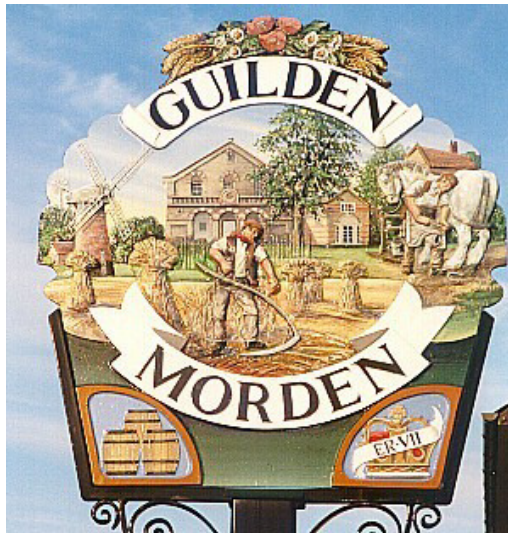


GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Website/Webmaster	Cllr Davis Roach assisted by Sally Rogers
Allotments/Craft	Cllr Newman, assisted by Mrs Anna Hoad
Affordable Housing	Cllr Harper and Cllr Dellar
Play Inspection	Cllr Dellar
Police liaison and Neighbourhood Watch	Cllr Davis Roach assisted by Cllr Holme
School Liaison Officer	Cllr Davis Roach
Burial Grounds	Cllr Dellar
Environment Agency & Anglian Water Liaison	Cllr Holme
Finance	Cllr Harper and Cllr Lock
New Village Hall Funding Project	Cllr Harper
Planning	Cllr Lock and Cllr Dellar
Recreation Grounds (includes Thompsons Meadow)	Cllr Dellar.
Speeding	Cllr Lock
Transport & Transport Information	Cllr Dellar
Trees & Conservation & Honorary Warden for Ruddery Pit, the Vineyard and Buxtons Lane.	Cllr Holme (All members have responsibility for an area of the village for tree monitoring)
Welfare Matters /Warden Scheme	Cllrs Harper
Highways	Cllr Lock and Cllr Buckland
Footpaths (P3)	Cllr Newman
Gamut articles	Cllr Davis Roach
Voluntary Dog Warden	Mr Peter Leete

Tree Reports	Cllr Dellar
Recreation Ground	Cllr Dellar
Cemetery and New Road	Cllr Dellar
Trap Road	Cllr Newman
The Craft	Cllr Buckland
Pound Green, Dubbs Knoll Rd	Cllr Newman
Ashwell Road	Cllr Holme
Buxtons Lane, Ruddy Pit, The	Cllr Harper
Vineyard	
Potton Road	

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Name	Address	Telephone
Nick Buckland	10 Bells Meadow	852853
Michael Chapman	4 Silver Street	852548
Graham Dellar	7 Cannons Close	853646
Geoff Harper	The Chestnuts, 14 Church Street	853845
Barry Holme (Chairman)	Somborne Cottage, Church Street	852407
Ken Lock	31 High Street	852725
Ron Newman	24 Ashwell Road	852427
Judith Davis Roach	7 Ashwell Road	852545

Councillor Email: firstname.lastname@guildenmorden.gov.uk

e.g. nick.buckland@guildenmorden.gov.uk

PARISH CLERK:

Mrs Gail Stoehr
 Guilden Morden Parish Council
 30 West Drive
 Highfields Caldecote
 Cambridge
 CB23 7NY

Tel: 01954 210241

Email: clerk@guildenmorden.gov.uk

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**The Annual Parish Meeting
which was to have been
Monday 20th April 2020
in
Guilden Morden Village Hall
has been
POSTPONED**

All your views are still **IMPORTANT**

**Please speak to any Parish Councillor on any subject that concerns
you and they will try to answer your concerns**

In these unprecedented times the strength of a village even more lies in the strength of the parishioners.

“Ask not what your village can do for you, but what you can do for your village”

It is important within our community that we respect all our neighbours and their views.

