

Hilgay Parish **MATTERS**

- A Statement from Hilgay Parish Council -

A recent article published in local publications referred to the requested Community Governance Review relating to Hilgay Parish Council, applied for by a group of electors in Ten Mile Bank. Hilgay Parish has historically included the villages of both Hilgay and Ten Mile Bank, but the purpose of this request is to split the existing Parish and create a separate Parish Council for Ten Mile Bank. Hilgay Parish Council feels a need to respond to the article.



Parish councils in England were established in 1894 by the Local Government Act which came into effect in December of that year. It is reported that Parish registers for Hilgay date back to 1583 and that the monks of St Benedict of Ramsey built a priory in Hilgay in 1087 - "the Church of England parish church in Hilgay is All Saints ... a chapel of ease dedicated to St Mark was built at Ten Mile Bank in 1847. Both churches in Hilgay are part of the Ouse Valley benefice" Obviously this illustrates that the villages of Hilgay and Ten Mile Bank are both wards of (part of) Hilgay Parish.

The recent articles quoted that there are nine Councillor positions for Hilgay ward and four Councillor positions for Ten Mile Bank ward - these numbers have been in place for many years, presumably worked on a ratio basis. All four Ten Mile Bank councillors resigned from Hilgay Parish Council in September last year, leaving four vacancies for the Ten Mile Bank ward. A Notice of Casual Vacancy was posted in both villages (wards) as legally required, and on the Parish Council website and Facebook page. If ten local government electors for the Parish had made requests to the Borough Council's Electoral Services for an election to take place, in writing and within 14 days of the above-mentioned Notice being posted, then an election would have had to have been held to fill the vacancies. As the Borough Council did not receive such requests, the Parish Council are able to co-opt any candidates who fill the required criteria - to date, only one person has come forward and was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council. The three remaining vacancies remain open and may be filled by candidates (now from either ward) who fulfil the required criteria.

(During the previous two years, there have at times been five Ten Mile Bank representatives on the Parish Council and only three Hilgay representatives – with one of the Hilgay ward representatives being a resident of Ten Mile Bank).

Hilgay Parish Council refutes the statement in the press that the population of Hilgay village is getting smaller while Ten Mile Bank's population is growing, as both villages are actively and positively prospering.

As of September 2024, following extensive consultations by the Education Department, Ten Mile Bank Primary School was amalgamated with Hilgay Riverside Academy. Despite serious concerns from parents and carers of the pupils of Ten Mile Bank school before the merger took place, the Parish Councillors were greatly relieved to hear, from a representative of the Governing Body of the Riverside Academy, that the parents and carers are now very happy with how things have progressed. Another link that illustrates the close and traditionally strong bond between the two villages within the Parish.

Hilgay Parish Council (encompassing both villages - Hilgay and Ten Mile Bank - and with Councillors from both wards) has, for generations, worked as one, as a team, for the benefit of the Parish as a whole. Our Parish Councillors continue to do this as a tribute to our ancestors and our heritage, and for the overall benefit of all the current inhabitants and for future generations of our Parish.