

SHALFORD
PARISH COUNCIL
for the residents of Shalford
Year 2019/20



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 - which last for 15 minutes is where parishioners are encouraged to come along and share their views and concerns.

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

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2019/20

15 th May	19th June
17 th July	No Meeting August
18 th Sept	16 th Oct
20 th Nov	18 th Dec
15 th Jan 2020	19 th Feb
18 th March	15 th April
APM TBA	

Contact Details for the Parish Clerk

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

email: shalford.pc@outlook.com

Chairman's Report

One of the main objectives of the Parish Council is to try to preserve the tranquil, rural nature of our village and we have faced three big issues during the year that have challenged that objective.

Firstly, there was Braintree District Council's decision to pursue their draft Local Plan which includes the proposal to develop a new "West of Braintree Garden Community" which would see up to 14,000 houses built on the farm land between Great Saling and Stebbing Green. Having been found unsound in a number of respects by the Planning Inspector at his first examination in 2018, BDC set about trying to overcome the concerns he had raised by commissioning further studies. These were open to public consultation and went back to the Inspector in late 2019. A second public hearing was held in January 2020. We joined forces (and funding) with neighbouring Parish Councils and other pressure groups, who are opposed to new Garden Communities in Essex, to appoint experts in various fields who submitted counter evidence and spoke on our behalf at the Inspector's hearing. The decision now rests with the Inspector who was due to publish this some-time soon.

Secondly Uttlesford District Council were going through the same process with their Local Plan which also included part of the proposed West of Braintree Garden Community which we objected to. However, in their case the Inspector found the plan totally unsound and we are waiting to see what UDC's response will be.

Thirdly many residents were alarmed to see so many telegraph poles being erected in the village by County Broadband to carry their fibre network. We had been led to believe that they would be using existing poles wherever possible and burying cables elsewhere. A meeting was held with County Broadband which was attended by many residents. Strong opposition was voiced and as a result County Broadband amended their plans and reduced the number of poles significantly.

On other positive notes we have obtained funding to take over the maintenance of a number of footpaths in our Parish and some of our proposals for highways works to reduce traffic speed and improve safety have gone forward for a decision on funding by Essex County Council's Local Highways Panel.

At Christmas we circulated a questionnaire asking residents what improvements they would like to see on open spaces in the Parish. These are funded by BDC through property developer's contributions as part of S106 planning approvals. A number of these have been accepted by BDC and will attract the funding as and when new houses are built in the village.

Finally, I cannot end this report without mentioning the amazing response to our call for help as a result of the Corona virus lock down. Having distributed a leaflet, we received responses from 33 people volunteering to go shopping, post mail, collect prescriptions or simply have a phone chat with elderly or vulnerable people in the village. Also, the Village Stores and Deersbrook Farm volunteered to do home deliveries. My thanks go to all those involved.

Shalford Parish Councillors

Seven Councillors, next election May 2019

Chairman:

Councillor Colin Golding



(2008)

Vice Chairman:

Councillor Mandy French



(2015)

Other Council Members:



Alan Oates
(2005)



David Eversden
(2005)



Sam Batt
(2019)



Adrian Gurnett
(2017)



Rob Short
2019



Cathryn Carlisle
(2006)

Parish Clerk	Mrs Cathryn Carlisle
District Councillors	Peter Tattersley Vanessa Santomuro
County Councillor	Graham Butland

Councillors Roles

Planning Committee Chairman: Councillor Mandy French

Website: Councillor David Eversden

Village Hall Committee Representative: Councillor David Eversden

Transport Representative: Cllr Gillian Askew

Bridleways Cllr Mandy French

Footpaths Cllrs French, Cllr Norman, Cllr Oates, Cllr Golding

Highways Cllr Gurnett, Cllr Askew

The Parish Council now has a Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/ShalfordParishCouncilEssex>

Footpath Volunteering (Adopt a Footpath)

The Parish Council is seeking volunteers to adopt a footpath which they regularly walk. It would be appreciated if Volunteers were able to cut back small vegetation growth such as overhanging brambles and report any major problems like fallen way-marker posts to the Clerk.

