

SHALFORD PARISH COUNCIL



for the residents of Shalford
Year 2016/17

Parish Council Meetings – all welcome

Parish Council meetings, which are open to all, are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, in the Village Hall, commencing at 7:30 p.m.

Agendas will be published on the notice board and web site at least 3 clear days in advance of the meeting.

Each meeting starts with the Public Forum - a short period when residents can ask questions or raise issues with Councillors.

Please contact the Clerk for any further information relating to your Parish Council.

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2016/17

16th March 2016	19th Oct 2016
20th April APM	16th Nov 2016
18th May 2016	No Dec meeting
15th June 2016	18th Jan 2017
20th July 2016	15th Feb 2017
No Aug meeting	15 th Mar 2017
21st Sept 2016	19 th Apr 2017

Contact Details for the Parish Clerk

Mrs Cathryn Carlisle, Herkstead Green Bungalow, Cornish Hall End,
Braintree, Essex CM7 4HH - Tel: 01440 731964

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Chairman's Report

I would like to start by thanking my fellow Councillors and our Clerk for all the hard work and support they have given during the year in trying to make Shalford a better and safer place to live.

Unfortunately, two Councillors resigned at the end of 2016 and therefore we have co-opted two new members who took up their places on the Council in February 2017. We had four people apply for the vacancies and they were all a very high caliber which made it a difficult decision for us and I want to thank all those who put their names forward.

There are two big issues that threaten the rural nature of our village, the first is traffic and the second is Braintree District Council's Draft Local Plan which includes the proposal to build a new "Garden Community Settlement" between Great Saling and Stebbing currently known as the "West of Braintree Garden Community".

The Parish Council has been lobbying Essex Highways for several years now, to act to control the speed and size of vehicles using our roads. They undertook a speed and volume survey at Church End in Autumn 2016 on the road coming from Great Saling passed the Village School. While several vehicles were recorded as exceeding the 30 mph limit they concluded that it was not sufficient to warrant action. However, it also showed that 2000 vehicles a day pass along that piece of road, a number that I found astonishing.

To try to improve matters the Parish Council has resolved to set up a Highways Working Party, to include members of the public, with the objective of creating a "Highways Plan" for Shalford that will identify all the traffic issues we face and proposals of how these can be addressed. This will then be submitted to the appropriate authorities. So, if you are interested in joining the group please contact the Clerk.

On the subject of the "West of Braintree Garden Community" which has the capacity for over 10,000 houses, the Parish Council has voiced its objections since it was first proposed two years ago, and we

continue to do so. Apart from ruining our countryside by damaging ancient woodlands such as Boxted Wood and concreting over Andrewsfield airfield we believe that Shalford will be blighted by increased traffic using our roads as an alternative route to employment areas such as Halsted, Haverhill and Cambridge. We are working with the campaign group SERCLE and the Parishes of Rayne, Stebbing, Great Saling, Great Bardfield and Felsted to try and make our voices heard as we believe that the proposals are not viable, not achievable and not sustainable. Please voice your objections when the proposals go out to public consultation later this year.

In other matters the Parish Council has participated in the following consultations during the year:

- Braintree District Council's Local Plan

- A120 alternative routes

- Stansted Airport flight paths

- Stansted Airport night flights

- Government's proposal to cap Local Precepts

Finally, the Parish Council is under significant financial pressures like most tiers of Government. However, we are at the receiving end because the grant we receive from the District Council is being cut in phases to zero by next year and the services provided by Essex County Council are being reduced, such as footpath cutting which is being halved to one cut per year. So, as the Parish Council's objective is to continue to look after the village and maintain the same level of service to the community, we had no option but to increase our precept, which is the portion of money we receive from the Council Tax that you pay. This year the increase equates to around £8 per year or £0.66 per month per household.

