

GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Website	Cllr Davis Roach
Allotments/Craft	Cllr Newman assisted by Ray Thompson
Affordable Housing	Cllr Frost
Play Inspection	Cllr Dellar
Police liaison and Neighbourhood Watch	Cllr Davis Roach
School Liaison Officer	Cllr Davis Roach and Cllr Frost
Burial Grounds	Cllr Dellar
Environment Agency & Anglian Water Liaison	Cllr Lock
Finance	Cllr Buckland
Planning	Cllr Baxter
Recreation Grounds (includes Thompsons Meadow)	Cllr Dellar.
Speedwatch Speedwatch Liaison	Co-ordinator Gerry Watkins Cllr Lock
Transport & Transport Information	Cllr Dellar
Welfare Matters /Warden Scheme	Geoff Harper
Highways	Cllr Lock and Cllr Buckland
Footpaths (P3)	Cllr Newman
Gamut articles	Cllr Davis Roach
Tree Monitoring Recreation Ground Cemetery and New Road Trap Road The Craft Pound Green, Dubbs Knoll Rd Ashwell Road Buxton's Lane, Ruddery Pit & The Vineyard Potton Road	Cllr Dellar Cllr Dellar Cllr Dellar Cllr Frost Cllr Newman Cllr Newman Cllr Baxter Cllr Frost

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Name	Address	Telephone
Nick Baxter	6 Silver Street	853956
Nick Buckland	10 Bells Meadow	852853
Marian Chapman	4 Silver Street	852548
Graham Dellar	7 Cannons Close	853646
Tony Frost	10 Pound Green	823509
Ken Lock (Chairman)	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.baxter@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**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**7.30pm MONDAY 17TH APRIL 2023 at
GULDEN MORDEN VILLAGE HALL**

All parishioners are welcome. Please attend if you can.

Your views are IMPORTANT

The meeting is for you to have your say.

During the year between Annual Parish Meetings, if you have any questions regarding any Parish matter then please speak to a Parish Councillor who will try to answer your concerns.

A special thanks to fellow parishioners who have given their time and expertise to serve on the Parish Council and contributed so much to the community throughout the year.

Parish Councillors:

Nick Baxter

Nick researches Planning Applications for presentation to the council for its consideration before passing comment to the District Council Planning Department.

Nik Buckland (Vice Chairman)

Nik has been liaising with Zero Carbon Mordens and has been involved with recreation ground matters. Nik is the Parish Council's appointed representative on the Village Hall Committee. His other Area of Responsibility is Finance.

Judith Davis Roach

Judith liaises with the local police through Neighbourhood Watch and is also the Parish Council's School Liaison Officer. Judith deals with the Parish Council website and provides the editor of Gamut with copy of Parish Council items.

Graham Dellar

Graham is very involved in the day to day running of the recreation ground and the cemetery. Graham is a Trustee of the Worboys Grave Fund. In a personal capacity Graham is a member of the Village History Group.

Ken Lock (Chairman)

Ken is Chairman of the Parish Council, Trustee of Worboys Grave Fund and Church Floodlight Trust. Ken also has the Area of Responsibility for Highways.

Ron Newman

Ron looks after the allotments in the village ably assisted by ***Ray Thompson***. Ron helps to keep the cemetery looking neat and tidy and also attends to the maintenance of Parish Council property, gate repairs, fence mending etc., a valuable financial saving to the council and parishioners. ***Tony Frost*** (co-opted May 2022) and ***Marian Chapman*** (co-opted June 2022) are our newest Parish Councillors. Welcome Tony and Marian.

A.N. Other

A vacancy exists. If you are a parishioner and interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk – ***Gail Stoehr*** or any of the above Councillors.

Guilden Morden NEEDS you!

Whilst Parish Councillors each have their own Areas of Responsibility, all councillors take an active interest in all parish matters.

In Guilden Morden we are very fortunate in having numerous clubs and groups. Many parishioners give their time in running these organisations for the benefit of the whole village. **Become involved. Please do not leave it to someone else.**

Volunteers help with the **Church, the Chapel, Village Hall, Pre-School, Heron Scheme, Wheels for Martins' Friends, Mobile Warden Scheme, Men's Guild, COGS, Speedwatch, WI, Guilden Gaumont, Guilden Morden Community Pub, Village History Group, Football and Cricket Clubs, litter picking, etc. etc.** for the benefit of Guilden Morden and the community. Many thanks to all involved.

