

# Gamlingay Parish Council



Annual Report 2011 -2012



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## Summary of Chairman's Report

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## Nick Telford-Reed (NTR)

The last 3 years have been eventful - cemetery, play area, street lighting and community centre issues have taken up significant time and effort of Councillors and volunteers.

NTR has been gratified by the support and trust Councillors have placed in each other. Council works very hard and does its best for the community. Conflicting issues have required the council to make difficult decisions.

We've had 11 Full Council meetings, 9 Finance & General Purposes meetings- Council strives to balance resources and affordability-2012/13 £110 per band D household- 4% increase. Our Council is one of the most expensive but is the most active. What do we do with the money?- fund youth club, youth café, Forward Gamlingay!, Gamlingay First Responders, Scouts, Preschools, Shrievally Trust, Good Neighbour Scheme, Schools, GRA, Mucky Pups, Victim Support, Marais Ensemble, junior holiday camp at GVC.

Most significant activity in the history of the Parish Council was the redevelopment of the Community Centre into the Eco Hub. Local building firm Hutchinsons have done an excellent job. Clerks now have the best view in the building! Splendid opening day and evening - met a lot of new people in the village. Now we have had over 1000 visitors. Library figures 2011 - 350 attended in March/April with 15 new members, this year 2012-same period we have had 700 visitors and 80 new members. Library has a new manager, and performance shows another success story. Hearing loop will be going in to main hall as well.

We still don't know the consequences of the Localism Act- consequences of the new Planning Framework- sustainability tests. We will investigate sites and represent the village to the best of our ability. Significant Large Scale Planning Applications- the Lupin Field- significant public interest.

Wind Turbine meeting- local democracy in action- sequence of meetings.

Community tithe- views are requested on how it should be received and distributed. Churchyard walls and paths-constant discussions are taking place – quality of work needs to be put right. Remedial work- is subject to continued discussion. WI/Old Methodist Chapel- new heating put in the WI this year and OMC to be painted in the Summer. All facilities are funded from the precept.

Thanks to all members of staff, handyman/Project Officer, 2 clerks- great advantage to having two members of staff with different specialisms who have managed an extraordinary budget of over £1m. Councillors who stood down this year were thanked for their contribution- Nick Howard, Maggie Halliday, Ian Simpson. New Councillors who have joined are Jackie McGeedy, Colin Smith, and we have one vacancy currently.

The Parish Plan is coming to the end of its life- Neighbourhood plans not in yet – cost twice as much as Parish Plans to implement. We have been advised to update the Parish Plan, but costs would be increased. It has been an extraordinary year; it has been an honour to be chairman. This is the last meeting – finishing 8<sup>th</sup> May- it's the hardest thing I've ever done. It is gratifying to achieve this building- great to see more active community groups participating in improving our village.

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

The parish has: 3865 electors  
15 parish councillors

Gamlingay parish council was awarded Quality Status on 17th July 2008. 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.

With a few exceptions, all meetings now take place at the Eco Hub, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay. Agendas are posted on notice boards outside the parish council office and on Mill St and on the website [www.gamlingay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.gamlingay-pc.gov.uk)

### **Responsibilities**

- Provision of allotments
- Recreation ground ,playground and Station Rd field
- The Old Methodist Chapel and WI Hall
- Cinqes Common (managed by the wildlife Trust on the PC's behalf)
- Chapelfields and Northfield close open space and the Pitt on Waresley Rd
- Cemetery
- Maintenance of closed churchyards (St Mary's and the Baptist Chapel)
- Gamlingay Eco Hub
- Grass cutting of the above areas and verges within the village
- 47 street lights

### **Staff**

All part time - 2 clerks (job share), handyman, cleaner, library manager and project facilitator.

## **Plans for 2012-2013**

### **£1.2m investment for Gamlingay**

Gamlingay Parish Council are pleased to announce that exchange of contracts has occurred, allowing the granting of outline planning permission for Station Road mixed development of housing and light industry which was originally discussed in 2009.