In Guilden Morden we are fortunate in that many villagers are extremely active, organising and running clubs and events for the enjoyment of all, albeit this virus has curtailed much socialising.

We will survive this and come out stronger for the future.

Parish Councillors

A special thanks to all who have given their time and expertise to serve on the Parish Council and contributed so much to the community throughout the year. At times it can be a thankless task however on the other side of the coin it can be rewarding to give something back.

75% of our Parish Councillors are in the governments at risk category – over 70.

Nik Buckland

Has lived in the village for over 35 years. Nik has continued to be active in researching and giving his valuable commercial experience towards the proposed EastWestRail link and how it might affect the village. He has also been closely liaising with the Climate Conversations group in Guilden Morden.

Judith Davis Roach

Liaises closely with the Police regarding the village through Neighbourhood Watch. Our Parish Councillor at the Primary School is Judith. She has been very much involved with up grading the village website.

Graham Dellar

Councillor in charge of the recreation ground and on the village hall committee. In a personal capacity is active within the Village History Group.

Geoff Harper (Vice Chairman)

Guiding light on the Mobile Warden Scheme in the local villages for our senior citizens – Guilden Morden, Steeple Morden, Litlington & Bassingbourn. His accountants talents ensure that the budgets for parish spending are vigorously monitored.

Barry Holme (Chairman)

Chairman of the Parish Council. Trustee of the Townlands Charity, Guilden Morden Charity, Worboys Grave Fund, Church Floodlight Trust and the Worboys Court Trust.

Ken Lock

Ken has the much needed task of ensuring speed limits in the village are not abused. The village Speed Watch has had a considerable degree of success in reducing driver infringements. This is now augmented by a Speed Camera recording speeds of vehicles in several locations in the village. Ken also oversees various planning proposals, which are scrutinised before being presented to the Parish Council.

Michael Chapman

Our most recent recruit, has joined this last year, and is an active participant in the Parish Council and also is on the Village Hall Committee.

Ron Newman

Has now been a Councillor for 2 years and has been invaluable with village

maintenance, particularly gate repairs, fence mending and pothole filling at the village hall. This has saved the council and parishioners a great deal of monies. Ron is our councillor looking after the allotments in the village.

A.N. Other

Still **NOT** yet appointed – **URGENTLY** required. (Apply to our Parish Clerk - Gail Stoehr or any of the above Councillors).

Peter Leete our Dog Warden, has done much to reduce the dog fouling in the village. This is on going, just as one thinks one is on top of the problem, it poops up again. The signs requesting Dog Owners to clean up after their pet, are there for a reason and NOT to be vandalised. Similarly PLEASE keep your dog on a lead in public areas, particularly the Recreation Ground. It has been requested that owners are more vigilant in looking after their pets. If a dog is observed “pooping” and the owner fails to clear this up, then they can expect to receive a letter noting their lack of action.

Mike Alton continues to publish our monthly newsletter “Gamut”. In this digital age there are many who prefer the written word. To try and reduce the annual costs the development of an online edition is being trialled.

Web Site has been updated and **ALL** clubs, Village Sports, Event Organisers are urged to contact **Judith Davis Roach** to ensure you obtain suitable coverage for your Organisation or Event.

The Village Hall continues to thrive.

The Townlands Charity manages the Ruddery Pit & The Craft in Higher Level Stewardship and other village lands. The current HLS agreement ends this year and the trustees will be negotiating a future agreement with the Rural Payments Agency/Natural England.

The trust is ably led by **Trevor Osborne**, and trustees **Ian Thomas**, **Rachel Tanser** and **Barry Holme** appointed by the Parish Council, and Church trustees **Canon Shamus Williams**, **Christine Furnston**, **Mike Birrell** (Church Wardens).

The Guilden Morden Charity donates its share of Townlands monies to

senior citizens in the village and to the mobile warden scheme for use in the parish. Trustees are:- **Trevor Osborne, Ian Thomas, Rachel Tanser and Barry Holme**

Many village volunteers help and assist the Church, the Chapel, the Village Hall, Herons Scheme, Mobile warden Scheme, Over 60's, Mens Group, wheels for Martin, History Group, Football, Cricket and Petanque Clubs, etc.,etc., undertaking challenging situations with enthusiasm and hard work for the benefit of Guilden Morden and the locality.

