

**Minutes of the 22nd Annual Assembly of Gorefield Parish Council held at  
Gorefield Community Hall on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

**Present:** Councillors: Mrs Hall (Chairman), A Holt, M Humphrey,  
M Walpole and Mrs Hunns

Councillors A Lay and Ms S Clark

**Apologies:** Councillors D Humphrey and Ms P Reynolds

Minutes of last Annual Assembly were confirmed and signed

**Chairman's Report 2016**

I would like to welcome you to this year's annual report, especially anyone attending for the first time.

On reflection my overview of the year suggests that 20015/16 has been one of continuity and maintenance rather than large new initiatives and developments.

At the AGM of Gorefield Parish Council in May Councillor Alan Holt was elected vice-chairman, Councillor Walpole taking the post of Highways Officer, Councillor Mrs Hunns as representative of the Gorefield Playing Field Association and Councillor Holt for Allotments. The contributions of Councillors Fraser and Mrs Humphrey were acknowledged following their decision not to stand for re-election in May. As the election was uncontested and no additional nominations received an advertisement was placed in Village Voices inviting those interested in serving on the Parish Council to apply. Councillor David Humphrey and Councillor Pamela Reynolds were subsequently co-opted.

Highway matters remain a priority within our community. The need to repair the frequently appearing potholes and the break-up of many road surfaces both in Churchill Road and the lanes linking Gorefield to Leverington Common has led to many requests to Highways, but the reduction in its funding has meant that the criteria needed to make the repair is now much higher. However, following several complaints about the quality of the footway improvement along High Road, a resurfacing was carried out. On a positive note our bids for Local Highways Improvement Initiative have seen the footpath on Cattle Dyke extended to Back Road and the Parish Council has just been notified that its proposal to move the 30mph speed limit along Wolf Lane with a traffic calming measure has been approved.

My thanks go to Councillor Michael Humphrey for representing the Parish Council at the on-going discussions with FDC in respect of the revised funding for street lights. One light, identified as dangerous has been replaced and we are awaiting a decision on how many Category 2 lights have to be repaired this year. In setting the precept a further £6000 has been allocated in order to meet our budget requirement to find £18,118 over 3 years.

Following a request for some street lighting in Chapel Lane it was agreed to try out the effectiveness of a solar powered bollard, which if successful, can be added to in the future.

Our thanks should go to the re-formed Street Pride team whose presence and

contribution to the village makes a positive difference.

The obvious pleasure gained by the numbers using the children's play and adult exercise equipment is to be applauded. The Parish Council has supported this venture through its contract with Fenland Leisure to undertake weekly safety checks and maintenance. This contract has recently been transferred to ISS. During the year funding was gained to provide a safer surface around the roundabout also.

The Parish Council has supported a number of organisations and initiatives throughout the year. It worked with Parson Drove and Wisbech St Marys to introduce a rural CAB service, enabling parishioners to have access to the service in one of the 3 villages each month. Unfortunately the take up in Gorefield was extremely low and so it has regretfully been discontinued.

A request from Gorefield School for £125 for funding to provide reporter caps for the team of "FishyNews" reporters was met and two council members attended the enthusiastic presentations made by the reporters in June. Other donations have been made to the Air Ambulance, Magpass and FACT.

As a result of the extension to the premises of the Post Office/ shop, the Parish Council notice board had to be removed. It had deteriorated considerably over the years but is now to be replaced in a new position on the shop wall. Funding for this has been kindly donated by Purina who has a member of staff resident in the village.

In July Lauren Bremner from Living Sport came to explain how initiatives to involve 14- 25 year olds and 55+ in sport were to be introduced on a rolling programme throughout the year. District Councillor Sam Clarke spoke to members about the Cambs Fens Tourism Acton Plan, which is designed for parishes to feed information of their events and attractions into the Fenland website. The increase in popularity of "Gorefield in the Past" Facebook page, researched by Peter Thatcher will add a further dimension to the existing calendar of events in the Parish.

Unfortunately there has been no police presence at our meetings. Unfortunately the email notification of local crimes and current policing issues which is sent to the clerk does not always arrive in time for our monthly meetings. The New Horizon Outreach Vehicle visited the village in September to seek views of residents on policing.

There has been a noticeable reduction in the attendance by members of the public at meetings this year. The Parish Council has benefited from the observations and information which County Councillor, Alan Lay, District Councillors Sam Clarke and Michael Humphrey bring to our meetings on how issues and decisions made by higher authorities might impact on our decisions at parish level. I would like to thank all members of this Parish Council for their considered contributions to discussions and for their willingness to undertake the many practical tasks that need attention. Special thanks must go to our clerk, Rosemary Gagen whose efficiency and thoroughness ensures that our proceedings meet all the statutory requirements.

## **Fiancial Report**

See attached summary of receipts and payments

Signed ..... Date .....