

Gamlingay Parish Council



Annual Report 2014 -2015



Wildflowers Long Lane allotments

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Chairman's Report
Gamlingay Parish Council Chairman's Report 2014

Gamlingay Parish Council Chairmans Report 2014 - 15

This is my third and final year as Chair of the Parish Council. Looking back over my previous two reports I see that I have said, each time, what a busy year it has been for us, and I can only say that in the last year the pace just hasn't let up!

Firstly some facts and figures. We have had:

13 Full Council Meetings (monthly)

18 Planning meetings (fortnightly)

9 Finance & General Purpose meetings

4 general update meetings with the Hub trustees

2 staffing meetings

11 further meetings, including management updates with user groups of the Old Methodist Chapel and WI Hall; consultations with the residents of the Cinqes and Bowls Club; updates with Kier Housing and Merton College and our first public consultation regarding the new Neighbourhood Plan.

We currently have a full component of 15 Councillors and no vacancies. In 2014 we said goodbye to Eileen Atkinson and we have recently welcomed new councillors Charlotte Sale; Adrian Foster; Tracey Gurney and Andy Knibbs.

As always, we encourage local groups and charities to apply for grants in February and October each year, and over the last year we have donated a total of £29,829 to village and local organisations including:

Gamlingay Environmental Action Group

The Gamlingay Post

Both the Blythe Way and Avenells Way Community centres for Easter and Christmas events

The Village College holiday play scheme

The British Legion

MAGPAS

Forward Gamlingay (which runs the Youth Cafe and Youth Club)

The Fire Fighters

The Eco Hub

The Bowls Club

GamArch (archaeology group)

Gamlingay Christmas Lights

Through village charity Forward Gamlingay, we continue to fund the Youth Cafe and Youth Club, held here at the Hub on Thursday nights, and this provides support and mentoring for many of our young people. We have a very committed team running these very busy clubs and the skill and hard work of the staff is to be commended.

In some ways, this has been a year of project planning, and it is only now that we are beginning to see the results of our efforts, as planning and preparation is completed, and the final tranches of money comes through from the Station Road development.

Two such projects are now fully underway - the phase 2 completion of The Hub which comprises an extension at the back and landscaping of the car park and land at the back to connect to the skatepark. This completion work was always in the original plans for the building, but couldn't be done at the time of the first build in 2012 due to budget limitations. We are also building storage garages next to the car park at the front for the Footballers, Guides and the Parish Council equipment including an electric car for our handyman. The building work is due to be finished by October, and we will be doing a full report on the completion of the Eco Hub ready for the APM 2016.

The second project we have been busy planning is the new Cemetery behind St Mary's Church, and work has finally started with diggers creating the layout and the ground plan on the top two thirds of the St Mary's field. As so often happens, we haven't quite had the budget to do everything we would like to do right now, so some further parts of the plan, like the sensory garden, will be delivered at a later date and hopefully through grant funding.

Other work currently underway includes the creation of a new outdoor space at the side of the WI Hall, and new underfloor heating to be installed in the Old Methodist Chapel, which is used by the Rainbow Playgroup.

Our own country park development on Millbridge Brook Meadows and Lower Field, is nearly a year old now, as it was opened on the first May bank holiday last year. I remember it looked very raw and bare at the time because we were about 2 weeks behind completion due to a very

wet winter and spring. There was some panic whether it would be ready at all in time for the opening ceremony but we did get there! Our five year maintenance programme is now underway, and a volunteer group called the Friends of Millbridge Brook has been formed and now meets regularly. Recently a group of volunteers went down and did the first clearance of the brook this year. I am told that there is evidence of lots of water voles down there, which is very heartening.

The Station Rd development is progressing well and we now finally have the new cycleway installed, leading from the development up to the entrance of the Village College. Two other, smaller housing developments now exist in the village – Stubbs Oak on the Cinques Road and the barns at Merton Grange further up Station Road (not yet completed).

The allotments on Long Lane continue to be a huge success with all the plots full, and six currently on the waiting list. These plots are now totally managed by the users who are known as the Gamlingay Allotment Gardeners Association (GAGA).

The library here in the Hub continues to thrive with 4,369 visitors recorded in 2014.

Speeding is a constant concern in the village, and following a successful application to South Cambridgeshire for new speed restrictions on Heath Road (towards Everton) last year, new speed signs have now gone up slowing traffic from 60 to 40 around the junction of Drove Road and the Iron Church. We have also set up a new Speedwatch volunteer group led by vice chair Jackie McGeady, some training has been undertaken, and the first set of volunteers will be going out very soon.

Gamlingay had it's own Christmas Lights this year, for the first time, and while our desire to have solar powered lights attached to the lampposts was thwarted due to them being apparently too heavy for the posts (according to Balfour Beatty) we did manage to scramble together some alternative lights which were fitted to the posts with conventional sockets, just in time for the opening ceremony on the 1st December. This was one occasion when the whole village pulled together with the Parish Council to raise money for these lights and the carol service and 'switching on' ceremony was a truly joyful occasion, led by Rachel Mingay, the young lady who started the campaign for Christmas lights, and who had done some very energetic fund raising herself.

Regarding communications, our website has all our agendas, minutes, accounts and general information always available on it and our Facebook page continues to provide interest and information for

residents as well as a platform for questions and comments. Facebook is always a bit of a mixed blessing, but we do still feel it is an important communication tool for us and as long as people remain polite in their use of it, then we will continue for the moment.

