

Gamlingay Parish Council



Annual Report May 2016 – April 2017

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Chairman's Report

GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016 - 2017

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jackie McGeady and I am Chair of Gamlingay Parish Council.

This is my second year as Chair of the Parish Council. It doesn't seem like 12 months ago since I delivered my first report. Time passes so quickly especially when the Council has had yet another very busy year.

Before I go any further I should like to give you some facts and figures. We have had:

- 11 Full Council Meetings
- 20 Planning Meetings
- 9 Finance Meetings
- 4 General Update Meetings with the Hub Trustees
- 3 Staffing Meetings
- 8 Neighbourhood Plan Meetings
- 3 Methodist Chapel Meetings
- 2 Women's Institute Meetings
- 2 S106 Group Meetings

We currently have 13 Councillors representing a wide cross section of skills and 2 vacancies. In 2016 we said goodbye to Peter Dolling, Brian Perry, Steve Hemmings and Ray Spurling and during the year we welcomed Peter Webb and Mark Brown. Sadly in 2016 Andy Knibbs one of our former Councillors passed away. Andy was well known for blocking the switchboard at Cambs County Council complaining about all the potholes in Gamlingay. He certainly was a character and will be sadly missed.

Our new website is now up and running so please take time to have a look at it. Leanne has spent many hours with technical support to enable this to happen. Thank you Leanne. Each year in February and October we encourage local groups and charities to apply for grants and during the past year we have donated over £3750 to village and local organisations including:

- Wildlife Trust
- Keech Hospice
- Gamlingay Football Club
- Sunshine Pre School
- Gamarch
- Gamlingay Players
- Avenalls Way OAP Group
- Blythe Way Bingo Club
- Citizens Advice
- British Legion
- WI
- Cambridgeshire Hearing Help
- Entertainment and the Arts
- Autism Bedfordshire
- Blythe Way Lunch Club
- Gamlingay and Gransden Scouts

The Christmas lights on Church Street were yet again a resounding success. I should like to thank Leanne, Shelley, Kate, Sandra and Janette for co-ordinating everything at very short notice. Dave for organising the fireworks. Peter Middicott of All Growth Ltd for donating 2 beautiful Christmas Trees and Kate and the Friday morning team for decorating them. Wayne, Richard, Keith and team for putting up the Christmas Lights (and clearing out a few gutters along the way, so I believe). Santa George. St Mary's PCC, the

Almshouse Trustees and Sarah for allowing us to plug the tree lights into their electricity supply. LJ's Sandwich Bar, SK Hairdressing, The Cock, The Coop and the Jannah for providing refreshments. Choir members from St Mary's, GVC, GFS and the Community Choir for leading the singing. And finally (hope I haven't forgotten anyone) GCC Ltd for the loan of the PA system and vacuum flasks.

In October 2015 as part of phase 2 we installed over £80,000 worth of new equipment in the Butts, Play area (paid for by s.106 contributions. Landscaping and painting work of phase 2 has just been completed. The toddler climbing frame and slide steps were painted in March 2017 and the hedge adjoining Stocks Lane was cut down and the bank cleared of brambles and nettles, graded and seeded. The Butts Working Party plan to plant spring bulbs in the bank for next year and have made a wish list for phase 3 - for example new equipment needed to replace some that is now reaching the end of its life. Some of you may have noticed the lovely new wall in the play area. I should like to thank the Brogan Group who generously paid all costs, the playground now has a beautiful new feature brick wall, built by local builder James Clements. The wall will help retain the soil bank behind and supports the newly powder coated metal benches. Congratulations to Sarah Groom (Vice Chair of Gamlingay Parish Council) on winning the Parish Councillor of the Year Award at the South Cambs Award evening and also to Carol Wright and Chris Robbins who won the Youth Initiative Award. They were all nominated by Gamlingay Parish Council.

My thanks go to Jayne Wright who is a Parish Councillor for taking over responsibility for Millbridge Brook Meadows. I realise that this is quite a challenge but I am sure that Jayne will do a remarkable job.

The work at Cinques Common is now complete and looks rather beautiful. The Parish Council tries to use local businesses for various works if we are able to and on this occasion we used J & P Plant Ltd (Jason Gore) to carry out the work and I am sure you will agree with me when I say it now looks stunning. It opens up the view of the beautiful village green and the car park has also been refurbished allowing more car parking space for the community and visitors.

