

**Minutes of the eleventh Annual Assembly of Gorefield Parish Council held at
Gorefield School on Tuesday 15th March 2005**

Present: Councillors Humphrey (Chairman), Davall, Carroll, Holt, Cooke,
Mrs Atkins, and Mrs Hall

PC Coales

Apologies: Gary Garford

No members of the public attended

Minutes of the last Annual Assembly were confirmed and signed.

Chairman's Report

Start with a look back at last years Chairman's report from the Annual Assembly.

First Time Rural sewerage scheme was completed came on line and seems to be working well.

The roads, however, leave a lot to be desired and hopefully these will be dealt with during the coming year.

I can report that costs have finally been agreed and the work should be done shortly. From the Cattle Dyke / Gote Lane crossroads to extent of the works eastwards (Wisbech) will be planed and relaid. From the same crossroads going west repairs to affected areas will be followed by surface dressing. The same applies to the Barracks. In addition I have been informed this week and can report that a new footway is to be constructed from Park lane to Fendyke Lane and from Fendyke Lane to join up to the existing path near the village nameplate speed reduction signs.

We introduced Parish Surgery sessions which we continue to hold on a bi meeting basis

Unfortunately, for various reasons, the development of our website is still ongoing

The website is now up and running and can only be judged by a visit. Thanks must go to John Timms of Designsite for all the extra work he puts into the site. John has been paid to develop the site on our behalf but he contributes a lot of additional work on our behalf.

The village did not enter the 2003 Village of the Year competition.

An entry was submitted for 2004 thanks to involvement of Pat Atkins. We were invited to the finals evening held at Haddenham in July and following a visit to the village by the judging panel we were awarded the title Fenland Village of the Year 2004. At the presentation evening once again held at Haddenham on September 17th village and council representatives accepted the award and the £250 prize. Congratulations and thanks to all who help with this.

Jointly Funded Minor Improvements. Our £9500.00 Speed Reduction Scheme, has been completed. One disappointment was the rejection of the preferred option of a 30 mph speed limit.

I can report that on that matter that the 30mph has now been approved and our jointly funded minor improvement bid this year will see that work completed. This will cover all

the highway which is currently only 40mph. New signage and a change of interactive signs to display '30' will be supported by four kerbed buildouts with reflectorised spring back 'keep right' signs to help self enforce the speed reduction. This work, costing a further £10,000 is planned for the coming financial year.

Councillor Philip Hatton was elected as District Councillor for the Roman Bank Ward following a by-election, a result of Peter Ward's resignation. Councillor Hatton joins Cllr Brian Hardy and myself on this 3-member ward, which covers Gorefield, Leverington, Newton and Tydd St Giles

Since last year we have been considering a Parish Plan for the village. Councillors Carroll and Mrs. Atkins have been involved with a pilot study and visits by representatives from Cambridgeshire ACRE to help us kick start the process culminate on April 5th with an Open Meeting to further discuss this issue and hopefully form a steering group to carry it out.

An initiative to provide a youth shelter had our support and the agreement of the Playing Field Association to provide a site but funding could not be obtained.

New streetlights were erected at Churchill Road and on High Road opposite the Church.

The Council has been successful in funding a scheme to pipe and fill the drain at the front of the village Playing Field. The project cost of £15,000.00 is being funded partly by the Parish Council in partnership with FDC, the Playing Field Committee, the Amenity Project Committee and local business goodwill contributions. This work is scheduled to start very soon and should be filled and fenced in time for the Gorefield Show.

2005 will see VE and VJ day celebrations and Cllr Mrs. Hall is working on marking the event within the village

As a Council we continue

- To be consulted on all planning applications and make comments and observations as appropriate.
We hold planning meetings between full council meetings if necessary
- To administer our Parish affairs and finances and were able to keep our Parish precept at the same level as last year
- To comment on all matters concerning the Parish at District and County levels

Thanks must go to PC Coales for her work in the community and her regular attendance at our meetings.

Likewise, thanks to Councillors Brian Hardy and Phillip Hatton for their involvement.

Councillor Hardy has not attended our meetings lately as his health problems continue.

My thanks must go to all the members of the Council for their input and involvement during the year. A special thank you to those of you who have attended any meetings, seminars or presentations for or on behalf of the Council.

Finally special thanks to our Clerk, Rosemary, for all her hard work during the year.

Financial Statement

The attached sheet shows receipts and payments for the period 1st April 2003 to 31st March 2004 and from 1st April 2004 to date.

Signed Date