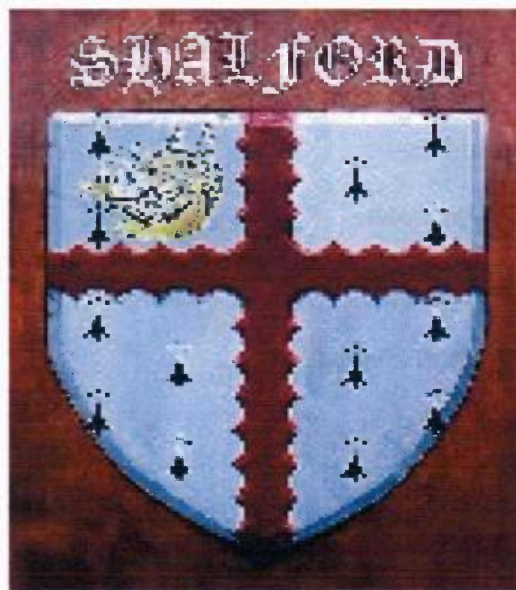


Shalford Parish Council



Annual Report 2012/13

Annual Report for Shalford Parish Council Year ending April 2013

Parish Council met on the following dates during year 2012/13

18th April	16th May
Annual Parish Meeting	2 nd May
20 th June	18th July
15 th August	19th September
17th October	21st November
19th December cancelled	16 th January 2013
20th February	20th March

Parish Clerk: Mrs Cathryn Carlisle

Elected Officers for the 7 seats are:-

Chairman: Councillor Colin Golding

Vice-Chairman: Councillor David Eversden

Other Council Members:

Councillor Corinne Eves
Councillor Alan Oates
Councillor Gillian Askew
Councillor Caroline Macdonald

Planning Committee Chairman: Councillor Corinne Eves

Website: Councillor David Eversden maintains the Shalford Parish Council Website

Village Hall Committee Representative: Councillor Gillian Askew

There is still a vacancy on the Council. If anyone is interested in becoming a Councillor, who is of voting age and lives in the village, or within 3 miles of the boundary, they should contact the Clerk as soon as possible.

Chairman's Report

Residents are welcome to come and air their views at the monthly Parish Council meeting and a time slot is allocated to this on each agenda.

The Council submits a proposed budget to Braintree District Council each January and receives funding known as the precept to meet that proposed budget. The precept forms part of residents' Council Tax. We are pleased to say that the Parish Council has not asked for any increase in the precept for the last 3 years. However as the number of residents paying Council tax varies year on year the amount individual households pay may go up or down accordingly. Later in this report you will find the details of how the Parish Council has spent some of this money this year and the full audited accounts are published on the website and are available from the Clerk.

In the coming year one of our key focuses will continue to be the Government's new planning legislation, how it effects the decision making process and the possible need to develop a Village Plan for Shalford in order to protect our village from unwanted development. As this is new legislation there is still a lot of uncertainty as to its implications and we will be taking every opportunity to learn more and get a better understanding so that we can ensure that Shalford's rural tranquillity is something we can all continue to enjoy.

We will continue to try to improve the appearance of our village with investment in open spaces and combating the nuisance of litter and dog fouling.

Colin Golding

Colin Golding
Chairman

Finances

The Parish Council holds two separate accounts at Barclays Bank PLC in Braintree. A current account for routine daily business and an investment account which holds reserved funds for projects and non-routine expenditure. The Parish Council is VAT registered and claims back VAT on valid expenditure. Mr Mal Hanley undertakes the internal audit and the appointed External Auditors are the Audit Commission.

Subscriptions –

The Parish Council subscribes to the following organisations for consultation purposes:

National Association of Local Councils
Essex Association of Local Councils
Braintree Association of Local Councils
Rural Community Council of Essex

Grants to local organizations –

St Andrews Church PCC £2000 - A contribution towards the cost of cutting the grass in the Churchyard.

Village Hall Management Committee £4500 – A contribution towards the running cost of the Village Hall.

The Parish Council gave a donation of £1000 towards the Queen Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

These grants are available to provide equipment or to use for projects that will help the organisations flourish in the village.

Other non-routine expenditure

The Parish Council has funded a number of projects intended to enhance the appearance of the village during the year. These included clearing the overgrown areas on Whites Hill and the Causeway and reseeding, along with installing planters at six locations in the village.

Insurance - The Parish Council holds insurance cover for its equipment and street furniture. It also holds public liability insurance, personal accident cover, legal fees and employer's liability insurance. All insurance cover is provided by Aviva.

Planning – All members of the Council sit on the Planning Committee. The Committee is chaired by Cllr Corinne Eves.

The Parish Council is a Statutory Consultee under planning legislation. As such it can make recommendations to Braintree District Council as to whether a particular application should be approved or not but BDC do not have to accept those recommendations. The Parish Council considers planning applications either at a Planning Committee or at a full Council meeting where deadlines allow. Observations are then submitted to Braintree District Council taking into account local information and issues. The Parish Council has looked at in the region of 20 Planning applications during the year. It has also responded to

Braintree District Council's Land Allocation review which will form part of Braintree District Council's District Plan.

Highways - The Parish Council liaises regularly with Essex County Council when problems occur on our roads.

Street Lighting - The Parish Council provides streetlights for which power is obtained from E-on Ltd. All lights are annually maintained and cleaned. A & J Lighting Solutions undertakes this service.

Footpaths – Footpaths are cut by contractors employed by ECC, and the Parish Council liaises with ECC on the quality of this service which we believe has been far from satisfactory this year. We have taken this up with ECC.

Grass Verge Cutting - The Parish Council contracts MD Landscapes to cut grass along the sides of the roadways.

Bus Shelter Maintenance - The Parish Council employs Mr Paul Edwards to clean the bus shelters and empty the rubbish bins.

Dog Waste Bins – These are provided by and emptied by Braintree District Council

Notice Boards - The Parish Council provides Notice Boards at the Village Hall and in the George Car Park and in bus shelters at Shalford Green and Jaspers Green. The Clerk regularly updates the notice boards around the village, which provide local Information.

Website -The Parish Council uses the Shalford Community website to inform the public of meetings and display confirmed minutes of meetings. The address is: www.essexinfo.net/shalford

Activity Days - The Parish Council paid for the Village Hall to hold an Activity Day during the school summer holidays.

Annual Parish Assembly – The Parish Council organised the Annual Parish Assembly which is an opportunity for organisations in the village to talk about their activities and recruit new members.

Stonely Park – The Parish Council has liaised with Essex County Council with regard to reinstating the parkland following the closure of the Civic Amenity site.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee - The Parish Council arranged for an oak tree to be planted on the green opposite the Village Hall to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It also purchased a beacon to be lit on the Monday evening of the Jubilee Weekend and provided £1000 funding towards the celebrations.

Contact Details for Clerk and Councillors:

Clerk: Cathryn Carlisle

Herkstead Green Bungalow, Cornish Hall End, Braintree, Essex CM7 4HH

Tel: - 01440 731964 Email: shalford.pc@vodafoneemail.co.uk

Councillors:

Colin Golding	01371 850246	colin.golding@sky.com
David Eversden	01371 850606	david@shalford.fslife.co.uk
Corinne Eves	01371 850871	cje@pantvalleypetorium.com
Gillian Askew	01371 851433	gillianaskew@msn.com
Alan Oates	01371 850621	alankoates@btinternet.com
Caroline Macdonald		maccallie@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2013/2014

Parish Council meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month

17th April	15th May
Annual Parish Assembly	1st May
19 th June	17th July
21st August	18th September
16th October	20th November
18th December	15 th January 2014
19th February	19th March