All village clubs and groups are urged to contact ***Judith Davis Roach*** to ensure that their contact details and other information is included on the Parish Council website under "Clubs and Groups"

Many thanks to *Mike Allton* the editor and publisher of our village newsletter **Gamut**, a valuable asset to the village. Gamut is currently only available in digital form although hard copy is still preferred by some.

The Village Hall is one of the most important assets in Guilden Morden, the Village Hall Committee dealing with the day to day running and its maintenance. The Parish Council aspires to a new village hall, however this is a long term consideration and in the meantime the Village Hall has had a very pleasing internal redecoration.

The Townlands Charity manages the Ruddery Pit and The Craft in Mid Level Countryside Stewardship and other village lands. These areas are open for all parishioners (and others) to visit and enjoy. Please do so in 2023. The trust is ably led by *Trevor Osborne*, and trustees *Ian Thomas*, *Phil Porter* and *Barry Holme* appointed by the Parish Council, and ex officio Church trustees Associate Priest *Ann Bol*, plus Church Wardens *Christine Furnston* and *Mike Birrell*

The Guilden Morden Charity donates its share of Townlands monies to senior citizens in the village and to the Mobile Warden Scheme. Trustees are *Trevor Osborne*, *Ian Thomas*, *Phil Porter* and *Barry Holme*.

Guilden Morden Community Orchard comprises a selection of 114 fruit trees which were planted by volunteers in December 2020.

Orchard Keepers are *Charles Paget-Wilkes*, *Ron Newman*, *Ian Thomas*, *Colin Beales*, *Trevor Osborne*, and *Kathy and Dennis Tear*.

The Church Floodlights Trust provides, maintains and covers the running costs of floodlights to illuminate St. Mary's Church. During the year arrangements were made to replace the old lamps with new LED lamps. Many parishioners have had them turned on for various anniversaries and occasions. Thank you.

Parking

Parking in the village continues to give concern to many pedestrians and vehicle drivers. Parishioners, their guests and working vans continue to park near junctions, on pavements, grass verges and facing the wrong way after dark.

Parking on the footways and grass verges is illegal and inconsiderate to pedestrians particularly those with mobility difficulties, with prams/pushchairs and those with young children. **Please think where you are parking.**

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) in partnership with **South Cambs District Council (SCDC)** have resolved to bring Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) to the District of South Cambridgeshire. CPE is a system of parking governance that allows the Highway Authority (CCC) the power to carry out parking enforcement using its own agents rather than relying on the police to provide that function. The signs and lines need to be in an enforceable condition and accordingly CCC Highway Services operators will soon be working in the area to either maintain or install regulatory equipment.

Should you have any queries related to the implementation of CPE please contact:

parkingpolicy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Dog Owners

Please clean up after your pets and note that all dogs on the recreation ground must be kept on a lead.

The Book Exchanges

The 2 Book Exchanges in the village (Church Street and High Street) continue to be well used. Many thanks to **Lesley Harrison** and **Jayne Hayes** for monitoring the contents and the cleanliness of the sites.

The Churchyard

Pat Heavey's volunteers maintain the grass and generally keep the churchyard neat and tidy. The Parish Council's old mower has been replaced during the year. Thank you Pat and the team for your volunteering and also your research and recommendations for the most suitable replacement mower.

Guilden Morden Football Club

There have been fewer fixtures of matches this season compared to recent years. It is hoped for a recruitment of new players to see an increase in both fixtures and teams.

Walking Football Club

The club, organised by Tony Charter and Pat Heavey, meets weekly at the recreation ground and welcomes players of all levels and experience.

Morden Magpies

The club provides early years football to some 200 young people of Guilden Morden, Steeple Morden, Litlington, Abington Piggots and

beyond. The club now regularly fields several sides of age groups ranging from Under 7s to Under 17s

Guilden Morden Cherubs Cricket Club

The club continues to grow in numbers and last year had a successful season with many younger members getting involved. New members both young and not so young are still being recruited. The club is particularly grateful to the villagers who contributed to the ball sponsorship request which helped boost the club's funds. It is hoped that support from the village will continue and in the meantime the club eagerly looks forward to the forthcoming season.

