

SHALFORD
PARISH COUNCIL
for the residents of Shalford
Year 2020/21



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.

All meetings have been held via Zoom due to Covid 19

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2020/21

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

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

This year has certainly been eventful with the Covid restrictions. The Parish Council have continued to hold regular meetings on Zoom and all who are interested can attend.

We said goodbye to Alan Oates who has moved from Jaspers Green to Braintree. Alan was a Councillor for many years, helping the Parish Council to achieve its objectives and will be missed. We welcome Andrew Merryweather our new Parish Councillor who has lived in Shalford for many years and is already bring new ideas and skills to the Parish Council.

A covid 19 group was set up to support those who needed help. Our thanks go to all volunteers who took part and are continuing to do so. Jane Mills has given much of her time in picking up and delivering prescriptions to those unable to attend the surgery and also to the Village Shop and Deersbrook Farm Shop who have an amazing array of goods and are now delivering to residents. We are very lucky to live in a kind caring community.

We continue to look after our many miles of public rights of way, organising the grass cutting and this year with the agreement of Highways hope to replace any missing way markers. Footpath maps are available at the Village shop as are dog poo bags. We are organising a new dog bin for Water Hall Lane, unfortunately due to covid affecting staffing levels the dog bins may not be emptied as often as normal. We have been successful in reducing the speed limit outside Shalford school and have taken part in a joint parish zoom meeting to discuss ways of reducing speeding traffic through our village and neighbouring parishes.

We continue to look for ways of improving our village and this year have repaired and replace plants in the flower planters for all to enjoy. Shalford Parish Website continues to be well used and contains much information; articles are now appearing in the Parish Magazine.

Our District and County Councillors attend our meetings, providing information and valued help.

My thanks go to Colin, David, Adrian, Rob Sam and Andrew who give up their time and have achieve much for our village. Thanks also to Cathryn our clerk for all her hard work.



The Parish Council say goodbye to Alan Oates
(2005-2020) **Retired**

Shalford Parish Councillors

Seven Councillors, next election May 2019

Chairman: Councillor Mandy French
(2015)



Vice Chair
Councillor Colin Golding
(2008)



Other Council Members:



Andrew
Merryweather
(2021)



David Eversden
(2005)



Sam Batt
(2019)



Adrian Gurnett
(2017)



Rob Short
(2019)



Cathryn Carlisle
(2006)

Parish Clerk

Mrs Cathryn Carlisle

District Councillors

Vanessa Santomuro

Peter Tattersley



County Councillor Graham Butland

Councillors Roles

Planning Committee Chairman: Councillor Mandy French

Website: Councillor David Eversden

Village Hall Committee Representative: Councillor Rob Short

Transport Representative:

Bridleways Cllr Mandy French

Footpaths Cllrs French, Cllr Golding,

Highways Cllr Gurnett,

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 anyone evening to attend

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Colin Golding	Y	A	Y		Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	
Mandy French	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
David Eversden	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Alan Oates	A	A	A		A	R	R	R	R	R	
Adrian Gurnett	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Sam Batt	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Rob Short	Y	Y	Y		Y	A	Y	Y	Y		
Andrew Merryweather									Y	Y	
District Councillors	A	Y	Y		Y	A	A	Y	A		
CC G Butland	A	Y	Y		A	A	A	A	Y		

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.

£4,000 to Shalford Village Hall.

£1,500 Pledged to Bendlowes for the Petanque Court

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.

Annual Parish Meeting: -

Due to Covid 19 the Annual Parish Meeting for 2020 was cancelled.

Stoneley Park: -

The landscaping was completed in August 2018 once all established some seating will be installed.

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2021/2022

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

19th May	16th June
21st July	18th Aug
15th Sept	20st Oct
17th Nov	15th Dec
19th Jan 22	16th Feb
16th March	20th 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

Website: -

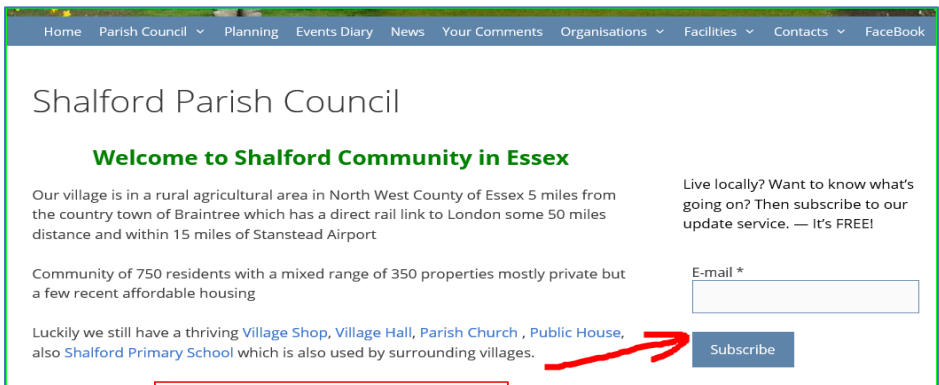
The Parish Council has changed its website at the end of 2019.

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

<https://shalfordessex.org.uk>

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.



The screenshot shows the Shalford Parish Council website. The navigation bar includes links for Home, Parish Council, Planning, Events Diary, News, Your Comments, Organisations, Facilities, Contacts, and FaceBook. The main heading is 'Shalford Parish Council'. Below it is a green banner that says 'Welcome to Shalford Community in Essex'. The text describes the village's location and community size. A red arrow points from the text 'also Shalford Primary School' to a 'Subscribe' button. The subscription form includes an 'E-mail *' input field and a 'Subscribe' button.

