

GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

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)
Tree Planting Working Group	Cllrs Baxter, Chapman and Holme
Welfare Matters /Warden Scheme	Cllrs Harper
Highways	Cllr Lock and Cllr Buckland
Footpaths (P3)	Cllr Newman
Gamut articles	Cllr Davis Roach

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, Ruddery Pit, The	Cllr Harper
Vineyard	
Potton Road	

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Name	Address	Telephone
Nick Baxter	6 Silver Street	853956
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

Guilden Morden Parish Council

Annual Report 2020-2021

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 19th April 2021

by

ZOOM

The first Annual Parish Meeting by ZOOM

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 pandemic 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 Baxter

Recently joined us as a parish councillor – welcome Nik

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.

Michael Chapman

Who joined us in 2019 has quickly become involved in many facets of the council and particularly with regard to the Village Hall.

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.

Ron Newman

Has now been a Councillor for 3 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.

Unfortunately **Peter Leete** our Dog Warden, has resigned, however he 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.

If you would like to volunteer as our Dog Warden, please let the clerk or any councillor know – thank you.

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 has been trialled successfully and is now a monthly event.

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 has had a difficult year with COVID restrictions but we hope that it will return to business as normal in the near future.

The Townlands Charity manages the Ruddery Pit & The Craft in Higher Level Stewardship and other village lands. The current HLS agreement ended this last year and the trustees have negotiated an agreement with the Rural Payments Agency/Natural England, for the next 5 years.

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 Furmston**, **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.

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 have unfortunately been closed to ensure that they would not be responsible for any COVID transmission. Many thanks to Lesley Harrison and Jane Boyd for monitoring the content and the cleanliness on the sites. As soon as it is deemed safe they will be reopened.

The Churchyard

Charles Paget-Wilkes's has now decided that the time has come to let somebody else take on the mantle of organising the rota of volunteers mow and generally keep the churchyard in a good state - thank you – Charles and welcome Pat Heavey.

Guilden Morden Football Club

With the guidance of Pete Leete and Michael Holme, the club goes from strength to strength and is now regularly fielding 2 teams, with a possible third. It is very encouraging to see so many local players involved and the teams have produced some good results – there is nothing like success to breed success. Further teams for the young and ladies are to be encouraged. We wish to thank the club for all the repairs that have been carried out to the playing surface – it is looking good.

Guilden Morden Walking Football Club

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.

Morden Magpies

This is the club for the younger football players, who play train and play some games on the Recreation Ground. Hopefully this will help the senior sides in years to come.

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 difficult year for this asset in the village. When allowed it has been 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 in these difficult conditions, the pub has won several awards for its food and ales. Congratulations on a new addition in the family

The situation will improve, from 12th April onwards and as restrictions are lifted 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!

This continues to rumble on, “is that the right wording”, with further consultations

Well we have been listened to in part! Broadly speaking the line will run north to Cambourne, however then may go to the south of Cambridge and enter Cambridge from there, or hopefully to the northern route into Cambridge. This will avoid the Guilden Morden/Bassingbourn, by either route. Completion is still several years away.

New Town

The suggestion for a new town centred on Bassingbourn for 30,000 looks to have been “scuppered”, however another proposal for a town of 25,000 to the east of Whaddon has been raised! This would create a very different South Cambridgeshire, much to most peoples horror. At present it is on hold with South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Thompson's Meadow New Development

The development has been put in the hands of a developer, however with the slow down in the market this, it is unknown when this will start.

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, spoke to soon last year!!! This winter has seen the worst problems for a number of years. The speed of remedial action has been the slowest, and unfortunately the subsequent pollution and contamination of the road and ditch. A meeting is scheduled for the end of the month with Anglia Water, Environment agency and councillors to discuss these on going problems.

First Responders

This group is still up and running and on hand to assist in the local villages. Further training for volunteers in the use of the defibrillator is planned this year – current restrictions allowing.

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

Thank you to Gail, our Clerk, for being at the end of the telephone throughout the year and also to Ben Stoehr who stepped up to the mark as and when required.

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.