The Mordens Local History Group

During the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend last year, Guilden Morden Village History Group exhibited the results of a 1950s themed project. Since then a new local history group, The Mordens Local History Group, for Steeple Morden and Guilden Morden, has been formed. The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month between 3.00pm and 5.00pm alternating between Steeple Morden Village Hall and Guilden Morden Congregational Church. The first project of the new group will focus on the Victorian era, the results of the research hopefully to be exhibited next year.

Cogs (Communities of Guilden Social)

Cogs meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 2.00pm normally in the Congregational Church Schoolroom. The club gives the opportunity for villagers to socialise and gain new knowledge and skills in a friendly and fun atmosphere. Presentations by members and guests are always enjoyed along with tea and cakes!

Guilden Gaumont Film Club (GGFC)

A variety of films is shown each film season in the Congregational Church Schoolroom normally on the evening of the third Friday of every month from September until June of the following year. The showings are well attended by the membership who also enjoy an interesting, researched introduction to each film by GGFC Committee Member ***Milton Reynolds***. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, due to fire damage of the church building this year's programme has been suspended whilst the fire damage is repaired. It is hoped that this interruption will be short.

The Edward VII Public House

The landlord of “The Eddie”, ***Kirk Saban***, is one of the area’s longest serving publicans. The pub is well patronised, particularly by sports clubs.

The Three Tuns Public House

Whilst the pub has been without a tenant since September of last year, the Management Committee of Guilden Morden Community Pub Ltd (GMCP) together with a number of volunteers have arranged several very successful Pop Up Pub Events. Hot food has been available from mobile caterers. The hard work and dedication by the Management Committee and volunteers in “keeping the lights on” and the pub alive has been very welcome and much appreciated by the community. GMCP has recently announced that new tenants, ***Sarah and Scott Martin*** will be moving to The Three Tuns in April 2023 and will be open for business shortly thereafter. We welcome Sarah and Scott to Guilden Morden and wish them every success in their new venture.

Zero Carbon Mordens (ZCM)

The group was started by Andy Tanser in 2019 as Climate Conversations. Amongst recent initiatives ZCM has planted more trees on the recreation ground. The group researches into measures and actions which may be available to increase biodiversity and reduce carbon emissions in the community and then advises or acts upon them accordingly.

Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

A big thank you to all involved with the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations held at the recreation ground on the 2nd June last year. The event was very enjoyable, the weather perfect and the day considered by all to be a complete success. A variety of entertainments included a dog show, coconut shy and raffle. Tea and cakes etc. were available and popular! Surplus funds from the event totalled approximately £500 and were shared equally between Save the Children, Wheels for Martin’s Friends, WI and Wood Green Animal Shelter.

Many villagers decorated the outsides of their homes with bunting etc. to mark this special anniversary. Church Street was judged to be the Best Decorated Street.

Many thanks to all involved for their energetic hard work!

Thank you to our County Councillor- **Sebastian Kindersley** -and to our South Cambridgeshire District Councillor-**Heather Williams**- for all their help and assistance with regard to the parish.

Parish Clerk

Very many thanks to **Gail Stoehr** our Parish Clerk. The Clerk's position requires political correctness, legal knowledge and guidance to all in the parish and particularly to the Parish Council. It is extremely important and greatly appreciated.

New Parishioners

We would like to 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, thank you to all parishioners who have been so supportive throughout the year, particularly those that I may have failed to mention.

Ken Lock

Chairman to Guilden Morden Parish Council

THE MORDENS & LITLINGTON MOBILE WARDEN SCHEME

As a registered charity we support elderly people in the villages of Guilden Morden, Steeple Morden, Litlington and Bassingbourn. We employ a warden, who telephones members daily and visits them each week. We also help our members with any health and security matters.

We are funded by grants from the four Parish Councils and South Cambridgeshire District Council. Members contribute a weekly subscription, which for those in Guilden Morden is partly subsidised by a generous donation from the Guilden Morden Charity.

We have recently been recruiting a new Warden and expect to make an appointment soon.

This year we were awarded a grant from The Cambridgeshire Community Foundation to produce a brochure for the Scheme. Copies will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting.

RECREATION GROUND

Morden Magpies seeking to take advantage of available funds for maintaining the pitches that they use. They need Parish Council approval for this and the legal aspects of this arrangement are being explored.

