

# Gamlingay Parish Council

## Annual Report May 2018 – April 2019



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## Chairman's Report

### GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018 – 2019 - GIVEN AT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 23.4.2019

Good evening and welcome again to our Annual Parish Meeting. My name is Colin Smith and I am Chair of Gamlingay Parish Council and tonight as I said earlier we will be covering a number of themes including the Eco Hub, and the newly formed Gamlingay Community Safety Group followed by Question and Answer sessions.

We have had a very busy year in which we have met for :-

- 11 Full Council Meetings
- 20 Planning Meetings
- 86 Planning Applications
  - 3 Public Meetings – EW Rail, West Rd Planning & Neighbourhood Plan
  - 8 Neighbourhood Plan Meetings
  - 3 PCLC Meetings
  - 9 Finance & G.P. Meetings
  - 4 Publications Meetings

With the Council Elections last Spring we, for the first time in a number of years, were able to start the year with a totally elected group of Parish Councillors, with the later resignation of one Councillor (Jackie McGeady – past Chair) and one Co-opted replacement (Adrian Foster) over the year. A full list of Councillors and their profiles are available on our Web Site and, due to recent relocation of one of our Councillors will shortly be looking to fill one more vacancy.

Also re-elected were our District Councillor Bridget Smith (now the leader of SCDC) and our County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley who are an asset connecting us to higher authorities and who endeavour to keep us fully informed on everything that is happening outside our village.

Other projects this year have seen the disposal, with development planning approval of the W.I Hall enabling us to reduce by £187,740 our Public Works Loan Board Commitments on the Eco Hub and, more importantly, helped us to set a 2019/ 2020 Precept (Budget) with no increase which is actually a reduction per household in the Parish Council element of your Council Tax.

The parking improvements scheme in Church Street, long delayed by highways and regulation issues, and getting the County Council to join us by finally repairing the Potholes in the road at the same time, are now complete and we will shortly be supporting the re-surfacing of the car park at the back of the cross to provide additional parking during the day time.

Substantial improvements to the playground in the Stocks Lane recreation area including new steps to the hub and ongoing refurbishment, with the much appreciated team of volunteers, to the bike track.

The funding and provision of a Footpath on Everton Road, albeit shorter than ideal at present but we will continue to strive for more funding to make it safer for local residents to walk their children to school in Everton. Sadly, although this is primarily on the Bedfordshire side of the road no funding was forthcoming from that direction.

The Solution Gamlingay App has been developed and launched with extensive input from Bridget Smith as the Project Manager and was wholly funded with a grant from the European Leader Programme and by the community development charity Forward Gamlingay. The App promotes economic growth and jobs in connection with Businesses and Groups in Gamlingay with c.50 Companies/ Traders now involved and advertising and is already proving to be a great success in bringing together Business and Jobs

The Remembrance Service was held at the new Cemetery beside the re-located War Memorial commemorating 100 years since the end of World War One and was well attended with representatives laying Wreathes from the Parish Council, County & District Councillors, The Scout Movement, Hilary Young from St Mary's Church and Adrian Semerene from the Baptist Church as well as a number of other organisations and individuals. Much appreciated also is the super new bench celebrating 100 years of peace which was kindly donated by a resident.

Christmas Lights were again a success and I must give special thanks to all the volunteers for their assistance in putting them up and later removal, to the traders on Church Street for their active participation, and to Peter Middlicott of Allgrowth for once again providing and setting up the Xmas Trees – Three this year PLUS we had a Snow Cannon from Dave Twydell. For the future we have been hit by new regulations which suggest our highly trained volunteer fire fighters in the village are not qualified to climb a ladder and put these up for us now so perhaps those always helpful folk at Brogans may be able to help with a cherry picker (if we ask nicely) and of course we are granted the annual licence now also required to do so – red tape and health & safety rolled into one bit I am sure Leanne will overcome it as usual.

Twice a year we welcome local village groups and organisations to apply for grants and have supported projects to the sum of £9,500 this year including the following:-

Forward Gamlingay  
Wildlife Trust  
Magpas  
Gamlingay Day Centre  
Gamlingay W.I.  
British Legion  
Gamlingay Schools Out  
Gamlingay Football Club  
Friends of Gamlingay Village Primar

Included in these is the Village Charity Forward Gamlingay who continue to thrive running the Youth Café and Youth Club, which are extremely well supported and engage in may

ways with the youth of the Village and I would like to thank their totally committed team for all their hard work and enthusiasm. They also run events for those experiencing isolation in our community with art projects – a super example of which can be seen with the sculpted Church Street scene hanging in the main hall of the Eco Hub.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is progressing well with a lot of hard work from Samantha Martin and Rachel Lee and the Village Design Guide is currently out for consultation until the end of May and is one of five guides that have been supported by South Cambridgeshire District Council. A group of residents have been involved with the Citizens Design Bureau, to produce the document which identifies the main characteristics of our settlement and is essential for our ongoing future development and will influence planning decisions affecting our village. We have a consultation day here at the Eco Hub on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>. April between 3.30 pm and 7 pm and there is information available to you this evening also.