Guilden Morden has been more fortunate than many communities in staying safe from the ravages of the coronavirus. In such circumstances there will always be a few who have not been able to dodge it and I wish them all a complete recovery.

Actions for 2021

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

STAY SAFE TO ALL

Ask not what your village can do for you

but what you can do for your village.

Barry Holme

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.

Members are normally visited each week by the warden who also telephones them each day. However, during the Covid-19 situation, these practices have had to be modified in line with government guidelines so that both members and the warden are kept safe. The telephone calls have been helpful in reducing the isolation felt by members during the lock downs. The additional help that members receive, for example by arranging additional support, collecting prescriptions, etc. has also necessarily increased during this period. The additional services provided have resulted in increased costs for the charity this year.

We were unfortunately unable to hold our usual Christmas lunch this year. Most members of the Scheme are people living on their own but there are 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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

RECREATION GROUND

It has been a relatively quiet year for the Recreation Ground with very little sport being played due to the Covid-19 Lockdown.

Nevertheless there have still been disagreements between the Football Club and the Cricket Club where their pitches overlap. This has still to be resolved.

Morden Magpies are pressing for the use of the larger pitches as their youngsters get older. Negotiations are ongoing.

There have also been problems with the grass cutting regime with the contractors. This is also still to be resolved. Otherwise the ground is still in very good condition thanks to the efforts of the Football Club in re-seeding and repairing the crack which appeared due to the very hot Summer last year.

Nine new refuse bins with covers have been installed, replacing the open-topped ones which let in the rain. Cllr Newman must be thanked in this regard. There still remains the problem of removing the old bins, some of which are set in concrete. A decision will need to be made by the Council. It is still too early to see if the vandalised tree near the play area will survive. It had a large area of bark removed and may have to be replaced. The Council are considering planting more trees around the ground in response to the need for more trees in the village.

We also have the problem of vehicles being driven onto the ground without permission. This causes great damage when the ground is soft and wet. Re-installing a removable bollard is now under consideration.

As has been published in Gamut, a new dog warden is needed.

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 road in the village. The Council continues to press for urgent action by Cambridgeshire Highways to address all village carriageways which are hazardous for cyclists and other road users. Church Street has been identified as having structural issues and ideally needs to be rebuilt. However, that is probably a very long way off. In the meantime the best we can hope for is localised patching when sufficient funds allow.

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 Highways 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 bid last year was made in the interests of child safety and was 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. This was a repeat of bids made in previous years when we were unsuccessful. We currently await the outcome of this year's bid.

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 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

Following notification from the police to the Community Speedwatch Group, due to Covid-19 restrictions Speedwatch sessions were suspended for much of the year. It is hoped that the Speedwatch Group will be able to resume sessions in the village soon as lockdown restrictions are eased.

The Parish Council has purchased and taken delivery of a second Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS). These two signs are mounted on brackets fixed to lighting columns which enables the signs to be moved from time to time to five different locations in the village. In addition to displaying the speed of oncoming vehicles the MVASs are also able to record traffic flows and vehicle speeds 24hrs/day.

PLANNING

Greater Cambridgeshire Shared Planning invites comments from the Parish Council on all planning applications in order to assist their officers or committee to reach their decision.

The Parish Council arranges site visits where necessary and gives careful consideration to each application at monthly meetings.

The Chairman of the Parish Council will invite any member of the public present to speak briefly if he/she so wishes prior to the commencement of that meeting. Any applicant for Planning Permission is thereby permitted to speak briefly to the Parish Council in support of their Planning Application.

CEMETERY

The Cemetery is in very good condition. The few minor problems with new graves being left bare has largely been resolved

A new black refuse bin has helped with the problem of unsuitable material being put in the green bin, and that area is much cleaner at the moment. It remains to be seen if the litter problem returns with the warmer weather.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

There were 10 Council meetings during the last year (Apr 20 – Mar 21).

