREATION AREAS	£1.00
£0.00	CHURCHYARD WALL	£0.00
£72,005.00	TOTAL BUILDINGS	£102,005.00
£10,050.00	CONTENTS	£13,009.33
£250,000.00	ADDITIONAL ITEMS	£283,690.00
£332,055.00	TOTAL RISK SUM INSURED	£398,704.33
£404,060.00	(AMOUNT STATED IN ERROR LAST YEAR)	
	<b>AGENCY WORK</b>	
	<b>VERGE CUTTING FOR COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	

£2,775.00	COST TO PARISH COUNCIL	£2,776.02
£589.31	CONTRIBUTION FROM COUNTY COUNCIL	£598.31
	<b>ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY</b>	
£0.00	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ADVERT	£0.00
	<b>PENSIONS</b>	
£18,931.11	PARISH COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS	£18,861.67
30.00%	EMPLOYER PERCENTAGE	31.0%
	<b>LOANS OUTSTANDING</b>	
£318,515.50	PWLB ECO HUB 25YRS FROM 26.11.10@4.97%	£309,629.95
£355,052.09	TOTAL	£309,629.95
	<b>LEASES TO PARISH COUNCIL</b>	
	MERTON FIELD FROM MERTON COLLEGE OXFORD 10YRS FROM 2011	
	<b>LEASES FROM PARISH COUNCIL</b>	
	ECO HUB 50 YRS FROM FEB 2011 (PEPPERCORN RENT)	
£0.00	<b>BORROWINGS</b>	£0.00
	<b>CAPITAL/EARMARKED RESERVES</b>	
£11,500.00	ECO HUB	£11,500.00
£8,285.00	CLOSED CHURCHYARDS	£8,285.00
£12,796.00	METHODIST CHAPEL SINKING FUND	£9,821.00
£12,300.00	WI HALL SINKING FUND	£12,300.00
£62,400.00	FORWARD GAMLINGAY ENTERPRISE SCHEME	£0.00
£23,136.00	OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE	£23,136.00
£130,417.00	TOTAL	£65,042.00
	<b>CARRIED FORWARD FUNDS</b>	
£5,000.00	CHURCHYARD PATHS	£5,000.00
£703,161.00	PROJECT FUNDS	£51,455.00
£708,161.00	TOTAL	£56,455.00
	<b>£137 PAYMENTS</b>	
£7.20	SPENDING LIMIT PER ELECTOR (2790)	£7.36
£20,088.00	AMOUNT ALLOWED	£20,534.40
£988.00	TOTAL SPENT	£1,698.00
	<b>MAIN BENEFICIARIES</b>	
£260.00	GAMLINGAY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP	£130.00
£0.00	VICTIM SUPPORT	£0.00
£250.00	GAMLINGAY ARCHEOLOGY GROUP	£250.00
£50.00	WILDLIFE TRUST	£50.00
£0.00	AIR AMBULANCE	£440.00
£78.00	BRITISH LEGION	£78.00
£0.00	ACT	£250.00
£100.00	FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY	£100.00
£150.00	MAGPAS	£100.00

£100.00	EACH	£0.00
£0.00	BRITISH LEGION	£100.00
£0.00	HISTORY SOCIETY	£200.00

## Contact Details

To contact your local parish councillor please either –  
 Write to the clerks (Leanne Bacon/Kirstin Rayner) at The Eco Hub, Stocks Lane,  
 Gamlingay, SG19 3JR  
 Telephone us on 01767 650310  
 E –mail the clerks at [clerk@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)  
 Your parish councillors are-

Jackie McGeady (Chair)  
 Sarah Groom (Vice Chair)  
 Jayne Wright  
 Gerry Burne  
 David Finnigan  
 Peter Dolling  
 Colin Smith  
 Grace Brass  
 Brian Perry  
 Ray Spurling  
 Steve Hemmings  
 Tracy Gurney  
 Charlotte Sale  
 Andy Knibbs  
 Adrian Foster