



QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL

GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at

The Eco Hub, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay
On Tuesday, 25th April, 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Minutes

In attendance- J McGeady (Chair Gamlingay Parish Council), Sarah groom (Vice Chair), Sergeant Tim Cleary, Special Floyd Mathews (Police), Simon Walder (Speedwatch and Drove Rd action Group), and County and District Councillor S Kindersley, District Councillor B Smith, L Bacon and K Rayner (Clerks) and 10 members of the public.

1. Parish Council Chair J McGeady welcomed attendees. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th April 2016 were available.
2. **Chairman's Report (appendix 1)** 1 member of the public arrived at the meeting.
3. **Audited Accounts of the Parish Council** for year ending 31st March, 2016 were made available. Any queries, please speak to RFO Leanne Bacon after the meeting. 2016/17 The inspection period will commence on 12th June 2017 and last for 30 days. A member of the public asked for clarification on items 1 and 6 of the annual return 2015-16- which shows significant variance. LB advised this was due to s.106 income and expenditure during that financial year. A breakdown of the variance is to be sent by via email to the resident.
4. To receive reports from County Councillor Mr. S. Kindersley and District Cllr. Mrs. B Smith. Cllr Smith summarized her activities with regard to West Rd Action group, and the planning application and appeal lodged by Endurance Estates. Complaint has been lodged with South Cambs District Council. Some feedback is available. Further meeting is occurring tomorrow. How SCDC perform at appeals relevant to other villages also. Robinson Court- first residents meeting on 24th May, arranged monthly. Redevelopment should be completed this time next year. Start of greensand Ridge walk- to move to Eco Hub- display vote for gateway feature consultation now on. Also plan to improve cycleways- map on options on display-feedback to Neighbourhood Plan group. A member of public asked about access to car park for log walks—SG advised ask at reception for car park open times. Mill Hill-new business application is being approved this week. Neighbourhood Plan- rural business development areas are being proposed as draft policies-full consultation to follow- please contact Bridget. SCDC reviewing day room use- how they can be better utilized. South Cambs has appointed a new chief executive from South Kesteven District Council. Doctors surgery out of hours service not functioning after 11pm at night- BS currently discussing service reduction with Dr. Von Blumenthal. A428

consultation has now closed on new route-one route comes close to the parish. City Deal-busway proposal is being pursued from Cambourne to Cambridge City- looking at option to use existing infrastructure.-old A428 carriageway. Madingley Rd Park and ride is over- subscribed- new location –further options are being considered. County Councillor elections are next Thursday. Also Mayoral election –for Greater Cambridgeshire and Peterborough- first time- further tier of Government created.

Cllr Kindersley –Busy year- has reported monthly to Parish Council meetings, through Gazette and facebook-level of decline in public services . SK is the outgoing Chairman of Cambridgeshire County Council (for last two years)-many enjoyable experiences. Gamlingay has pockets of deprivation and problems of being on county boundary-services split between Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire-bus services cut by Central Bed affecting Gamlingay- we were not consulted. Funding- 2% social care raise was agreed but not 1.99% rise. Running the essential services is getting harder-social care is a large part of the County budget. County has stopped funding transport for 16-18 year olds-now difficult for accessing 6th form colleges from outlying areas/depriving low income families. Pot holes- are getting deeper and wider before they are addressed-frustrating. Iron Church/Drove Rd Improvements- is an example where County Council has swept into action after 2 serious road traffic collisions which have resulted in 3 deaths. Financial position is difficult and getting worse- Unitary authority is likely to be future for Cambridgeshire. CCC now looking to invest in housing and get planning permission for own landholdings due to 5 year housing land supply issue and facing financial constraints. SK is looking forward to Church St Improvements- hopefully being delivered this year, and reserved matters for Green End and West Rd to follow in future. Preschool education- new children from the new developments- need places/facilities –will take up a lot of time. Further speed reductions- SK supports Cinques Rd reductions to Elizabeth Way. Thanks to Parish Council for support.