The Village Design Document is a key document that will support Gamlingay's new Neighbourhood Plan which should be available for consultation over the summer and if you have any questions about this please do speak to one of the Clerks or to Councillor Sam Martin who is here this evening.

With regard to Planning our Chair, Tony Goss and his Planning Committee have had to weather quite a mass of applications designed to benefit from the lack of an acceptable Local Plan and some applications outside the Village Framework regrettably were approved at higher levels than we could influence. Fortunately SCDC have now had the Local Plan adopted and we are starting to see more sensible and appropriate decisions being made, with many planning appeals in the open countryside being refused.

Green End Industrial Estate redevelopment has now exchanged contracts and S.106 contributions for additional local resources have been agreed on the basis of 90 houses. We expect some time to elapse before building can commence because of the environmental issues likely to be encountered due to the industrial nature of the site over many years but will be holding a further public meeting once the full planning application is submitted.

Meanwhile we are aware of the extra load on Station Road with the re-location of the School and the dangers of speeding traffic and must urge drivers to recognise this – our Speedwatch team have been out monitoring and reporting back to the Police and we have arranged and paid for a Highways Officer assessment and made a formal application to County to re-assess the speed limits and any forms of traffic calming there as well as alerting the PCSO who I understand has been attending to aid in traffic control. We are also working closely with the School to combine our efforts in this direction.

Matters for the future include both the planned re-routing of the A428 and the proposed East West Rail Oxford to Cambridge routes, both of which could affect life as it is in our Village and we have been actively engaged with other Councils, consultation meetings and holding public meetings to ensure our voice is heard and, from the response at the last public meeting, have recently voiced support for the CBRR proposals led by County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley.

Other duties and regular tasks carried out throughout the year have been listed before so I won't bother you with a full list suffice to thank all those involved including our handyman Keith Woolcott, our Library Manager Kate Laugharne, cleaner Karen Woods, Leanne and Kirstin our Parish Council Clerks, whose professionalism and expertise is so essential to what we do, and not least my great team of Councillors with a wide range of skills and abilities – thank you all for your continued help and support throughout the year.

Finally, I feel I must express dismay at what appears to be happening more and more in our general society and now seems to have reached Gamlingay, and that is a real or at least a perceived increase in crime. Councillor Mark Brown has worked hard to build a team of volunteers to re-establish Neighbourhood Watch in the Village and, more recently Alison Webb has been instrumental in setting up the Gamlingay Community Safety Group with which we are co-ordinating our efforts. To this end Alison and her group have promoted a number of initiatives and have secured meetings with the Police Commissioner Jason Ablewhite who has kindly accepted our invitation to present to us later tonight.

Thank you all again for attending this evening, I shall be pleased to try to answer any questions relevant to this report now and we will be holding a full Question and Answer session after all the presentations are complete.

Colin Smith  
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

Except for 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 Cinques Common (managed by the wildlife Trust on the PC's behalf)
- The Old Methodist Chapel
- Cemeteries (Stocks Lane and St Mary's 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
- 50 street lights

## Staff

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

## Plans for 2019-2020

Complete Neighbourhood Plan.

Support Community Speed Watch, Gamlingay Community Safety and Neighbourhood Watch Groups

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](mailto:gamlingay.allotments@gmail.com)

## Contact Details

To contact your Parish Council, 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](mailto:clerk@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)

Mrs J Wright- [jayne.wright@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:jayne.wright@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)

Mr C Smith- [colin.smith@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:colin.smith@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)

Mr P Webb- [peter.webb@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:peter.webb@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)

Mr D Finnigan- [dave.finnigan@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:dave.finnigan@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)

Mr M Brown- [mark.brown@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:mark.brown@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)

Mr A Goss- [antony.goss@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:antony.goss@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)

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Mrs S Martin [samantha.martin@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.martin@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)

Mr S Hemmings [steve.hemmings@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:steve.hemmings@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)

Mrs S Jones [sarah.jones@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.jones@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)

Mrs J Newman [julie.newman@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:julie.newman@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)

Mr A Foster [adrian.foster@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:adrian.foster@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)

