

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council - Annual report presented to the Parish Assembly
Wisbech St Mary Community Centre on Monday 16th May 2011

List of Councillors

Mr C Allen, Halls Farm, Wisbech Road, Guyhirn, Wisbech	01733 849300
Mr P Barnes, Westview, 38 Murrow Bank, Murrow PE13 4HB	01945700200
Mr B Britain, Fort Farm, Gull Drove, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 4HB	01733 849262
Mr M Clarke	
Mr P Davies, Riverside, Selwyn Corner, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 4ED	01945 450234
Mr J Fish, 17 Lindens Close, Thorney Toll, Wisbech PE13 4AR	07887754869
Mr T Fowler, Bramble Corner, Plash Drove, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4SP	01945 410425
Mr B Payne, 7 Churchfield Way, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4SY	01945 410755
Ms B Reay, Holly Farm, High Road, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 43ED	
Mr R Scrimshaw, The Rambles, Hooks Drove, Murrow, Wisbech PE13 4HH	
Mrs D Thrower, Acquest, Front Road, Murrow PE13 4JQ	01945 700213

The above Councillors were elected onto the Wisbech St Mary Parish Council on the 5th May 2011. This was the first election for many years. We would like to welcome to the Parish Council Mr M Clarke, Ms B Reay and Mr R Scrimshaw.

We would like to thank Mrs J Hall, Mr Colin Fryett and Mr J Parrin for all their hard work during their terms of office.

In the 12 months leading up to this Parish Assembly there have been 13 meetings and all councillors have attended on a regular basis, together with Councillor Jill Tuck (County Councillor), Councillor Cyril Bellamy (District Councillor), Mr Robert Scrimshaw (District Councillor) and PC J Coles (Community Beat Police Constable). A number of Parishioners have attended to take advantage of the Open Forum item which appears on each meeting agenda.

Notices and Agendas of meetings together with Council minutes are displayed on all the parish notice boards and the Wisbech St Mary website at www.wisbechstmary.org.uk. Meetings have been held at different venues throughout the year. Please note below the dates and venues for the Parish Council meetings.

Monday, 13th June 2011 at The Chequers, Tholomas Drove
Monday, 4th July 2011 at Murrow Village Hall
Monday, 1st August 2011 at Guyhirn Village Hall
Monday, 5th September 2011 at Thorney Toll Village hall
Monday, 3rd October 2011 at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre
Monday, 7th November 2011 at The Chequers, Tholomas Drove
Monday, 28th November 2011 at Murrow Village Hall
Monday, 19th December 2011 at Guyhirn Village Hall
Monday, 16th January 2012 at Thorney Toll Village Hall

The members of the Parish Council all live within the Parish and several also work within the area. They represent a cross section of the community and therefore are on hand to recognise and deal with the needs and concerns of the parishioners they serve. Several of the councillors represent you on Committees and organisations within Fenland and by doing so the voice of the Parish is heard.

Several Councillors are members of the Poores Allotment Charity, Village Hall Committees, Playing Field Committees and other community based organisations.

Parish Plans

The Parish Plan was updated in 2011. The Action Plans for each of the villages, Guyhirn, Murrow and Wisbech St Mary with the help of Fenland District Council Neighbourhood Development Offices and Cambridgeshire Acre are already being looked at. The Parish Council will support all villages within the Parish to enable them to bring as many items as possible on the action plans to fruition within financial constraints.

Planning Matters

The Council continues to work to ensure that any building or development plans submitted to the Fenland District Council are for the benefit of the entire Parish.

Streetlights

The Parish Council continues to identify sites for new streetlights and it feel it is better to prioritise and allocate where they are most needed. If parishioners have any comments in this respect please contact your local representatives or the clerk.

Village Property

During the past 12 months the Council has continued to maintain the bus shelters and are at the moment making plans to build a new shelter at Bunkers Hill.

A committee of local people with the support of the Parish Council are working towards making this area an asset to the village of Guyhirn. With the help of the Parish Council this committee are trying to fill in part of the pond around it perimeter to try and make an area where seats can be installed. If you would like to become involved in this, please contact the clerk who will pass on your details to a member of the committee.

Grants to Community

During this financial year grants have been given to various organisations within the Parish including:-

Wisbech St Mary Pre School	£350.00	Guyhirn Playing Field Play Equipment	£1817.40
Royal British Legion	£49.50	Murrow Playing Field	£2500.00
Guyhirn Cemetery	£350.00	Guyhirn Friendship Club	£100.00
Murrow Pre School	£500.00	Cambs Police	£500.00
Wisbech St Mary Social & Community Centre	£2500.00	Murrow Sunshine	£100.00
Murrow Village Hall	£1000.00	Southea PCC re Churchyard	£350.00
Guyhirn Village Hall	£5000.00	Citizens Advice	£1000.00
Thorney Toll Village Hall	£1250.00	Murrow Book Café	£1000.00
Guyhirn Playing Field	£2500.00		

Highways

- The Councillors continue to identify areas that are in need of repair and continue to lobby the County Highways Department to ensure that this work is carried out as soon as possible. This year we put in two bids for jointly funded minor highway improvements.
 1. To improve road safety by erecting chevrons at Bunkers Hill, slow warning road signage from Guyhirn and Wisbech St Mary and to install no footpath signs, bridal way and horse crossing warning signs.
 2. A new footpath in Station Road from Church Road to High Road, Wisbech St Mary.
We have been informed that neither of these bids was successful. We will try again next year.
- The Council are continuing to work towards reducing speed limits within the Parish and therefore creating a safer environment for us all.
- The Councillors have continually corresponded with the Police to try and increase the safety outside our schools. In previous years we were successful in initiating parking restrictions outside Wisbech St Mary School, traffic calming near Murrow School in Murrow Bank and from Parish Council funds road markings in Guyhirn warning of a school. We will continue to work towards improving road safety outside all of our schools. We have funded the printing of signs for parishioners in Guyhirn to place on their own properties requesting motorists to reduce their speed.
- After numerous serious accidents at Bellamy Bridge, the Parish Council continue to lobby Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department to improve this area. To date the road markings and signage have been improved, but we will continue to request the Police and the Highways to make this area as safe as possible.

Cambridgeshire Housing Association Properties

To ensure that local people are represented, the Parish Council is contacted when a vacancy occurs in Cambridgeshire Housing Association Properties in the parish and alternate between the Fenland District Council in filling the vacancies. A vacancy arose recently and it was the Parish Council's turn to fill this. We are trying to ensure that the Parish Council has a say in all of the vacancies.

Parish Precept

The Precept in the 2005/2006 financial year was £28,000, 2006/2007 £29,400, 2007/2008 £30870, 2008/2009 £43732, 2009/2010, 2010/2011 £43732 and in 2010/2011 we have made no increase and it remains at £43732.

Finally, if you wish to make your voice heard on any aspect of village life, please feel free to attend any of the Parish Council meetings.

Mrs D Thrower
Chairman of the Parish Council

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