South Cambs District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Gamlingay Parish Council have secured the following contributions from Merton College, Oxford on behalf of the community to support the expansion of the village. These benefits are summarised below:-

- 1) Provision for open space at Millbridge Brook, open space maintenance contributions (£43K) and development costs (£200k)
- 2) Land transfer of St Mary's Field and Lower field to Gamlingay Parish Council with £60k development costs (potential new cemetery/recreational open space)
- 3) 99 year lease of land at Dutter End for allotment provision, with £25k development costs.
- 4) Permissive footpaths to Gamlingay Wood, and circular route from behind Honey Hill/Mill Street to Millbridge brook.
- 5) Contribution of £700k to Gamlingay Eco Hub (Community Centre)
- 6) Up to £200k contribution to a Youth Pavillion at the Recreation Ground, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay
- 7) Up to £300k towards parking improvements in central Gamlingay (Church Street)
- 8) Street lighting contribution to improve lights along Station Road/Church Lane (£10k)

Other benefits agreed by District and County Council:

- a) 40% of all dwellings are to be affordable dwellings either for rent or shared ownership/lease basis (currently about 34 dwellings) (District Council)
- b) £75k to upgrade and enhance two bus stops at Stocks Lane/Blythe Way and two bus stops at Church Street/Waresley Road (County Council)
- c) Development of self- contained business units adjoining the existing industrial estate and marketing strategy.(District Council)
- d) Noise attenuation works /buffer between industrial estate/KMG and new dwellings (District Council)
- e) Pre school education contribution of £71k for Gamlingay pre-schools to improvements in facilities.(County Council)
- f) Health care contribution of £41k for the improvement of health care facilities including an extension to Gamlingay Surgery (County Council)
- g) New cycleway/footpath along frontage of Station Road to the school (County Council)

These benefits will be provided over the period of the construction of the development for the benefit of existing and new residents of the village.

The Parish Council welcome involvement of residents in formulating plans for the new facilities.

## **Lupin Field**

The Parish Council recommended refusal to South Cambs District Council for an application to build affordable housing on the Lupin field off Greenacres. The Council received over 84 responses from households, all opposing the development. The reasons given related to planning policy HG/5- the site did not fulfil all criteria stipulated in this policy. Council had significant concerns about highway safety, visual impact, significant concerns about ecological value of the site being lost to local residents, significant concerns over flooding and drainage-suitability in relation to proximity to the stream and springs which appear on site. The Council was also very concerned that as an exception site, the site is isolated and not well related to main services of the village. The Council is supportive of affordable housing but deemed this location inappropriate. Significant housing development is already planned for this community including affordable housing for local needs.

### **New Allotments – coming soon!**

The parish council is delighted to announce that as part of the agreement relating to the new development at Station Rd, it has secured 4 acres of land to provide new allotments for the parish.

The allotments will be situated on the North side of Long Lane, adjacent to the track that leads up to the permissive path to Gamlingay Woods.

There should be sufficient land to satisfy the current need (there are 40 people on the waiting list), and more. If you live in the parish and want to add your name to the list please contact the parish council on 650310 or email us at [gamlingaypc@lineone.net](mailto:gamlingaypc@lineone.net)

Current thinking is that allotments should not just be viewed as a patch of land to grow vegetables but as an amenity to ideally be utilized by a broad spectrum of the community. The current emphasis



is on biodiversity, sustainability and education in particular for the schools.

The parish council has set up a working group for the new allotments and interested members of the parish are encouraged to join us. Among other things, the group will be discussing and agreeing layout, parking arrangements, security, rules and regulations, storage, keeping of livestock, bee keeping, water supply and bulk possible bulk purchase of seeds. We hope to set up a new Allotment Association to be responsible for the running of the allotments.