Many thanks to all – there is always room for more volunteer.

It is with regret that Village stalwart and Parish Councillor – **Doreen Mitchell** - died this last year, after many years of service to the village.

Unfortunately every year I have to comment on several recurring themes in the Village, such as Dog Fouling, Parking etc..

Parking

This continues to give concern in the village and our local constabulary have been asked to ensure that all parking is done legally. It is important that **villagers**, their **guests** and any **workmen** they employ **park legally and with common sense**.

Footpaths are for pedestrians, prams etc., NOT for **vehicles or even bicycles**.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE PAVEMENT

Grass verges are there to allow sight lines on corners and improve the street scene, they were not put there for residents to park on them, not only is this illegal but makes a mess and affects other parishioners.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE GRASS VERGES

If you have to park on the road at nights, please ensure that your vehicle is facing in the direction of the traffic – or better still if you have a driveway of parking place – please use it.

PLEASE THINK BEFORE PARKING

Thank you to the volunteers who the keep facilities in the village working for all our enjoyment.

The Book Exchanges

The 2 Book Exchanges (Church Street & High Street) in the village continue to be well used by parishioners, young and not so young. Many thanks to Lesley Harrison and Jane Boyd for monitoring the content and the cleanliness on the sites.

The Churchyard

Charles Paget-Wilkes's volunteers mow and generally keep the churchyard in a good state - thank you.

Guilden Morden Football Club

With the guidance of Pete Leete, Pat Heavey and Michael Holme, the club goes from strength to strength and is now regularly fielding 2 teams. Further teams for the young and ladies are to be encouraged. A walking football side meets once a week in the evenings, for those who feel that running around is too energetic! Players are expected to be over 50 years – thanks to Tony “*the bus*” Charter for organising.

Guilden Morden Cricket Club

The club is expecting to have a full fixture list (this of course will depend on the current situation regarding sporting fixtures), and is looking for new and existing players.

Guilden Morden Village History Group

Geoff Harper and Graham Dellar amongst others have been active with this group.

The Edward VII Public House

A thriving asset to the village and is well patronised by all the sports clubs. The landlord, Kirk Saban, is one of the longest serving, local landlords.

The Three Tuns Public House

The new tenants Megan & Peter Friskney have settled in to the village well

and the pub has won several awards for its food and ales.

Unfortunately at the time of writing the government has closed pubs/restaurants as places of social gathering to hopefully curtail the transmission of this virus. These are truly testing times for businesses.

The situation will improve, although as to when is not known, in the future, to have the benefit of 2 pubs in a village will always be a valuable asset.

East West Rail Link

In my last report I said we will wait and see if we are listened to!

Well we have been listened to in part! Broadly speaking the line will run north to Cambourne, however then will go to the south of Cambridge and enter Cambridge from there. This will avoid the Guilden Morden/Bassingbourn route. The more exact plan is open to further consultation. Completion is still several years away.

Thompson's Meadow New Development

This has not progressed further at the time of writing. The development was to have been put in the hands of a developer, however with the slow down in the market this, apparently has been put on hold.

Sewage Pumping Station

The continuing problems of raw sewage being on the road and polluting the watercourses on Potton Road, have, I am pleased to say improved of late. I hope that this continues.

First Responders

This group is still up and running and on hand to assist in the local villages.

Guilden Morden Primary School

Has enjoyed a successful year and now has the pre-school on site. More recently they received an excellent report from school inspectors – well done. WE hope that this will improve numbers in the school and that all parishioners will send their children here.

Climate Conversations

This new group has been set up in the village, by Andy Tanser, with concern for our world and environment. 2 meetings have been held with all

local villagers attending.

School children have raised various questions regarding the Parish Council's role. Please speak to Cicely Murfitt for further information.

These are only a fraction of happenings in Guilden Morden – well done to **all** involved and your energetic hard work.