The work at the new Cemetery is now complete and the first burial took place in May 2016. Thank you to everyone involved in this project especially Kirstin Rayner who has headed up this very detailed work from the start.

The County Council have provided estimated costs for the Church Street refurbishment project and they have recently taken core samples of the pavements to assess the amount of work required to resurface them. Lets hope this is completed soon.

Following much consultation with South Cambs District Council, residents and the Parish Council we have been able to reduce the speed limit along Drove Road to 50mph from 60mph. According to feedback from the residents this is already making a difference so lets hope this continues.

Consultations are still ongoing about various safety measures to be implemented along this road. Thank you to Simon Walder and all the residents for their patience.

Hayden Jones (former Speedwatch Co-ordinator) is moving out of the village. Hayden has been part of the Speedwatch group from the start and I should like to thank him for all his time and effort afforded to this valuable initiative. I also want to thank Simon Walder for taking over the job of Speedwatch Co-ordinator. I am aware that he has been carrying out these duties over the past months as Hayden and his wife are now proud parents of a little boy called Henry. My best wishes go to everyone involved in this initiative. It is so important for the village. If anyone is interested in

joining the group please contact the Parish Council clerks who will put you in touch with Simon.

The village charity Forward Gamlingay continues to thrive and we have a very committed team running the Youth Cafe and the Youth Club. The Parish Council support the work that Forward Gamlingay do and this year have contributed £8000 to their projects. This year Forward Gamlingay have been looking at ways to introduce young people in Gamlingay to the world of work and to help them learn about potential careers. In conjunction with their partner Form the Future, they organised a career carousel for 180 year 12 students at Stratton School. 25 of these students were young people from Gamlingay (14%). This event offered students the opportunity to see at least 5 different business representatives from different industries in a 15 minute workshop, learning about the respective careers and what you need to get into them.

A survey of the results showed that over 60% of the students learned about careers they were not even aware of, over half of the students were able to expand their understanding of careers they had already heard of, and for more than 40% of students, the event triggered thoughts about potential career pathways.

In addition, Forward Gamlingay organised another successful "bike bank" where young people can learn bike repair and maintenance which can lead to employment. For the older generation Forward Gamlingay have organised a five week Art Course which started today, held here at the Eco Hub which will not only result in some artwork for permanent display at the Hub but will also provide opportunity for those less mobile or isolated to come out and be part of a friendly group.

The Library is a vital part of the Gamlingay community. It is a great facility with over 4000 visitors recorded in 2016.

We are very fortunate to have District and County Councillors Bridget Smith and Sebastian Kindersley 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. As I mention later in my report they have been heavily involved in the West Road campaign and my thanks go to both of them.

Bridget has continued work for the Parish Council one day per week as our Project Officer. Her main role is to raise money which will allow the council to do things to improve the quality of life for people living in the village. She is also available to support community groups with their own fundraising and has recently acquired a grant for the Avenells Way OAP group to plant the borders around the day room. She has also submitted further applications for this group to buy a chest freezer to support their very active lunch club and also for the Blythe Way residents to create a garden around their day room. Bridget will soon be submitting further grant applications to mark the start of the Greensands Ridge Walk which is being moved from The Cinques to the Eco Hub.

We are also awaiting a final decision on a substantial application for European funding to develop a Business Support APP specifically to promote the economic growth and jobs in Gamlingay. Her commitment, enthusiasm and dedication are a great asset to the Council and my thanks go out to her.

We are making good progress with the Neighbourhood Plan and undertaken a face to face survey at the Village Show and a written resident and two business surveys (parish-wide) July – October 2016. A further public meeting is planned for the 17th May 2017 to give feedback and to work on draft policy areas. All are welcome.

Green End Industrial Estate - redevelopment for up to 90 dwellings received outline permission in December 2016 with numerous s.106 contributions. (Under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - contributions can be sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, the need for which has arisen as a result of a new development taking place). The s.106 contributions will provide resources to assist the potential relocation of the Bowls Club, improvements to the Old Methodist Chapel and Gamlingay surgery. Some resources have been set aside for the Early years provision, Pre schools and Primary schools, Strategic Waste and the library. Further detailed planning applications detailing design and layout will follow once the site is sold to a housing developer.

