

Gamlingay Parish Council

Annual Report May 2017 – April 2018



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Chairman's Report

GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2017 – 2018 - GIVEN AT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 24.4.2017

Hello everyone and welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting. My name is Jackie McGeady and it has been my pleasure and privilege to serve Gamlingay as Chair of the Parish Council for the past 3 years and prior to that as vice chair for 3 years under the exceptional chairmanship of Sarah Groom.

This is my final report as Chair of the Parish Council and I should like to thank everyone who has supported me throughout the last three years. It has been a pleasure to work with such an eclectic team of Councillors, two very efficient parish clerks and of course our current District Councillor Bridget Smith and County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley.

I would also like to welcome tonight Mike Brettle from the Gamlingay Turbine Committee and also Eloise Markwick from the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership who will be speaking to us later about the Grants that are available to residents of Gamlingay and also the Parish Council.

The Council has had yet another busy year and before I go any further I should like to give you some facts and figures. We have had:

- 11 Full Council Meetings
- 28 Planning Meetings
- 10 Finance Meetings
- 3 General Update Meetings with the Hub Trustees
- 2 Staffing Meetings
- 12 Neighbourhood Plan Meetings
- 2 Methodist Chapel Meetings
- 1 S106 Group Meetings

We currently have 15 Councillors representing a wide cross section of skills. In 2017/18 we said goodbye to Grace Brass and Charlotte Sale and welcomed Sam Martin, Keith Warburton, Ann Kirby and Steve Hemmings.

Each year in February and October we encourage local groups and charities to apply for grants and during 2017/18 we have donated almost £8000 to village and local organisations including:

- Forward Gamlingay
- Wildlife Trust
- Gamlingay Day Centre
- Autism Bedfordshire
- Avenalls Way OAP Group
- Gardening Club
- Magpas
- Blythe Way Bingo Club
- Blythe Way Tuesday Club
- WI
- British Legion
- First Gamlingay
- Firefighters Fund
- Gamlingay Schools Out Club
- Gamlingay and Gransden Scouts

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS EVENT

The Christmas lights event in Church Street on Saturday December 2nd 2017 was again a great success. A big thank you to everyone concerned and special thanks must go to our clerk Leanne, Shelley former Eco Hub manager, Janette, Sandra and Kate Laugharne for co-ordinating everything, providing materials and coming up with great ideas.

WI HALL

This year our main focus has been on co-ordinating the sale by auction of the WI Hall. On the 14th March the hall was sold for £192,000 (guide price £150,000 to £175,000) and the proceeds will go towards paying back some of the Public Works loan which was taken out to enable the building of the Hub.

PLANNING

Planning Application workload has been heavy during the past year but our Planning Sub Committee has always risen to the challenge. We have been concerned not to lose the unique character of Gamlingay and its satellite settlements including the Cinques, the Heath and Dennis Green and as part of the neighbourhood plan work, supported surveys to ascertain what residents value and what they think could be improved.

GREENSAND COUNTRY PROJECT

We are excited to be working with the Greensand Country project and to have succeeded in moving the start of the Greensand Ridge Walk from its dangerous location at the Cinques to the Eco Hub. We are now seeking funding to install a gateway feature.

THE POST OFFICE

Two years ago, the Post Office, during a general nationwide review, planned to reduce the service at our Post Office in Cinques Road to a single and very limited counter or even close the branch completely. After much negotiation the Head Office was persuaded to not only leave the Post Office as it was, but upgrade it to "Local Plus" level offering all services as before but with a refit and much improved sales and service areas.

CHURCH STREET

The funding for the Church Street Parking project has not yet been released. Leanne has asked County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley to intervene to move things forward. County has requested a meeting to discuss the scheme so hopefully this project can be completed during the coming months.

OFF ROAD BIKE TRACK

During the year three young adults Liam Wright and his two friends Danny and Andrew came to a Parish Council meeting with a plan to refurbish the off road bike track which was now not fit for purpose. With the help of Hutchinsons who gave of their time and expertise free of charge the bike track has now been refurbished. The boys recently came second in the South Cambs Youth Initiative Award. So well done to Liam, Danny and Andrew. They are a credit to the village.

FORWARD GAMLINGAY

The village charity Forward Gamlingay continues to flourish thanks to a team of very committed people. Their focus is very much on teenagers and young people, and over the years they have raised money and built the current Skate Park, re landscaped the Bike Track at the end of the recreation ground for use by off road bikers, started a record label for young musicians and mentored young local bands, and when the County Council pulled out of delivering a weekly youth club, they took it on, training their own youth workers and building it into the very successful weekly club it is today. It's not **just** about the youngsters though. They are currently creating a Gamlingay Business Hub, with the aim of bringing local businesses together with regular meetings, offering support, information and training, and helping to keep Gamlingay a vibrant place of work. Just recently they ran an art course at the Hub in conjunction with the Art Barn for older people which has produced a fantastic clay frieze of a section of Church Street complete with cars and people. It is now available for everyone to view in the Eco Hub. The Parish Council continues to support the projects of Forward Gamlingay and this year we have contributed £6000 towards their initiatives.

The Parish Council is also working in partnership with Forward Gamlingay to develop a unique and very exciting local business support app. We look forward to its launch in early summer.

LIBRARY

The Library is still a vital part of the Gamlingay community. Thanks to Kate Laugharne and all her volunteers this great facility brought in over 4500 visitors in 2017/18.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

A big thank you must go to our current District Councillor Bridget Smith and County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley. They have kept the Parish Council fully informed about what is happening outside the village and are an invaluable asset connecting us with Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council should we have a problem or need to secure the right information and help on any issue.