Name	Meetings Attended	% Attendance
Cllr Nick Baxter	3	100%
Cllr Nick Buckland	6	67%
Cllr Michael Chapman	6	67%*
Cllr Graham Dellar	8	89%
Cllr Geoff Harper	9	100%
Cllr Barry Holme (Chairman)	9	100%
Cllr Ken Lock	8	89%
Cllr Ronald Newman	5	67%
Cllr Judith Davis Roach	8	89%

*Cllr Chapman joined the Council in January 2021

FINANCE

Cllr. Harper, who is responsible for Finance, is pleased to report that for the year to 31st March 2021, Receipts exceeded Payments by £7,855. After transferring £5,000 to the New Village Hall Fund, £5,400 to other specific reserves and charging £4,575 for resurfacing the Village Hall car park, the General Reserve was reduced by £6,736 to £42,850.

The New Village Hall Fund now stands at £35,000.

Apart from the amount shown above concerning the Village Hall car park, the only other exceptional item of expenditure in the year was £2,595 for the purchase of a second vehicle speed indicator sign.

We continue to hold funds in excess of our day to day commitments with Cambridge & Counties Bank. At the year-end £77,385 was held on deposit and interest received in the year from this investment was £1,261.

The precept for 2021/22 is slightly lower than 2020/2021 at £34,123.

Draft Accounts FY Ending 2021

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

Reconciliation from Cash Book

B/F Bank & Cash	£129,328.27	Payments	£46,468.11
Receipts	£41,727.95	C/F	£124,588.11
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	171,056.22		171,056.22
	<hr/>		<hr/>

Budget 2021 v Actual & Approved Budget 2022

PAYMENTS

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET FY2021	TOTAL FY2021	BUDGET FY2022
ADVERTISING	1500	290.00	380
AGENCY SERVICES	1000	750.00	750
ASSETS MAINTENANCE	3650	2423.17	2850
BURIAL GROUNDS	2650	4737.20	2650
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	15350	15123.59	15600
RECREATION GROUND & POS	6725	4778.64	5250
ALLOTMENTS & THE CRAFT	1420	1763.73	1900
S137 DONATIONS	600	800.00	1000
SPECIAL PROJECTS*	9500	2830.95	7350
SUB TOTAL	42395	33497.28	37730

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

VAT		6311.76	
PAYMENTS		39809.04	

RECEIPTS

DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FY2021	TOTAL FY2021	APPROVED BUDGET FY2022
AGENCY SERVICES	1040	1040.22	1040
ALLOTMENTS & THE CRAFT	1390	159.00	800
BURIAL GROUNDS	1000	2499.00	1000
RECREATION GROUNDS	17	0.00	17
INTEREST	1000	1268.51	750
PRECEPT	36385	36385.00	34123
RELEASE FROM RESERVES	1563		0
SUB TOTAL	42395	41351.73	37730

VAT		0.00	
RECEIPTS		41351.73	

RESERVES

Reserves	C/F	Receipts	Payments	C/F
Village Hall Fund	28572.90			28572.90
New Village Hall Fund	30000.00			35000.00
Worboys Grave Fund	2635.43	266.22		2901.65
Thompsons Meadow Fund	773.26		498.18	275.08
P3 fund	1535.35			1535.35
Ruddery Pit grant	130.00			130.00
Parish Plan	1931.74			1931.74
S106 23a Pound Green - POS	2389.73		1287.12	1102.61
S106 23a Pound Green - Indoor Community Facilities	394.94			394.94
Floodlight Fund	4187.06	110.00	48.77	4248.29
Pound Green Bus Shelter	0.00			0.00
Training	370.00			370.00
Highways Improvement Scheme	2500.00			3500.00
Pensions/Gratuity Fund	1251.79			1367.68
Tree Works	2070.00			3570.00
Notice board fund	500.00			0.00
Car park fund - FY20	250.00			250.00
Assets Maintenance - FY20	250.00		250.00	0.00
Advertising FY21	0.00			1210.00
Agency Services FY21	0.00			250.00
Bus shelters, bins, etc FY21	0.00			614.27
Room Hire FY21	0.00			332.00
Rec and POS Grass FY21	0.00			493.36
VAT refund outstanding	0.00			-6311.76
General Reserves	49586.07		4575.00	42850.00
SUB TOTAL	129328.27	376.22	6659.07	124588.11

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

RECEIPTS TOTAL	41727.95	
PAYMENTS TOTAL		46468.11