

**Minutes of the twentyeth Annual Assembly of Gorefield Parish Council held at
Gorefield School on Tuesday 1st April 2014**

Present: Councillors: Humphrey (Chairman), Holt, Fraser, Walpole, Mrs Humphrey, Mrs Hall and Mrs Hunns

Councillor A Lay, PCSO D Russ and 1 member of the public

Apologies: None

Minutes of last Annual Assembly were confirmed and signed

Chairman's Report

Welcome to anyone attending their first

In April we held an open meeting to look at refreshing the Parish Plan and while there was some interest there was not sufficient to proceed.

By April we were well advanced with the Pavilion project and the field had been granted QEII status in celebration of the Queens jubilee. A draft lease was agreed and the handover to the Playing Field Association was completed in May. The Community Hall & Sports Pavilion was completed on time and on budget with the opening event, organised by the PFA, taking place on 2nd June 2013.

While most of the construction fell in the previous year the final phase and completion of grants and accounts fell in this year. I think the Council should be proud of what was achieved and the outcome speaks volumes providing much needed facilities for the community. Credit must go to anyone and everyone who worked on the project in anyway whatsoever.

A new notice board was purchased and again the use it gets fully justifies the cost. The idea was to mark the Diamond Jubilee but we have not sorted the signage yet. During the year the Village sign had its first repaint in 20 years thanks to Councillors Marie & Jackie.

During the year we had 2 Councillors resign, Cllr Carroll resigned from 1st August and Cllr Ridley resigned on the 29th September. Both Councillors had been valued members, Cllr Carroll for many years. Both had received letters of thanks.

In September we received confirmation that a funding application to the Fields in Trust had been successful. The sum of just over £13 K was agreed to replace surfacing at three pieces of play equipment.

In November, following the required process we were able to co-opt Councillors Walpole and Fraser to fill the vacancies created by the resignations earlier in the year.

In January, following several attempts, we finally agreed the purchase of a small parcel of land from the Leverington Charity Feoffees. The piece of land in question, just under half of an acre, is part of a larger land holding in Cattle Dyke.

Parish finances continue to be a challenge, and will be more so with the changes to Concurrent Functions and Street light replacement. Gorefield is now the lowest

precepting Parish in Fenland so we need to be mindful of that, likewise our reserves are down following the building project and land purchase.

We have been successful with the Highways improvement scheme, a bid to improve the footway from West End towards Allens Drove.

No Police presence since August, disappointing but accept that like all public services the Police are limited in what they can do.

Gorefield Street Pride Group continue to meet on the third Saturday of the month from 10 till 12 noon.

We continue to have regular attendance from members of the public at our meetings, crime and antisocial behavior continues to be low.

We continue to subscribe to, and communicate with the Parish using the Village Voice publication. The Parish Council website gorefield.com continues to be a valuable source of local news and information and we are very grateful to all those volunteers that give endless time to these projects

The Christmas tree lights this year were on the tree planted some years ago

As a Council we continue to have concerns about

- Speeding
- Highway matters
- Planning and enforcement

As a Council we continue

- To be consulted on all planning applications and make comments as appropriate.
- To administer our Parish affairs and finances
- To comment on all matters concerning the Parish at District and County levels

My personal 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 and dedication during the year, she too has had additional work as a result of our success.

Fiancial Report

See attached summary of receipts and payments

There being no other matters to be discussed the meeting closed followed by Parish Council meeting

Signed Date