5. **Presentations :-**

- a) Sergeant Tim Cleary –Cambridgeshire Constabulary – TC has taken over from Jon Capes in March 2017 and line manages the PCSO's. National trend crime on increase due to changes in how reporting is recorded. However this area shows a 7.2% decline but statistics may mask true levels. Perceptions of policing-they are looking at efficient ways to provide parking. Police have increased mental health responsibilities-meeting the needs of the community. Generally South Cambs is a safe place to live and work compared with other areas. Lyndsey Gardner- update on Gamlingay statistics will be circulated. TC thanked for his presentation.
- b) Speed Watch – Gamlingay Co-coordinator Simon Walder- Took over from Hayden mid-year- group looks to influence driver behavior in the parish area-volunteers are trained and record speed, make, model and registration number of cars breaking the speed limit. The volunteer group run 1 exercise per month, more difficult in the winter months/light reduction. All volunteers receive training. PC has purchased the equipment. Group communicates by Facebook/email. Locations are Church Rd, Everton Rd the Heath, Station Rd (30mph), Potton Rd ,The Heath, Mill Hill and Cinques Rd. Application to work in 20mph zone

outside GVC- application result awaited. Should be able to operate there soon. Changes in 2016 new county wide co-ordinator- Paul Jenkins-to be invited out here soon. New signs on village approaches funded by the parish Council. Statistics- 2016- from June 7 exercises, 721 motorists, 64 speeding-8.8% exceeding average- skewed data from session at Everton Rd the heath- one ticket issued by Special. On average 5% speeding percentage-fairly low compared with other villages. 2017 3 exercises so far- Mill Hill, Cinques Rd, Everton Rd-408, 13 reported so far. Need an increase in volunteer base- please contact Simon if you are interested in joining. Group continues to educate, and more frequent sessions will encourage more people to be speed compliant. Road Safety Improvements at drove Rd- horrific 18 months, 2 fatal accidents, and 3 fatalities and quantities of accidents after that-non injury-almost monthly. Local residents set up a non- injury reporting system with County to accurately record these accidents. 3 of the accidents were from drivers not familiar with the local area and did not stop at the crossroads. Derek Crosby undertook covert speed surveys and recommended a 50mph zone. Early morning traffic is still a bit of a problem. Speedwatch can only operate at 40mph only. Iron Church junction repainted and remodelled, an instant success. Splitter islands with solar powered bollards are now in place. Farmer has noticed a difference in vehicle speeds.

c) Neighbourhood Watch launch – Mark Brown- apologies

d) Neighbourhood Plan – Sarah Groom- The purpose is to produce a plan to influence the area where you live or work. It is a shared vision of how the community should develop. It has legal force once adopted. We are at research stage-example Rendlesham for a completed plan-In the autumn we undertook a resident survey 1700 households- 24% response rate-good response rate- 50% on line 50% hard copy returns. Survey age range mostly from 41-64 age group, second highest 65+ group. Infrastructure residents are unhappy with mobile reception, pavements and roads in village core. Transport-bus concerns- can't really help with this, but also high demand for better cycle and pedestrian facilities-people want to walk more and cycle more. Plan at rear of room shows proposed cycle routes being consulted upon. People want more access to trains, huge support for new station, but this brings with it thousands of homes. Energy production support for solar applications- previous applications were turned down. Wind and geothermal also indicative support expressed. Keeping hamlets separate- evidence from survey shows that there is support for keeping the village separate from its hamlets. Preferred housing types- want houses to 'fit in' to vernacular – not stand out. Home s for life- should be adaptable for people throughout their lives. Home zones also concept with some support. Housing development sizes- residents don't want large developments- preferences for small mixed developments. Preferred areas- Grays Rd popular but is in close proximity to Gamlingay wood which requires a development cordon- may be too sensitive a site. Other areas -Mill Hill is a possibility but looking at a rural business zone in this location. West Rd is going ahead, and Merton Farm also has some support. What is next- Public meeting 17th May at 7.30pm at the Eco Hub- please come along to hear more and develop some draft policies. We need to do more work on The First School site. Thanks to the small steering group, for continuing to move this project forward.

6. **Questions from the Public** -No questions.
7. To transact such other business as may be incidental to the Meeting-None.

Meeting closed 9pm- please join us for refreshments.

Signed.....Dated.....

Appendix 1

GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016 - 2017

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 Chair of Gamlingay Parish Council. We will be covering a number of themes in this year's Annual Parish Meeting - the Neighbourhood Plan, Speedwatch, the Police and the Neighbourhood Watch launch, and later I shall introduce you to our guests.

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