County Councillor

Sebastian Kindersley has been helpful with many of the village problems, from potholes to sewage and East West Rail and how we would be affected – thank you.

District Councillor

Heather Williams has taken a close interest in village matters and helped with getting our voice heard in Cambourne – thank you.

Parish Clerk

Thanks to our Parish Clerk - Gail Stoehr and to Ben Stoehr, who was acting clerk for part of the year

The clerk's position requires, political correctness, legal knowledge and the diligence and guidance to all in the parish and particularly to the Parish Council.

New Parishioners

We extend a very warm welcome to all New parishioners – we hope you enjoy Guilden Morden as much as we do.

Lastly but no means least, a thank you to all parishioners who have been so supportive during the year, particularly those that I may have failed to mention already.

Actions for 2020

**Respect our neighbours and their views
Clean up after your dog
Think before parking**

Think:

Are your elderly neighbours able to access vital supplies

Help where you can

Ask not what your village can do for you

but what you can do for your village.

Barry Holme

Chairman, Guilden Morden Parish Council

THE MORDENS & LITLINGTON MOBILE WARDEN SCHEME

This registered charity supports elderly, mainly housebound people from the villages of Guilden Morden, Steeple Morden, Litlington and Bassingbourn. A warden is employed on a part time basis supported by volunteers as required. A new warden was appointed during the year.

Members are visited each week by the warden who also telephones them each day to ensure that they are safe and secure. Members are also helped in a variety of ways, for example by arranging additional support, collecting prescriptions, etc. A Christmas lunch is held each year.

Membership of the Scheme has varied during the past year from 17 to 25, mainly people living on their own but also some couples. Each member pays a weekly subscription, although for members in Guilden Morden these are partly funded by the Guilden Morden Charity.

In addition to members' subscriptions, the Scheme is supported by grants from South Cambridgeshire District Council, Parish Councils and Townlands Trusts from the four parishes.

GAMUT

Gamut is an invaluable resource to the village and keeps us all up to date on village matters as well as informing us of key dates for our diaries.

Huge thanks to Mike Allton, the fantastic editor and producer of the Gamut, all in his own time. Also praise and thanks to the volunteers who deliver copies of each Gamut edition through our doors, in all weathers.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Guilden Morden Neighbourhood Watch is regularly in touch with our local PCSO. Our 'new' PCSO is called Lindsay Gardiner, who provides support for queries and concerns and provides a general summary on happenings in the local area.

Within the village we have 10 members / co-ordinators that cover most areas of Guilden Morden. When meetings are held, they are open to anyone in the village to come along.

Each month Gamut includes an update on information that is relevant to the local community; updates and suspicious behaviours have also recently been shared on the Guilden Morden Facebook page.

You don't have to be a member of Neighbourhood Watch to report anything suspicious. If you see something and think it is unusual, doesn't appear right, or you feel uneasy, it is probably worth reporting, this way the Police can gain a view or pattern of similar incidents. If a vehicle is involved, always try to get a Reg. number, colour, make & model of the car.

101 is a non-emergency number (chargeable number, not free). In an emergency, always call 999.

RECREATION GROUND

Guilden Morden Football Club have worked very hard under very difficult conditions in carrying out repairs and maintenance to the football pitches. The senior pitch nearest the road had improved sufficiently to allow it to be used during the current season, allowing the bottom pitch to recover. The

cracks had been filled in and the grass in the goalmouths re-grown, despite the very dry conditions. Conversely the very wet weather in January and February caused matches to be postponed.

The junior pitch used by Morden Magpies is looking very worn and the club has been asked to carry out remedial work during the close season to which it has agreed.

Agreement has been reached between Guilden Morden FC and the contractors about the regime for pitch maintenance next season. The condition of the grass generally is very good and had its first cut of the year at the end of March.

The Parish Council has been asked if the trees around the recreation could be pruned, especially those near the houses which are cutting out light; this will be looked into in the near future.

There are currently no problems with the play equipment, but the enclosed area has now been closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

HIGHWAYS

Some roads, ditches footpaths and highways in the village continue to be a cause for concern, the number of potholes and the frequency of their appearance being the most common complaint.