In addition to all the activity I have spoken about, we also remain committed to the everyday maintenance and housekeeping that goes on all year, and is so crucial to the smooth running and attractive appearance of our village.

This includes, as always, cutting the grass in all the public areas, checking and managing tree safety, keeping the cemetery tidy and well cared for, checking safety and maintaining the play equipment at the Butts, nagging highways to repair potholes, litter picking, clearing rubbish, and caring for and maintaining the WI Hall and Old Methodist Chapel.

As always, we owe a debt of gratitude to those people who keep the wheels turning, and without whom the Council just couldn't function.

Our wonderful Handyman, Mr Keith Woolcott is to be found out and about most days, usually with a wheelbarrow and tools. In my last report I said that we would soon be getting him an electric vehicle, and although he still doesn't have it, I can report that it has been ordered and will be here before the autumn. He is a real asset to the village, so thank you Keith.

Mr Ray Daisley. who does metalwork repairs and is always ready to tackle whatever the clerks ask him to do. Thank you Mr Daisley.

Our volunteer litter pickers, especially Tony Goss, and Gary, and everyone else who makes a point of cleaning up other people's dog poo and other rubbish on Millbridge Brook and Holly Walk, we salute you and thank you.

Library manager Kate Laugharne has once again done a wonderful job this year with all the challenges that running a busy library gives her, and I would like to thank her and all her volunteers who man the library and welcome so many adults and children to the Hub on a daily basis.

Our District and County Councillors Sebastian Kindersley and Bridget Smith, who advise us and update us on 'the bigger picture' outside the village. Of particular help is their ability to act as a 'connector' between us and people at South Cambs District Council and the County Council which is invaluable when we need to solve a problem or get the right information and help on an issue.

As most people know, Bridget also works hard for us in her role as project co-ordinator for the Hub and Millbridge Brook.

Our clerks, Kirstin and Leanne, have had a particularly busy and sometimes stressful year and we thank them always for their professionalism, resilience and good humour. I think it is fair to say that each day brings a fresh challenge!

And finally, I would like to thank my fellow councilors for their time and energy this year. I am struck, as always by the range of talent and expertise we have within the council. Particular mention should go to Peter Dolling who continues to give so much time and expert opinion to the planning and building of the Hub, my Vice Chair Jackie for your unfailing support and Gerry Burne for his chairmanship of the planning committee for the last three years. I have been very pleased and privileged to be your Chair for my final year, and thank you all for your help and support.

Sarah Groom.
Chair – Gamlingay Parish Council

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

The parish has 2809 electors
15 parish councillors

Gamlingay parish council was awarded Foundation status in the new Local Council Award Scheme which has replaced the Quality Status scheme.

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 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 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, 2 cleaners, library manager and project facilitator.

Plans for 2015-2016

Formulate Neighbourhood Plan.
Official opening of new Cemetery
Complete scheme for parking improvements for Church Street
Open new permissive footpaths (delayed from last year)
Support new Community Speed Watch team
Official opening of Phase 2 of the Eco Hub
Complete external improvement works to the WI hall and install an air source heat pump at the Old Methodist Chapel.
Install new equipment in the Butts playground.
Implement plan to protect the Cinques open spaces.
Get new electric vehicle for grounds man.

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

gamlingay-pc.gov.uk

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2014/2015		
2013/2014		
£261,632.71	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	£269,150.85
£471,371.10	ADD TOTAL RECEIPTS	£1,282,559.28
£463,852.96	LESS TOTAL PAYMENTS	£525,149.64
£269,150.85	BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	£1,026,560.49
BANK RECONCILIATION		
31.3.2014		31.3.2015
£16,166.57	CO OP CURRENT ACCOUNT	£179,828.49
£107,744.21	SANTANDER CURRENT ACCOUNT	£108,562.63
£49,143.83	UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	£698,822.23
£50,000.00	CAMBRIDGE BUILDING SOCIETY BOND	£50,501.60
£50,053.70	SANTANDER BOND	£0.00
£950.60	CASH IN HAND	£884.35
£4,908.06	OUTSTANDING DEBITS	£12,038.81
£269,150.85		£1,026,560.49
BALANCE SHEET		
	ASSETS	
£9,985.20	DEBTORS	£9,730.89
£269,150.85	CASH IN HAND	£1,026,560.49
£279,136.05		£1,036,291.38
	LIABILITIES	
£1,500.00	CREDITORS	£2,101.10
£0.00	ACCRUALS	£994.02
£1,500.00		
£277,636.05	ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	£1,033,196.26
	NET ASSETS	
	REPRESENTED BY	
£244,521.15	GENERAL FUND BROUGHT FORWARD	£277,636.05
£478,657.12	ADD TOTAL INCOME	£1,282,304.97
£445,542.22	LESS TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£526,744.76
£277,636.05	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	£1,033,196.26

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 clerk@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk
Your parish councillors are-

Jackie McGeady (Chair)
Sarah Groom (Vice Chair)
Jayne Wright
Gerry Burne
David Finnigan
Peter Dolling
Colin Smith
Grace Brass
Brian Perry
Ray Spurling
Steve Hemmings
Tracy Gurney
Charlotte Sale
Andy Knibbs
Adrian Foster