Meanwhile they are taking good care of the pitches they use on the newer part of the ground.

Guilden Morden FC are using the original pitch and have asked that they are kept in the picture when other clubs request the use of the pitch and this is being done.

The cricket club and veterans football still use their pitches regularly.

Tenders are being considered for the maintenance of the play equipment.

Quite a few new trees have been planted on the Recreation Ground. Some unfortunately have suffered from the very dry conditions of last summer.

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.

If you see a problem with a street light, road signs, pot holes, flooding, hedges and trees or another highway problem please report it on the County Council's website. Please do not assume that someone has already done it. www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/highwayfaults

Each year the Parish Council is invited by Cambridgeshire Highways to apply for funding from the Local Highways Improvement Initiative (LHI). The schemes are delivered by the County Council on a joint funded basis and applicants can apply for funding of up to either £25,000 for complex projects or £10,000 for non-complex projects, as a contribution to their scheme. The applicant is expected to provide a minimum contribution of 10% towards the total scheme cost. Complex applications are assessed by the relevant area member panel with technical input by officers, however non-complex applications are assessed using a prioritisation matrix so officers can score and rank the applications accordingly against set criteria. Parish councils are limited to one bid per parish per annum.

Our application for 2023/2024 is non-complex and is for 40mph buffer zones at entrances to the village at Ashwell Road and Trap Road (there is a buffer zone already in New Road and whilst there is evidence of speeding in Potton Road there is little at the village entrance, drivers having to slow to negotiate the double bend, any speeding generally commences within the village and after that point. Speed limits along the two entrance roads of Ashwell Road and Trap Road will then reduce in stages from 60mph to

40mph and then 30mph instead of the current 60mph to 30mph. We are very hopeful that our bid will be successful.

The schemes are community driven and give local people the opportunity to put forward proposals for highway improvements in their area. If you have a proposal or proposals for highway improvement/s that you would like the Parish Council to consider then please contact the Clerk.

SPEEDWATCH

The Speedwatch team of 15 volunteers has continued to operate during the past year, with a break during the winter months. We generally schedule about 5 sessions a month, normally planned to be during rush hour times when both traffic and speeding seems to be at a maximum. The last year has seen much more acceptance by the general driving public as a positive way of providing a gentle reminder to motorists to watch their speed.

We also operate and maintain the two speed displays purchased by the council, and these have provided us with some very interesting data. It is always difficult to measure how effective they are being in a particular location since there is no way of measuring the traffic figures when the displays are not there! However, over the past two years we have noted some interesting statistics when a second display is used in conjunction with the first. You might think that there would be a drop in speeding directly after moving a display to a new location such as Trap road. This may be true but difficult to measure. However, by locating a second display further down the road e.g. at Foxhill, then you do see a remarkable difference in the figures for the second display. We have now tried positioning displays pointing in the same direction firstly at Trap road and Foxhill, and then at Potton Road and Foxhill. In each case there was a reduction in speeds measured at Foxhill which was maintained over several months whilst that particular combination of speed signs was maintained. Numbers of cars registering over 30mph dropped by 35% on average
Numbers of cars registering over 40mph dropped by 66% on average
I think this shows that people still need reminding about speed limits, that drivers do respond to being reminded and that the displays are effective in getting that message across. The display on the edge of the village acts as the reminder, but the main effect is seen by the display situated further down the road. This also adds weight to the argument for a speed

reminder/restriction further out from the village boundary, such as has been implemented with 40mph limits for Steeple Morden.

Bottom line is that the displays are effective, and we should continue to press hard for 40mph zones into our village.

CEMETERY

New gates have been installed at the cemetery and the whole structure has been repainted.

Otherwise the Cemetery is in good condition.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Each month Gamut includes an update on neighbourhood watch updates pertinent to the area. Updates and suspicious behaviours have also been shared on the Guilden Morden Facebook page. Guilden Morden Neighbourhood Watch stays in touch with our local PCSO who provides support for queries.

Anyone can report suspicious behavior, you don't have to be a member of Neighbourhood Watch. If you do see something and think it is unusual, doesn't appear *right*, or you feel uneasy, it is worth reporting. The Police can then gain an overview 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.