West Road development of 29 dwellings received outline permission in February 2017 and the s.106 contributions will further assist the Bowls Club potential relocation, the library, Gamlingay surgery, strategic waste and some funding for a cycle link to Potton/via the farm shop, the Old Methodist Chapel, Primary School and early years pre school provision.

I should like to thank the West Road Action Group who together with the District and County Councillors and the Parish Council ran a relentless campaign over 24 months to save the site which is outside the village boundary and which has been farmland forever. The campaign included letters to the press, hundreds of letters to the Council, Freedom of Information requests, studies of the flora and fauna, meetings and demonstrations. As I said earlier this has been another busy year for the Council and 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 the village:

- Cutting the grass in all public areas
- Checking and managing tree safety
- Checking and maintaining our beautiful Millbridge Brook Meadows
- Checking and maintaining the Cinques
- Keeping the cemeteries tidy and well cared for
- Checking safety and maintaining the play equipment at the Butts
- Nagging highways to repair potholes and pavements
- 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.

Keith Woolcott our handyman takes on tasks over and above what he is supposed to do. He is a great asset to the Council and I thank him for that.

Library Manager Kate Laugharne and all her volunteers are continuing to do a great job providing library facilities at the Hub. Thank you to everyone involved as this is an invaluable asset to our community.

Thank you to all our litter pickers in Gamlingay. They are always busy keeping the village tidy and attractive.

Thank you to Leanne and Kirstin our Parish Council clerks. They are so professional and their expertise has been a great asset to me in my second year as Chair.

Finally, my team of Councillors. I thank you for your continued help and support this year. We have a great team and a great cross section of skills and abilities. A special thank you goes to my Vice Chair Sarah. She has always been there for me when I have needed advice or help with anything at all. Thank you Sarah.

Jackie McGeady
Chair 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

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 Cinques 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 2017-2018

Complete Neighbourhood Plan.
Complete scheme for parking improvements for Church Street
Open new permissive footpaths (delayed)
Support new Community Speed Watch and Neighbourhood Watch
Pursue funding for cycle paths

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2016/2017		
2015/16		
£1,026,560.49	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	£226,631.03
£714,297.58	ADD TOTAL RECEIPTS	£326,933.60
£1,514,227.04	LESS TOTAL PAYMENTS	£328,077.91
£226,631.03	BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD (BOX 8)	£225,486.72
BANK RECONCILIATION		
31.3.2016		31.3.2017
£184,255.13	CO OP CURRENT ACCOUNT	£227,372.49
£108,563.75	SANTANDER CURRENT ACCOUNT	£0.00
£744.98	UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	£0.00
£0.00	BOND	£0.00
£513.50	CASH IN HAND	£659.69
£67,446.33	OUTSTANDING DEBITS (INCLUDES MARCH GRASSCUTTING INVOICE)	£2,545.46
£226,631.03	(BOX 8)	£225,486.72
BALANCE SHEET		
	ASSETS	
£9,252.02	DEBTORS	£13,482.47
£226,631.03	CASH IN HAND	£225,486.72
£235,883.05		£238,969.19
	LIABILITIES	
£0.00	CREDITORS	£0.00
£18,586.11	ACCRUALS	£2,142.75
£217,296.94	ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES (BOX 7)	£236,826.44
	NET ASSETS	
	REPRESENTED BY	
£277,636.05	GENERAL FUND BROUGHT FORWARD (BOX 1)	£217,296.94
£713,818.71	ADD TOTAL INCOME (BOX 2 + 3)	£331,164.05
£1,529,718.03	LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURE (BOX 4 + 5 +6)	£311,634.55
£217,296.94	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD (BOX 7)	£236,826.44
	THE ABOVE STATEMENT REPRESENTS FAIRLY THE FINANCIAL	
	POSITION OF GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL AS AT 31.3.2017	