Colin Golding

Shalford Parish Councillors

Seven Councillors, next election May 2019

Chairman:

Councillor Colin Golding



(2008)

Vice Chairman:

Councillor David Eversden



(2006)

Other Council Members:



Alan Oates
(2005)



Gillian Askew
(2012)



Mandy French
(2015)



Adrian Gurnett
(2017)



Richard
Norman
(2017)



Cathryn Carlisle
(2006)

Parish Clerk

Mrs Cathryn Carlisle

District Councillor's

Peter Tattersley

County Councillor

Peter Schwier

Roger Walters

Councillors Roles

Planning Committee Chairman: Councillor Colin Golding

Website: Councillor David Eversden

Village Hall Committee Representative: Councillor David Eversden

Transport Representative: Cllr Gillian Askew

Bridleway Cllr Mandy French

Footpaths Cllrs French, Cllr Askew, Cllr Oates

Meeting Attendance – DC & CC normally have more than one parish council meeting on any one evening to attend

	May	June	July	Sept	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Mar
Colin Golding	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mandy French	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gillian Askew	A	A	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
David Eversden	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y
Alan Oates	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Corinne Eves	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	R	R	-	-
Cliff Stevens	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	A	R	-	-
Adrian Gurnett	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y
Richard Norman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	A
DC P Tattersley	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N
DC P Schwier	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y
CC R Waters	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

Legend

A – Apology

H – Holiday

I – Illness

N – Non-Attendance

R – Resigned

Y - Attended

The Details – what we do

Finances: -

The Parish Council holds two separate accounts at Barclays Bank pc 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.

An internal audit is undertaken, 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 organisations: -

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

The Village Hall £300.00 The Queen 90th Birthday Party and Christmas Afternoon Tea.

Bendlowes Trust £150 to raise awareness of the Trust

These grants are available to provide equipment or to use for projects that will help the organisations flourish 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: -

The Parish Council presided over 20 planning applications and TPO's last year. 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.

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. Due to financial constraints ECC now only cut footpaths once a year.

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 bus shelters at Clifffield, Church End 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

Annual Parish Meeting: -

Since 2009 it has been a statutory requirement for a Parish Council to organise the Annual Parish Meeting which is an opportunity for residents to ask questions of the Parish Council and for organisations in the village to talk about their activities and recruit new members.

Stoneley Park: -

The Parish Council has liaised with Essex County Council and discussions regarding the proposed parking area have been agreed March 2017, hopefully a start will be during the summer of 2017 to create a Wild Life area.

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2017/2018

Normally on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Shalford Village Hall at 7.30pm - Public are Welcome to attend

Meeting Agenda displayed on the Parish Notice boards at Village Hall Car Park and Clifffield bus shelter, plus web site, 3 days prior to meetings

18 th Jan 2017	30 th Sept 2017
15 th Feb 2017	18 th Oct 2017
15 th Mar 2017	15 th Nov 2017
19 th Apr 2017	20 th Dec 2017
APM 27 th Apr	17 th Jan 2018
11 th May (1 week earlier)	21 st Feb 2018
21 st June 2017	21 st Mar 2018
19 th July 2017	18 th Apr 2018
No Aug Meeting	APM TBA

Managing Our Finances: -

Our income comes from the Parish Rate charged to each household within Shalford and shown against the BDC rate sent to all in March each year

We receive payment from Braintree District Council known as a precept payment which is derived from our expected costs for the coming year which councillors submit each January to Braintree DC

One of the main aims in the past few years has been to improve our village environment for the benefit of all, late Autumn 2016 another 1,000 daffodils bulbs planted in the Jaspers Green/Shalford Green areas



**Whites Hill, Shalford
Before Restoration**

**Whites Hill, Shalford
After Restoration**



Major repairs undertaken a few years ago to Whites Hill when Buses and Lorries started to use the grass verge as an overnight parking area

Keeping You Informed

Shalford Parish Council operate an open-door policy where all documents are published for all to view

Via our Web Site at: - <http://www.essexinfo.net/shalford>, a completely free web hosting service provided by Essex County Council



1. 13 years of Minutes & Agendas
2. 8 years of Annual Reports
3. 6 months of Planning Application applying to Shalford with links to BDC planning search web site engine
4. Recent addition to view important documents received by our Parish Clerk

Join our Monthly Email Service

Receive one email per month providing Current News items and upcoming Events, in a secure system by sending your name & telephone contact number to: -

ADD ME at: - info@shalfordnews.co.uk

~~ Your Notes ~~