Patching strips of damaged road would seem to be the more effective and economic solution particularly in Church Street which has by far the greatest number of potholes of any carriageway in the village. The Council continues to press for urgent action by Cambridgeshire Highways to address all village carriageways that are hazardous for cyclists and other road users. We have recently been informed that hopefully Church Street will undergo some strip patching in lieu of pothole filling and, indeed the marking for the strip repairs has now been carried out. We anxiously await the necessary work to be completed.

Please help in maintaining our roads, kerbs, footpaths and verges (including reporting potholes) online through www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/highwayfaults

Each year we are invited by Cambridgeshire County Council to apply for funding from the Local Highways Improvement Initiative (LHI). Funding up to £10,000 as a contribution to the scheme is available with a minimum of 10% of the total scheme cost being provided by the Parish Council. Our bids for the last two years were made in the interests of child safety and were for a further length of pavement in Pound Green from the school towards Fox Corner where there is currently no pavement on either side of the road. Unfortunately those bids were unsuccessful. We have therefore submitted our bid this year for the same scheme but with an increased contribution from the Parish Council.

The Parish Council continues to receive complaints from parishioners concerning parking on the village's grass verges and footways. Where off road parking is unavailable, villagers and visitors are urged to park fully on the carriageway whilst ensuring unobstructed access to all properties from the road and complying with the Highway Code (e.g. not within the proximity of road junctions, bends etc.) Consistent parking on the grass verges destroys them and the street scene. In some instances it reduces the sight lines for traffic. Parking on the footways is illegal and inconsiderate to pedestrians particularly those with prams, pushchairs and young children.

SPEEDING

Whilst Community Speedwatch has proved to be effective in reducing the number and frequency of speeding offences in and through the village, speeding remains a cause for concern. The Speedwatch Group volunteers therefore continue to monitor traffic at approved locations, sessions being on random days and times.

The Parish Council has recently purchased and taken delivery of a Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) together with a number of mounting brackets to enable the sign to be relocated from time to time on various lamp columns in the village. In addition to displaying the speed of oncoming vehicles the MVAS is also able to record traffic flows and

vehicle speeds 24hrs/day. It is hoped and expected that by reminding motorists of their speed with this additional measure that speeding offences in the village will reduce further.

PLANNING

The planning department for South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council have been combined to form Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service.

However, regrettably South Cambridgeshire District Council have only been able to process a limited number of applications since 31st January 2020 due to a system upgrade.

Additionally, the legitimacy of the process for which planning applications are decided by either elected councillors or by officers has been challenged in the High Court. Therefore an amendment to the planning process is to be discussed at an early session of the full District Council.

The Parish Council is concerned that any improvement in the planning service following the formation of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning is yet to be apparent. We look forward to urgent action by all involved to ensure that we are delivered a quality service, this to include, and as previously agreed, the Parish Council being provided with feedback where decisions are made by the planning department which are at variance to the views of the Parish Council.

CEMETERY

The grass in the cemetery is in good condition, however there have been some problems where newly dug graves have been left with the soil piled too high with little or no turf replaced. There has been some improvement in this respect after the funeral directors were approached.

There are still ongoing problems with the disposal of inappropriate waste in the green bin at the cemetery. The Council has requested a black bin and this has been promised but not yet delivered.

Cllr Newman must be thanked for carrying out voluntary work clearing some gravestones of invading ivy.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

There were 10 Council meetings during the last year (Apr 19 – Mar 20).

Name	Meetings Attended	% Attendance
Cllr Nick Buckland	7	70%
Cllr Michael Chapman	5	100%*
Cllr Graham Dellar	10	100%
Cllr Geoff Harper	9	90%
Cllr Barry Holme (Chairman)	7	70%
Cllr Ken Lock	9	90%
Cllr Ronald Newman	10	100%
Cllr Judith Davis Roach	6	60%

*Cllr Chapman joined the Council in September 2019

FINANCE

Cllr. Harper, who is responsible for Finance, is pleased to report that for the year to 31st March 2020 Receipts exceeded Payments by £6,403.37. After transferring £5,000 to the New Village Hall Fund and £500 to other specific reserves and crediting £1,407 received from an insurance claim, the General Reserve was increased by £2,198.72 to £49,586.07.