	AND REFLECTS ITS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE DURING THE YEAR	
	APPROVED BY COUNCIL - DATE	
	MINUTE REFERENCE	
	SIGNED CHAIRMAN	
	SIGNED RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER	
	CREDITORS	
£0.00	None	£0.00
	ACCRUALS	
£18,586.11	RETENTIONS	£2,142.75
	TOTAL	£2,142.75
	DEBTORS	
£2,884.00	SUNSHINE PRE SCHOOL	£7,144.20
£172.80	GARDENING CLUB	£0.00
£0.00	RECREATION FIELD INCOME	£439.65
£43.20	FORWARD GAMLINGAY!	£0.00
£79.20	RAINBOWS	£0.00
£1,400.00	WILDLIFE TRUST	£0.00
£4,579.20	TOTAL	£7,583.85
£4,672.82	VAT RECOVERABLE	£4,416.62
£9,252.02	TOTAL	£12,000.47
	PREPAYMENTS	
£0.00	SCDC waste to 31.3.18	£1,482.00
	ASSET REGISTER	
£66,649.33	ASSETS PURCHASED/ACQUIRED (INCLUDED BELOW)	£0.00
	PROPERTY/LAND HOLDING	
£30,000.00	ECO HUB/GARAGES	£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
£102,005.00	TOTAL BUILDINGS	£102,005.00
£13,009.33	CONTENTS	£13,009.33
£283,690.00	ADDITIONAL ITEMS	£283,690.00
£398,704.33	TOTAL RISK SUM INSURED	£398,704.33

	AGENCY WORK	
	VERGE CUTTING FOR COUNTY COUNCIL	
£2,776.02	COST TO PARISH COUNCIL	£2,776.02
£589.31	CONTRIBUTION FROM COUNTY COUNCIL	£598.31
	ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY	
£0.00	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ADVERT	£51.00
	PENSIONS	
£18,861.67	PARISH COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS	£18,672.57
31.00%	EMPLOYER PERCENTAGE	31.8%
	LOANS OUTSTANDING	
£309,629.95	PWLB ECO HUB 25YRS FROM 26.11.10@4.97%	£300,297.30
£309,629.95	TOTAL	£300,297.30
	LEASES TO PARISH COUNCIL	
	MERTON FIELD FROM MERTON COLLEGE OXFORD 10YRS FROM 2011	
	LEASES FROM PARISH COUNCIL	
	ECO HUB 50 YRS FROM FEB 2011 (PEPPERCORN RENT)	
£0.00	BORROWINGS	£0.00
	CAPITAL/EARMARKED RESERVES	
£11,500.00	ECO HUB	£5,000.00
£8,285.00	CLOSED CHURCHYARDS	£9,885.00
£9,821.00	METHODIST CHAPEL SINKING FUND	£11,821.00
£12,300.00	WI HALL SINKING FUND	£14,300.00
£23,136.00	OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE	£5,136.00
	PLAYGROUND	£17,500.00
	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	£2,000.00
	XMAS LIGHTS	£500.00
	COMMUNITY BUILDINGS GENERAL S106	£8,004.92
	COMMUNITY TRANSPORT	£77,934.78
£65,042.00	TOTAL	£152,081.70
	CARRIED FORWARD FUNDS	
£5,000.00	CHURCHYARD PATHS	£5,000.00
£51,455.00	PROJECT FUNDS	£12,334.00
£56,455.00	TOTAL	£17,334.00
	S137 PAYMENTS	
£7.36	SPENDING LIMIT PER ELECTOR (2790)	£7.42
£20,534.40	AMOUNT ALLOWED	£20,701.80
£1,698.00	TOTAL SPENT	£500.00
	MAIN BENEFICIARIES	
£130.00	GAMLINGAY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP	£0.00
£0.00	AUTISM BEDFORDSHIRE	£100.00
£250.00	GAMLINGAY ARCHEOLOGY GROUP	£0.00

£50.00	WILDLIFE TRUST	£0.00
£440.00	AIR AMBULANCE	£0.00
£0.00	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEARING HELP	£100.00
£250.00	ACT	£0.00
£100.00	FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY	£0.00
£100.00	MAGPAS	£0.00
£0.00	KEECH HOSPICE	£250.00
£100.00	BRITISH LEGION	£50.00
£200.00	HISTORY SOCIETY	£0.00

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
 Your parish councillors are-

Jackie McGeady (Chair)
 Sarah Groom (Vice Chair)
 Jayne Wright
 Gerry Burne
 David Finnigan
 Peter Dolling
 Colin Smith
 Grace Brass
 Tracy Gurney
 Charlotte Sale
 Adrian Foster
 Mark Brown