DUTIES CARRIED OUT BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

This has been another busy year for the Council and here are some of the duties they carry out 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 Old Methodist Chapel

Keith Woolcott our handyman makes sure that all the above tasks are undertaken professionally, and I should like to thank him personally for all his hard work and support to the Council. Keith is a fantastic asset to the Council and the community.

Thank you to Leanne and Kirstin our two Parish Council clerks. We are so fortunate to have two people who are so professional and efficient. They have been a great asset to me in my final year as Chair.

Finally, my team of Councillors. Thank you for your continued help and support this year. A special thank you must go to my Vice Chair Sarah Groom. Sarah has been a Parish Councillor for over 10 years (three years as Chair) and two years ago she was awarded Parish Councillor of the Year by South Cambs District Council. Unfortunately, she is leaving us this year, but I know that she will never be far away to offer the Council help and advice should they require it. She has been a never-ending support to me and other Councillors and I wish her every success in the future.

Jackie McGeady
Chair Gamlingay Parish Council

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

The parish has 2952 electors (Oct 2017)
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 up until April 2018 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, cleaner, library manager and up until March 2018 a project officer.

Plans for 2018-2019

Complete Neighbourhood Plan.
Implement parking improvements scheme for Church Street
Support new Community Speed Watch and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes
Pursue funding for cycle paths and additional footpaths in the village

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

Contact Details

To contact your local parish councillor please either –
Write to the Clerks at The Eco Hub, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay, SG19 3JR
Telephone us on 01767 650310 or email us at clerk@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk

Your parish councillors (elected in May 2018) are:

Dave Finnigan

Tony Goss

Julie Newman

Jayne Wright

Steve Hemmings

Mark Ridler

Mark Brown

Peter Webb

Jacqui Mc Geady

Tracey Gurney

Samantha Martin

Ann Kirby

Keith Warburton

Sarah Jones

Colin Smith

Profiles of all councillors and staff can be found on our website - <https://gamlingay-pc.gov.uk/councillors/>

Gamlingay Parish Council Summary of Receipts and Payments

All Cost Centres and Codes

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position +/- Under/over spend
		Estimated	Actual	Variance	Estimated	Actual	Variance	
1	Tree work				1,250.00	3,746.88	-2,497	-2,497
2	Refuse	750.00	741.00	-9	1,500.00	918.00	582	573
3	Playground				7,610.00	5,485.00	2,125	2,125
5	Streetlighting				1,400.00		1,400	1,400
6	Xmas lights		1,280.49	1,280	500.00	1,393.87	-894	387
7	Community Transport				25,000.00	10,651.44	14,349	14,349
8	Clerk and RFO				34,528.32	34,968.32	-440	-440
9	Grounds Man				11,136.00	10,362.03	774	774
10	Project Officer				5,760.00	4,409.92	1,350	1,350
11	Library Manager				8,424.00	8,500.44	-76	-76
12	Cleaner WI				1,992.00	1,224.36	768	768
13	Cleaner OMC				996.00	725.39	271	271
14	Pension scheme				26,280.00	27,986.30	-1,706	-1,706
15	Tax and NI				12,600.00	13,143.95	-544	-544
16	Training				200.00	627.00	-427	-427
17	Office expenses	400.00	124.13	-276	6,000.00	5,423.01	577	301
18	insurance		38.42	38	3,800.00	3,400.56	399	438
19	Info and Comms		7,064.00	7,064	500.00	22,401.50	-21,902	-14,838
20	Legal fees				200.00		200	200
21	Grounds maintenance				8,500.00	10,125.05	-1,625	-1,625
22	Closed Churchyards General				2,735.37	2,238.30	497	497
23	Millbrook Meadows Lower		50.00	50	7,152.00	5,022.04	2,130	2,180
24	Highways/Footpaths general				1,500.00	100.00	1,400	1,400
25	Church Street parking							
26	Cinques Common				200.00		200	200
27	Office rent and Meeting hire				4,100.00	4,186.96	-87	-87
30	Old Methodist Chapel	7,300.00	7,412.11	112	9,726.00	4,689.39	5,037	5,149
33	WI Hall	9,780.00	7,014.88	-2,765	3,280.00	7,564.17	-4,284	-7,049
34	Eco Hub long term				21,000.00	21,000.00		
35	PWLB loan repayments				24,606.00	24,606.72	-1	-1
36	Eco Hub finance support							
37	Library	552.00	529.68	-22	1,370.00	880.56	489	467
38	St Mary's cemetery	4,000.00	3,608.80	-391	3,771.00	3,542.23	229	-162
39	Stocks Lane Cemetery	1,450.00	1,197.80	-252	10,964.00	7,072.83	3,891	3,639
40	Outer verge cutting	600.00	1,183.31	583	1,950.59	2,046.08	-95	488
41	Grass cutting				6,306.41	6,443.51	-137	-137
42	Allotments				100.00		100	100
43	Grants inc FG!				8,000.00	7,888.00	112	112
44	Crime Prevention				250.00		250	250
45	Neighbourhood Plan		4,623.00	4,623	4,000.00	4,957.98	-958	3,665
46	Recreation Field	714.00	1,604.54	891		964.46	-964	-74
47	Contingency		593.61	594	2,000.00	442.00	1,558	2,152
48	Precept	195,796.00	195,796.00					
49	Closed Churchyards							
50	Election costs							
51	Community Buildings							
52	Garages/plaza							
53	Office equip renew als							
54	Playground							
55	Xmas lights							
56	Cemeteries							
57	Open spaces							
58	Community Transport							
59	VAT		1,885.47	1,885				1,885
NET TOTAL		221,342.00	234,747.24	13,405	271,187.69	269,138.25	2,049	15,455
V.A.T.			16,459.34			16,544.01		
GROSS TOTAL			251,206.58			285,682.26		