Please note that the New Village Hall Fund now stands at £30,000.

The following payments are of note:

- “S137 Donations” includes £2,500 donated to the Guilden Morden Pub Co. for car park improvements.
- “Special Projects” includes £2,678 for the purchase of vehicle speed indicator signs.

We continue to hold funds in excess of our day to day commitments with Cambridge & Counties Bank. At the year end £76,124.62 was held on deposit and interest received during the year from this investment was £1,386.24.

The precept for 2020/21 remains unchanged at £36,385.

GUILDEN MORDEN DRAFT ACCOUNTS FY ENDING 2020

Please note that the accounts below are in draft and may be subject to change

Reconciliation from Cash Book

B/F Bank & Cash	£122,999.18	Payments	£44,608.65
Receipts	£50,937.74	C/F	£129,328.27
	<u>173936.92</u>		<u>173936.92</u>

Budget 2020 v Actual & Approved Budget 2021

RECEIPTS

DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FY2020	TOTAL FY2020	APPROVED BUDGET FY2021
AGENCY SERVICES	1040	1040.22	1040
ALLOTMENTS & THE CRAFT	1390	3220.91	1390
BURIAL GROUNDS	1000	1193.00	1000
RECREATION GROUNDS	0	0.00	17
INTEREST	1000	1417.60	1000
PRECEPT	36385	36385.00	36385
RELEASE FROM RESERVES	0		1563
SUB TOTAL	40815	43256.73	42395
VAT		5738.33	
RECEIPTS		48995.06	

PAYMENTS

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET FY2020	TOTAL FY2020	GUDGET FY2021
ADVERTISING	680	1040.00	1500
AGENCY SERVICES	1600	1541.20	1000
ASSETS MAINTENANCE	2550	4366.02	3650
BURIAL GROUNDS	2650	2838.54	2650
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	13605	12024.33	15350
RECREATION GROUND & POS	8330	8394.44	6725
ALLOTMENTS & THE CRAFT	1400	1453.81	1420
S137 DONATIONS	4000	3100.00	600
SPECIAL PROJECTS*	6000	2678.00	9500
SUB TOTAL	40815	37436.34	42395

*Incl. £5k for new village hall fund which is moved to an earmarked fund at year end.

VAT		5155.35	
PAYMENTS		42591.69	

RESERVES

Reserves	C/F	Receipts	Payments	C/F
Village Hall Fund	28572.90			28572.90
New Village Hall Fund	25000.00			30000.00
Grave Fund	2625.26	260.97	250.80	2635.43
Thompsons Meadow Fund	868.62	0.00	95.36	773.26
P3 fund	1535.35	0.00	0.00	1535.35
Ruddery Pit grant	130.00	0.00	0.00	130.00
Parish Plan	1931.74	0.00	0.00	1931.74
S106 23a Pound Green	2784.67	0.00	0.00	2784.67
Floodlight Fund	5432.06	165.00	1410.00	4187.06
Pound Green Bus Shelter	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Training	370.00	0.00	0.00	370.00
Highways Improvement Scheme	2500.00	0.00	0.00	2500.00
Pensions/Gratuity Fund	1139.43	0.00	0.00	1251.79
Buxtons Lane / Vineyard	151.80	0.00	151.80	0.00
Tree Works	2070.00	0.00	0.00	2070.00
Notice board fund	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Memorial overpayment	0.00	109.00	109.00	0.00
Car park fund - FY20	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
Assets Maintenance - FY20	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
General Reserves	47387.35	1407.71	0.00	49586.07
SUB TOTAL	122999.18	1942.68	2016.96	129328.27

*. The columns do not always add up across. The general fund is adjusted for any under/overspend during the year.

RECEIPTS TOTAL	£50937.74	
PAYMENTS TOTAL		£44608.65