Gamut – our independent village newsletter

Gamut keeps us all up to date on village matters and is an invaluable resource to the village. Now an online resource, Gamut is available via the village website, as well as on the Guilden Morden Facebook page each month.

The Gamut's enduring and fantastic editor, Mike Allton deserves our huge thanks yet again for compiling each month in his own time. Please be sure to send any future events to Mike for inclusion and for us all to look forward to.

gamut.newsletter@gmail.com

MEETING ATTENDANCE

There were 9 Council meetings during the last year (Apr 22 – Mar 23).

Name	Meetings Attended	% Attendance
Cllr Nick Baxter	9	100%
Cllr Nick Buckland	2	22%
Cllr Marian Chapman	7	100%
Cllr Graham Dellar	9	100%
Cllr A Frost	7	88%
Cllr Ken Lock (Chairman)	9	100%
Cllr Ronald Newman	8	89%
Cllr Judith Davis Roach	5	56%

Cllr Frost was co-opted in May 2022 and Cllr Chapman was co-opted in June 2022

Draft Accounts FY Ending 2023

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

Reconciliation from Cash Book

B/F Bank & Cash	£137,316.59	Payments	£51,165.78
Receipts	£51,628.96	C/F	£137,779.77
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	188945.55		188945.55
	<hr/>		<hr/>

Budget 2023 v Actual & Approved Budget 2024

PAYMENTS

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET FY2023	TOTAL FY2023	BUDGET FY2024
ADVERTISING	0	300.00	0
AGENCY SERVICES	780	757.50	1041
ASSETS MAINTENANCE	3200	572.79	950
BURIAL GROUNDS	3700	4741.15	3589
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	17035	18688.45	17089
RECREATION GROUND & POS	8150	7778.98	5454
ALLOTMENTS & THE CRAFT	1900	18493.58	1502
S137 DONATIONS	1700	1442.00	1500
SPECIAL PROJECTS*	5000	0	11000
SUB TOTAL	41465	35830.45	42125

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

VAT		6230.21	
PAYMENTS		42060.66	

Some payments approved at the March 2022 meeting (totalling £5141.26+VAT) were not made until after the 1st April and as such are not showing in the above figures but were within the relevant budget funds.

RECEIPTS

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET FY2023	TOTAL FY2023	BUDGET FY2024
AGENCY SERVICES	1040	1040.22	1040
ALLOTMENTS & THE CRAFT	800	1006.83	840
BURIAL GROUNDS	1000	1655.00	1200
RECREATION GROUNDS	17	50	50
INTEREST	800	902.68	800
PRECEPT	37808	37808.00	38178
SUBTOTAL	41465	42462.73	42125

VAT		8639.23	
RECEIPTS		51101.96	

RESERVES

	Brought Forward	Receipts	Payments	Carry Forward
Village Hall Fund	28572.90			28572.90
New Village Hall Fund	40000.00			45000.00
Worboys Grave Fund	3173.20	277.00	1130.66	2319.54
P3 fund	1535.35			1535.35
Ruddery Pit grant	130.00			130.00
Environmental / Green Projects	1000.00			1000.00
S106 23a Pound Green - POS (18/11/2013)	1102.61			1102.61
S106 23a Pound Green - Indoor Community Facilities (18/11/2013)	394.94			394.94
Floodlight Fund	4268.29	250.00	1829.22	2689.07
Training	220.00			310.00
Highways Improvement Scheme 22/23 (buffer zone)	2700.00			2700.00
Tree Works	4611.74		4611.74	0.00
Advertising FY21	1210.00		300.00	910.00
Agency Services FY21	250.00			250.00
Bus shelters, bins, VH gates, parish pump etc FY21 & FY22	956.67			956.67
Play Equipment Maintenance FY22	643.00		108.50	534.50
Play Equipment Maintenance FY23	0.00			695.00
Room Hire FY21	332.00		332.00	0.00
Memorial Bench Donation	100.00			100.00
Pensions/Gratuity Fund	1554.69			1751.37
Village Maintenance FY22	1538.40			1538.40
Defibrillator & electricity FY22	250.00		43.00	207.00
Streetlight Energy FY23	0.00			1000.00
General Reserves/Contingency	42772.80		750.00	45082.42
	137316.59	527.00	9105.12	138779.77

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

RECEIPTS TOTAL	51,628.96	
PAYMENTS TOTAL		£51,165.78