

Gamlingay Parish Council

Annual Report May 2025 – April 2026



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GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMANS REPORT 2025/2026

(Given at Annual Parish Meeting 28.4.2026)

Wendy Boyne

Chair's report on 2025-2026

Good evening, and thank you for coming to the Annual Parish Meeting. My name is Wendy Boyne, and as Chair of Gamlingay Parish Council I am pleased to present a short report on the work of the Council over the last year.

Over the past year, the Council has continued to focus on good governance, transparency, and delivery—both through our formal meetings and through project work carried out with partners, volunteers, and contractors.

In terms of governance and decision-making, we held 11 Full Council meetings, supported by 7 Finance & General Purposes meetings and 16 Planning meetings, alongside the Annual Parish Meeting and a consultation meeting.

In addition, councillors and representatives contributed to 6 Climate Action Group meetings, 4 PCLC meetings, 3 OMC meetings, and meetings relating to Potton Quarry and Merton College—ensuring Gamlingay's interests were represented in wider discussions.

Turning to delivery, I want to highlight a number of projects completed this year—covering our buildings and assets, community safety, biodiversity, and improvements to local access.

Old Methodist Chapel: We invested in the long-term sustainability of the Old Methodist Chapel with a new roof and insulation, and the installation of solar tiles with a battery in August.

Also thank you to the Brogan Group for the re-levelling of the garden and installation of a new patio area at the Chapel, which was completed in March.

St Mary's Field Cemetery: In March we completed improvements including an extension to the main path. We also supported biodiversity measures by using the excavated soil to create a butterfly bank on the Butterfly Field.

Community safety: Thank you to the Gamlingay Village show whose donation allowed us to purchase and install two new defibrillators in February. One has been placed at the Old Methodist Chapel and the other at Gamlingay Social Club. Following a suggestion from a member of the community, we have also added a bleed kit to the one outside the Methodist Chapel.

Trees and land management: In September a three-year tree risk assessment was completed, with associated tree works undertaken.

Highways and access: Our application for the Park Lane to Little Heath footway was approved for delivery in 2026–27 under the Local Highways Improvement (LHI) process.

Commemoration: In March we planted the Covid Commemoration Tree donated by South Cambs District Council in The Butts, along with a commemoration plaque.

Also in The Butts, in January we planted six free trees were, supporting our wider environmental aims.

Young people: Due to funding from Forward Gamlingay we were able to support the restart of the Youth Club in January. Initially this was on a fortnightly basis, but now is weekly during term time.

Biodiversity: We carried out a Biodiversity Audit consultation from January to March, identifying 10 themes for action that will help shape our work going forward. Thanks go to

clerk Kirstin Rayner, Emma Leaf-Grimshaw and Gwyn Williams for giving their time to complete this work.

We also used our grant-making to support groups that strengthen community life and provide vital services. During 2025–26, grants were awarded as follows:

- Royal British Legion – £75.00
- Wildlife Trust – £100.00
- Youth Club – £1,323.00
- Magpas – £500.00
- Royal Papworth Hospital – £30.00
- Gamlingay WI – £880.00

Finally, a few notable occasions and pieces of ongoing work helped bring people together and keep momentum behind our shared priorities.

Climate Action Group (CAG): Residents and volunteers continued practical activity through events such as hedge laying, river fly monitoring and Repair Cafés.

Village Show/Action Plan: The Village Show remains a key community event, and it was encouraging to see residents come together to take part and support one another. We were again able to have a stand at the show where we invited attendees to vote on suggestions for our annual Action Plan, which we use to guide our priorities for the coming year. There was over whelming support for a new adult football pitch followed by new children's play equipment. We have yet to identify a site for a new football pitch, but we have just created a working group to look into suitable play and leisure equipment which will be led by Councillors Sam Martin and Jacqueline Boocock.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their time and commitment throughout the year, and to record our appreciation for the work of our two clerks Leanne and Kirstin and all those who support the Council's work. I would like to welcome our two new councillors who joined us last year, Neil Medlock and Jacqueline Boocock and say farewell to John Evans, Bob Petch and Charles Newling-Monk who all sadly had to step down due to various personal reasons. Your contributions were appreciated. Thank you as well to residents who attend meetings, respond to consultations, volunteer, and raise issues constructively—your input makes a real difference.

Looking ahead, our priorities include progressing the Park Lane to Little Heath footway, taking forward the themes from the Biodiversity Audit, making further improvements to the Old Methodist Chapel to future proof the building and continuing to maintain and improve the assets that serve the whole community.

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

General information

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 normally take place at the Eco Hub, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay. Agendas are posted on notice boards outside the Eco Hub, Stocks Lane, on Mill St and on our website www.gamlingay-pc.gov.uk

Responsibilities

- Recreation ground, Butts playground, Skatepark, BMX track, Millbridge brook Meadows and lower field, Merton Field (off Greenacres – known locally as the log, leased from Merton College), open space at Chapelfields and Northfield Close, the Pitt on Waresley Rd and Cinques Common (managed by the wildlife Trust on the PC's behalf)
- The Old Methodist Chapel at Green End
- 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
- 51 street lights

Staff

5 - all part time - 2 clerks (job share), grounds man, cleaner for the Old Methodist Chapel and library manager.

Plans for 2026-27

See the action plan on our website <https://gamlingay-pc.gov.uk/document-category/action-plans/>

Allotments

<https://gamlingayallotments.co.uk/>

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 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

To contact individual councillors, please use the following email addresses;

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6 vacancies

Audited accounts are available on our website - <https://gamlingay-pc.gov.uk/financial-information>

The precept for 2025-26 was £ 238 150