### **Summary of Accounts 2010-11**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Staff(LGA 1972 s.112)</b>	66,231	66980
<b>Subsidiary Powers(LGA 1972 s.111)</b>		
Election Costs Current Year	0.00	0.00
Office expenses	8700.00	11239.60
Training/Recruitment	600.00	958.90
Insurance (LGA 1972 S112-119)	3750.00	3659.70
Info. Gazette/Website	200.00	200.00
<b>Village Maintenance</b>		
Grasscutting	13500.00	16149.17
Refuse	450.00	1059.81
Playground/Rec field	1800.00	1059.29
Street Lighting	1475.00	1270.08
Closed Churchyards(LGA 1972 s 215)	26000.00	0.00
Recreation Ground Station Rd	0.00	5.00
Footpaths/other	1500.00	2361.00
<b>Public Buildings(LGA 1972 s.133)</b>		
<b>Office</b>		
Rent	2300.00	2481.50
Rates	991.00	963.43
Utilities	500.00	1750.22
<b>Methodist Chapel</b>		
Mortgage	2640.00	2835.94
Rates	0.00	0.00
Utilities	2000.00	1588.48
Maintenance/Sundries	1660.00	1046.16
<b>Women's Institute Hall</b>		
Rates	725.00	812.54
Utilities	1400.00	1843.94
Maintenance/Sundries	7200.00	7707.85
<b>Community Centres(LGA 1976 s.19)</b>		

<b>Eco Hub</b>		
Sinking Fund	10500.00	0.00
Loan repayments - PWLB	24606.00	24606.72
Finance support	22000.00	0.00
Eco Hub - build	785505.00	830030.56
<b>Library</b>		
Telephone	30.00	10.00
Rent/Sundries/Stationary	2200.00	127.35
<b>Cemeteries</b>		
New Cemetery(LGA 1972 s.214) Current Yr	0.00	0.00
Rates(LGA 1972 s.214(6))	336.00	337.74
Water(LGA 1972 s. 214(6))	58.00	43.11
Maintenance(MPA 1970 s.1)	5000.00	593.89
<b>Allotments</b>		
Allotments Current Year	0.00	0.00
<b>Community Projects</b>		
Forward Gamlingay!/support of charities	17832.00	7685.00
Parish Plan (LGA 1972 s.141 &142)	500.00	0.00
Crime Prevention(LGRA 1997)	523.00	50.00
Holiday Camps/youth work	500.00	500.00
Section 137(LGA 1972)	1046.00	581.50
Community Wellbeing	0.00	0.00
Support of the arts	564.00	150.00
<b>Allocated Reserves</b>		
Closed Churchyards(LGA 1972 s 215)	1500.00	1500.00
Station Road Rec. Field	0.00	0.00
New Cemetery	0.00	0.00
Methodist Chapel Sinking Fund	1000.00	1000.00
WI Hall Sinking Fund	1000.00	1000.00
Allotments	0.00	0.00
<b>Election costs</b>	0.00	0.00
Contingency	9000.00	327.00
<b>Total ex Vat</b>	1027322.00	994518.76
<b>Vat</b>	0.00	167600.55
<b>Total including Vat</b>	1027322.00	1162119.24
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Precept</b>	151500.00	151500.00
<b>Burial Fees</b>	3100.00	4110.25
<b>Allotment Rent</b>	140.00	87.05
<b>Interest</b>	700.00	1027.06
<b>Recreation Ground Income</b>	500.00	509.85
<b>Cinques Common</b>	50.00	100.00
<b>Grasscutting Contribution</b>	759.00	0.00

<b>Methodist Chapel</b>		
Rainbow	4000.00	4609.47
General	250.00	320.33
<b>Library</b>	150.00	176.20
<b>WI Hall</b>		
Main users	7000.00	8558.27
General	1000.00	836.18
Grant Awards	0.00	650619.60
<b>Other</b>	500.00	14431.30
<b>Total ex Vat</b>	169649.00	836885.56
<b>Vat</b>	0.00	148068.63
<b>Total including Vat</b>	169649.00	984954.19

## 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 [gamlingaypc@lineone.net](mailto:gamlingaypc@lineone.net)  
 Or e-mail your councillors as below-

Nick Telford-Reed (Chairman to May 2012)) [ntelfordreedgpc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ntelfordreedgpc@tiscali.co.uk)  
 Chris Tomsett [ctomsettgpc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ctomsettgpc@tiscali.co.uk)  
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