Gidding Post Office Latest

The strong response from the survey of village opinion taken by the Action Group was that we should fight the closure of the village Post Office, regardless of the impact on the proposed mobile service (known as Outreach).

The Action Group had a meeting with two representatives from the Post Office at the beginning of November. The Post Office wanted to discuss the issues concerning sites for the Outreach vehicle in the village.

It was established that there isn't anywhere safe to park an Outreach vehicle in Gidding and won't be, at least until the new school is built and associated pavements and traffic calming measures provided, in, perhaps, two years time.

The Post Office don't want to wait that long, as they have managed to find a franchisee for the van (the Outreach service is subcontracted to a private individual, a bit like the current village shop). We understand that they are looking to implement the Outreach service in the New Year (after the profitable Christmas period).

Apparently, the latest plan is that Gidding will be the most northerly point on a route covering villages north of Bedford.

The Gidding post office closure, specifically, has been raised in a parliamentary committee and our local MP, Shailesh Vara, has also been fighting our corner, so we are a “high-profile case” in the eyes of the Post Office, and they will be anxious to be seen to do everything by the book.

We await further developments.

Parish Council

We welcome Julie Byard, an energetic campaigner against the Post Office closure, to the Parish Council. At the same time, pressure of work has forced Ian Stapleton to hand over his duties as Vice-Chairman to Robin Hayden.

Have you ever considered becoming a Parish Councillor or wondered what they do? Come to a meeting and find out!

Although the council is now up to strength, we are still open to enthusiasts who want to commit time to the village, as some of the councillors (including the editor, who has written the last two Clarions in Manchester) find it difficult to do as much for the Council as they would like.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Parish Councillors

The Parish Councillors are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Alexander (Chair)</td>
<td>62 Main Street</td>
<td>293315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Hayden (Vice-Chair, Highways &amp; Police)</td>
<td>Warren House, Main Street</td>
<td>293360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Byard (Rights of Way)</td>
<td>5 Chapel End</td>
<td>293576</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Hodson (Finance &amp; Charities)</td>
<td>17 Chapel End</td>
<td>293782</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry Hill (Councillor without Portfolio)</td>
<td>9 Mill Road</td>
<td>293404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Stapleton (Planning &amp; Tree Warden)</td>
<td>70 Main Street</td>
<td>293463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Titmus (Press &amp; PR)</td>
<td>The Cottage, Milking Slade Lane</td>
<td>293302</td>
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Police

Neighbourhood Watch
PCSO Emily Conroy would like to hear from anyone interested in this scheme. We already have one volunteer to cover Mill Lane and part of Main Street.
Tel: 0845 456 456 4 or contact the Parish Council Office who will be happy to pass on details.

E-Cops
E-Cops is a free e-mail information service from the police. Subscribers receive regular information bulletins from their local Neighbourhood Policing Team. The e-mails contain information relating to local criminal and suspicious activity, crime reduction advice and notification of meetings and events etc. If you are interested in becoming a member of this free scheme, please log onto www.cambs.police.uk select the green 'E-Cops' icon and follow the instructions.

In an emergency call 999 – when a life is in danger or a crime is being committed. For non-emergencies call 0845 456 456 4 – when your call does not require immediate police attendance, contacting your local Neighbourhood Policing Team or any other enquiry. Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 – to give information anonymously about crime.
On line – www.cambs.police.uk

History of Gidding
Moves are afoot to maintain the record of the village created in the monumental Millenium History, (or “Ellis and Shepherd” as it's known to academics). A meeting of those interested will be arranged. Please leave your name with the Parish Council Office and you will be contacted.

Streetlights
There have been a number of complaints about faulty streetlights in the village. If you notice a faulty streetlight, it can be reported by using the free telephone number on the pole, which is also numbered for identification.

Cambridgeshire Mobile Libraries
Chapel End, alternate Thursdays 2.05 - 2.20pm
January 8th, 22nd, February 5th, 19th, March 5th, 19th, etc
No service on December 25th, for some reason...
For renewals or enquiries please ring 0845 045 5225

Highways Department
On October 21st, three councillors and the Parish Clerk walked Great Gidding with a representative from the County Council Highways Department.
The following issues were noted (reponsibilities in brackets; CC being County Council and PC being Parish Council):
Main St verges (CC), potholes by Rec Field (CC), fence at the Jitty (CC), marker posts opposite Somersby House (CC).
Mill Lane salt bin (PC)
Chapel End kerb drains, road damage (CC), PC sign by pond(PC), BT covers (PC to request)
Gains Lane salt bin (PC), hedges (CC), gully (CC), surface water (PC to monitor)
Luddington Rd potholes and footpath (CC)
Crossroads Reflectors to be straightened (CC)

Subsequently, the road damage down Milking Slade Lane was also noted for Highways attention.
Parish Council has since agreed to replace the salt bin in Mill Lane and obtain quotes to renovate two benches and the Village sign.

Departures
We note with sorrow the recent passing of Tony Woods and Mary James. Our thoughts are with their families.

Other Contacts
Amenities Committee
Chairman Mary Read; Tel.: 293657
Secretary and Booking Officer Debbie Garner; Tel.: 293754

Churchwardens
Mr John De Val; Tel.: 293417
Mrs Lois Jordan; Tel.: 293178

Baptist Chapel
Rev Albert Mulligan; Tel.: 293525

Friends of St Michael's Church
Chairman Patrick Jarvis; Tel.: 293271
Secretary Michael Keck; Tel.: 293357