1 vacancy (to be advertised)

## Gamlingay Parish Councillors



**Colin Smith**

Colin has lived in Gamlingay since 1983 (35 years) and having a business background in London and the Home Counties as a Finance Director and as a Managing Director in both the Leisure and Retail fields he and his wife Tineke ran a successful small business consultancy from Letchworth since 1994 acquiring skills and experience which he believes can benefit the community. Now retired, Colin has served on the Parish Council for 8/9 years on various committees including chairing Planning and Finance and is the newly elected Chair of the Parish Council

**Tony Goss**



Tony and his wife Sheila moved to Gamlingay around 13 years ago, when a need for a bungalow arose due to arthritis in both hips. They love the village and the friendly people. Tony has had a varied career, from building industry, to haulage, and managed several refuse, recycling, and street cleansing contracts in both private and public sectors. Tony was for some years both a Mid Beds District, and Sandy Town councillor. Since retiring some four years ago, Tony has been able to devote more time to, hopefully, helping to make the village a better place for all and joined the Parish Council a few years ago, recently taking on the role of chairman of the planning committee

**Jayne Wright**



Jayne is originally from West Yorkshire, but has lived in Gamlingay for 12yrs with her husband Max, two children and a Springer Spaniel dog called Luna. Jayne has a degree in Sociology and a Masters in Criminology. She has spent most of her professional career as a Criminal Intelligence Analyst, working first for the Metropolitan Police Force then the Music Industry (IFPI), Cambridgeshire Police Authority and most recently Hewlett Packard (HP). She has been a Parish Councillor for 10yrs and her main responsibility areas are the Butts Playground and Millbridge Brook Meadows. She is a trained River warden and in her free time enjoys long dog walks and growing veg

**Dave Finnigan**



Dave is a well-known face in the village, and is owner of DC Finnigan, Motor Engineering Specialists firm on Green End Industrial Estate. Dave and his wife Margaret have lived in the village the since 1976, and have three grown up children, two sons and a daughter, and two grandsons. Dave has been on the Parish Council for over 10 years. Dave's interests are classic cars and motorbikes.

### Tracy Gurney



Tracy has lived in Gamlingay all her life with her husband Andrew and three children. She has been on the Parish Council for nearly five years and is on the Planning Committee and the Methodist Chapel Management Group. Tracey is very passionate about the village and will always try to do her best for everyone

### Peter Webb



Peter has lived in Gamlingay for over 30 years. He is married to Linda and has two grown-up children and one granddaughter. A keen footballer, Peter played for Gamlingay FC for over 15 years and was a member of Gamlingay Young Farmers Club, where he served as both Chairman and Treasurer. He has worked in both the construction and insulation industries. Peter joined the Parish Council in 2016 because he felt he wanted to give something back to the village. He is currently Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and Vice-chairman of the Planning Committee

### Steve Hemmings



Steve headed north from his London home in 1972 to join the staff at the RSPB. Steve is married to Jeanie and has lived in Gamlingay since 1997. In 1979 he left the RSPB to join various London based advertising/marketing agencies culminating, with a partner, in starting and owning "The Direct Agency" in Covent Garden. As a Christian, Steve decided on a total change of lifestyle, moving to Jersey to take up the role of Verger at St Mary's Parish Church. Family illnesses forced his return in 1994. Steve used his knowledge of tending cemeteries to secure the role of cemetery caretaker until 2002, when he retired. Steve joined the Parish Council in 2013 leaving in 2016 to work as a volunteer on the Patient Participation Group re-joining Council this March. Steve is a member of the PCC at Sandy and his hobbies are London Buses pre-1960, and the life and times of Francis Albert Sinatra.

### Mark Brown



Mark and his wife Ellen have lived in Gamlingay since 2010, they have 2 cats - Charlie Brown, and Peanut.

Mark is a Warehouse Manager, currently working in Royston. In his spare time he likes to travel the world with Ellen, has a season ticket at Tottenham Hotspur, and referees football matches to keep fit. Mark joined the Parish Council in 2016, he has been a member of the publications Committee, he is currently a member of F & GP, and looks after Neighbourhood Watch in the village.



### **Samantha Martin**



Sam joined the Parish Council in May 2017 as she wanted to get more involved in the village and meet more residents. A trained musician and passionate advocate for cultural learning, Sam studied Music and Spanish at the University of Birmingham and has worked in the cultural sector for 9 years. She moved to Gamlingay in 2014 and currently works as a Relationship Manager for Arts Council England. Sam can often be seen walking around the village with her husband and 3 dogs. In her spare time, she plays the flute with several ensembles in Cambridge and London.