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

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Colin Golding	Y	A	Y	N O M E E T I N G	Y	Y	Y	Y	y	Y	
Mandy French	Y	Y	A		Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Gillian Askew	Y	Y	Y		R	R	R	R	R	R	R
David Eversden	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Alan Oates	Y	A	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Adrian Gurnett	Y	A	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Sam Batt	Y	Y	A		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Rob Short							Y	Y	Y	Y	
District Councillors	y	A	Y		Y	A	A	A	Y	Y	
CC G Butland	y	A	A			A	A	A	A	A	

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 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.

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

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: -

Grants are available to provide equipment or to use for projects that will help the organizations flourish in the village. St Andrews Church PCC received a grant of £2,000 in 19/20 as a contribution towards making the churchyard a tranquil place to visit and contemplate. £4,000 to Shalford Village Hall.

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 is a Statutory Consultee under planning legislation. As such it can make recommendations to Braintree District Council (BDC) as to whether a particular application should be approved or not, but they do not have to accept those recommendations. The Parish Council presided over 20 planning applications and Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) last year.

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. Shalford Parish Council will be undertaking the Footpath cutting for 2020 season.

Grass Verge Cutting: -

The Parish Council contracts MD Landscapes to cut grass along the sides of the roadways.

Bus Shelter Maintenance: -

The Parish Council contracts Mrs Barbara Keen 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 has changed its website at the end of 2019.

The Shalford Community website is to inform the public of meetings and display confirmed minutes of meetings. The address is:

<https://shalfordessex.org.uk/>

Annual Parish Meeting: -

Since 2009 it has been a statutory requirement for a Parish Council to organise the Annual Parish Meeting which an opportunity for residents is 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 landscaping was completed in August 2018 once all established some seating will be installed.

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2020/2021

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 Cliffield bus shelter, plus web site, 3 days prior to meetings

20 TH May	17 th June
15 th July	19 th Aug
16 th Sept	21 st Oct
18 th Nov	16 th Dec
20 th Jan 21	17 th Feb
17 th March	21 st April

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.

Thanks goes to all those that helped with our annual Christmas Tree at Shalford Village Hall. The Christmas tree is provided by Mr & Mrs Phipps

New Web Site from December 2019

<https://shalfordessex.org.uk>

Fully compatible with mobile phones and meets all the modern standards for accessibility. Uses the latest web software to be fully secure, unfortunately no longer free as a Parish Council will need to pay the service supplier a £100 yearly fee for access to a help desk

Parish Council/Community web site for all residents, to be successful needs a constant flow of **Events & News** from the Community, please forward to David at:- info@shalfordnews.co.uk

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

Home Parish Council Planning Events Diary News Your Comments Organisations Facilities Contacts FaceBook

Shalford Parish Council

Welcome to Shalford Community in Essex

Our village is in a rural agricultural area in North West County of Essex 5 miles from the country town of Braintree which has a direct rail link to London some 50 miles distance and within 15 miles of Stanstead Airport

Community of 750 residents with a mixed range of 350 properties mostly private but a few recent affordable housing

Luckily we still have a thriving Village Shop, Village Hall, Parish Church , Public House, also [Shalford Primary School](#) which is also used by surrounding villages.

Live locally? Want to know what's going on? Then subscribe to our update service. — It's FREE!

E-mail *

- Draft minutes and Meeting Agendas, directly from Home Page
- Full Council working documents - Accounts – Annual Reports – Budgets - Policies and procedures, all available to view
- Up to two years of Planning Applications applying to Shalford with links to BDC planning search web site engine
- ‘Your Comments’ section – input directly into the website
- News items available to view for 12 months
- Events Diary - Non-Commercial – for all organisations

Join Monthly Email Newsletter, you just need to subscribe on the Home Page, only email details held in the system

Shalford Annual Parish Meeting

**Meeting was to be held April 30th, 2020
at Shalford Village Hall, but cancelled due to COVID19 –
plus Village Hall closed due to delay on new roof
completion**

Year End 2019/20 Final Accounts are available to view on current website at <https://shalfordessex.org.uk> or copies by request to Parish Clerk

Monthly Parish Council meeting are continuing by using the virtual method, unfortunately we are not able to broadcast to the general public

Any items for our agendas can be sent direct to Parish Clerk, Cathryn Carlisle, Herkstead Green Bungalow, Cornish Hall End, Essex CM7 4HH



Stay Alert – Keep Safe