### **Keith Warburton**



Before retiring, Keith worked in the information technology industry, as well as editing an IT news publication. He also ran a trade association for the IT sector. He is an advocate of meetings without moving - the benefits that video conferencing can bring to society. Keith moved to Gamlingay in 2012 and appreciates the village's superb facilities, in particular the gym – you might meet him there working out or sometimes working on the reception desk. Other than walking, competitive air rifle shooting is his main pastime. Being a parish councillor is a way in which a relative newcomer, living solo, can contribute to, and feel part of the village. Committees: Publications & Communications, Old Methodist Chapel.



### **Ann Kirby**

Ann moved up to Gamlingay, with her husband Michael, following retirement just over 10 years ago, to be nearer to their two sons and their families. Barnet born and bred, grammar school educated, she took the secretarial path, working in both commercial and academic roles. She retired from Middlesex University where she was currently employed as PA to the Academic Registrar and also Assistant Clerk to the Governors. Over the last 10 years she has undertaken various voluntary roles within the village. She aims, as a Councillor, to discharge her responsibilities with transparency and fairness, to the best of her ability, for the benefit of the village and the community

### **Julie Newman**



Julie has lived in Gamlingay for 30 years. She is married to Robert (Nobby); they have four grown up children. She trained as a bilingual personal assistant and now works as a childminder to her young grandson. Julie also contributes towards the production of the village newsletter, the Gazette. She is keen to be part of an open and accessible Parish Council which listens carefully to residents' concerns, needs and wishes. New to the Parish Council, Julie has joined the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Publications Sub Committee

**Sarah Jones**

Sarah and her husband Darren moved to the hamlet of The Cinques in 2000. At that time they both worked in London. Sarah at that time was working as the IT Change Manager for the British Standards Institution. Their son was born in 2004 and she took some years out to be a full-time mother. Sarah currently works for a local company. Their son is being educated in Potton. Sarah stood for parish councillor as she wanted to understand how it meets the needs of the community it serves. Other family members include two horses and a dog

**Adrian Foster**

Adrian was co-opted to join the Parish Council in September 2018.

## Gamlingay Parish Council Staff

**Leanne Bacon**

Leanne has been Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer since November 2004. She holds a BA Honours degree in History from the University of Warwick. Leanne gained her Certificate in Local Council Administration in 2007 and is a member of the Society of Local Council Clerks. Her main responsibilities include all financial matters, maintenance of the website, updating the Council's social media accounts and publicity. Leanne is married with 3 sons and has lived in Gamlingay for 25 years.

**Kirstin Rayner**

Kirstin joined in March 2004. She previously worked in social housing development and for Sport England. Kirstin holds a degree and post graduate diploma in Urban Studies and Town and Regional Planning from the University of Sheffield. She is a keen sports person, having played for a local club for the past 12 years. Kirstin passed her CILCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) in 2007 and is a member of the Society of Local Council Clerks. She is also interested in local archaeology and established the local archaeology group GamArch. Main responsibilities include: Planning, development, protection of green spaces, staff management, project work, cemetery and tree management and the Old Methodist Chapel

**Kate Laugharne**

Kate has lived in Gamlingay since 2002 and has worked for the Parish Council since 2011. She has a Bsc in Microbiology from the University of London. She is also employed by Gamlingay Community Centre as part-time manager of the Eco Hub and is on the organising committee of Gamlingay Village Show.

**Keith Woolcott**

Keith prunes, mends and strims  
And even empties bins  
He trucks to villages sites  
With flashing beacon lights  
He tends the cems, meadows and the like  
And loves all things motorbike

**Karen Woods**

Karen works as part time cleaner for Parish Council owned community buildings since 2012 (The WI Hall and Old Methodist Chapel). She has lived in Gamlingay for 20 years and worked at Sunshine Pre - school for 15 and a half years.

## Draft accounts for Year from 01/04/2018 to 31/03/2019

Important note: These figures have been prepared on an INCOME and EXPENDITURE basis.

### Annual Return

#### Box No.

1	Balances brought fwd	236,826.44	193,866.86
2	Annual precept	195,796.00	199,202.00
3	Total other receipts	33,513.92	500,495.22
4	Staff Costs	101,320.71	97,034.44
5	Loan interest/capital repayments	24,606.72	200,548.22
6	Total other payments	146,342.07	258,777.32
7	Balances carried forward	193,866.86	337,204.10
8	Total Cash and Short Term Investments	191,011.04	338,782.20
9	Total Fixed Assets and Long Term Investments	399,195.33	408,228.57
10	Total Borrowings	290,495.06	145,848.70