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 *

[Subscribe](#)

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

- 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 three years of Planning Applications applying to Shalford with links to BDC planning web, also to Planning portal
- Your Comments section – input directly into the website
- News items available to view for 12 months
- Events Diary - Non-Commercial – for all organisations

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISHES IN THE THREE FIELDS WARD BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS SANTOMAURO AND TATTERSLEY

It has been around one year ago that we last met face to face, and it has been a year like no other in the memories of most members and residents reading this.

Some of us have learned new IT skills to allow us to continue the best we can. Some of us have even learned how to mute and unmute our Zoom meetings.

Over the last year over 10,400 residents in the Braintree District contracted Covid-19 and regrettably over 360 related deaths were registered. We are sure we speak for all of us in expressing our condolences to the families and friends of those who have died or been seriously ill.

The District Council itself has faced many unique challenges.

Facilities for staff to work from home have had to be provided. Arrangements for Council businesses to continue, together with those of Parish Councils and voluntary bodies, have had to be put in place to enable formal decision making to be made remotely. This has highlighted very clearly some of the deficiencies in internet connectivity in parts of our district.

The Covid expenditure to the Council has cost in excess of £3.55m with some £2.24m from loss of income. This includes other less obvious expenditure such as the need to financially support our leisure provider which operates on a not-for-profit basis and has had no income to maintain the swimming pools and other leisure facilities in a safe and sustainable manner in order to prevent them from closing down.

Officers and Members have aimed to keep Parish Councils and local businesses informed about the incidence and spread of the virus and the

availability of financial support for those financially affected. The Council has administered and distributed government grants to around 7,200 local businesses with a total expenditure currently awarded at £39,838,458.00.

Council staff have had to learn new skills to carry out work in addition to their usual duties.

- EHOs have been seconded to operate the finer details of the test and trace initiative.
- Economic Development and Revenue & Benefits Teams have been responsible for fielding applications and distributing government grants to individuals and businesses affected by the pandemic.
- Council Officers and Members have aimed to keep parishes informed about the very latest developments in the incidence of Covid and the vaccination rollout and details of any financial aid that might be available to those affected financially due the lockdown.

Despite these considerable financial and staffing pressures, the Council has continued to develop its environmentally friendly initiatives. We have established and earmarked reserves of £500,000 to take forward our green priorities.

We have also maintained the Councillor Community Grant scheme for 2021/22.

New expenditure also includes a new artificial grass pitch at the Halstead Leisure Centre at a cost £750,000 and £100,000 for children's play areas. We aim to support the future of the District by creating new jobs and making financial investments. Work on the creation of a three storey £14m Enterprise Centre on the new Horizon 120 Business Park and Innovation Park at Great Notley has started. This will provide a state-of-the-art energy efficient complex with shared meeting rooms, flexible workspaces, conference and training facilities and offices for smaller

businesses to grow into. The Business Park also boasts the first all solar-powered electric vehicle-charging centre in the UK, to supplement the 16 new dual electric vehicle charging points being installed across the District.

Additional funding has also been made available to improve the Town Centres of our three major towns.

The Planning Inspectorate finally approved part 1 of the Local Plan, and at the same time confirmed that the number of houses we have to provide for in the Plan period 2013-2033 is 14,320, or 716 per year. Disappointingly, Part 2 of the Plan is not due to be examined by the Inspectorate until July 2021.

The financial commitments and our ambitions towards maintaining service standards have been set against a background of prudent financial management. We are not intending to increase car-parking charges to help support our town centres as life gradually returns to normal and, unlike many other local authorities across the country, we did not increase our share of the Council Tax for 2021/22.

We have been immensely proud of the numerous voluntary organisations across our Parishes who have supported the vulnerable by delivering medicines, food, and other basics during the lockdowns.

The Covid pandemic has affected people in a variety of different ways and as we come out of the lockdown there will be lasting problems of social isolation, loneliness, emotional instability and poor mental health. The Council, supported by our communities, will continue to do whatever it can to help ease these problems.

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS IN THE THREE FIELDS WITH GREAT NOTLEY COUNTY DIVISION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GRAHAM BUTLAND

The last twelve months have been challenging for all our communities as the effect of the COVID pandemic has been felt throughout the area.

I congratulate all eight Parish Councils on maintaining their services to residents and for the way in which many of them have helped to look after more vulnerable members of the community.

As the local County Councillor, I have not been able, due to lockdown, restrictions, to get around the area as much as I would normally do. Nevertheless, working with the Parish Clerks and being able to attend many of the Parish Council meetings via Zoom I have been able to deal with most of the local issues that have arisen.

Throughout the year Highways issues have tended to dominate the agenda together with flooding matters arising from the wet period in January and February. Essex County Council invited each County Councillor to put forward 50 potholes in their Division for priority treatment. I forwarded all the potholes “nominated” by the Parish Councils and they have been dealt with during the year. However, rather like painting the Forth Bridge, road repairs remain a never-ending task.

In February 2021, I facilitated a meeting between the Parishes and the Essex Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst, on the issue of nuisance vehicles speeding through our villages. I am delighted that the Commissioner recognised the disturbance that it causes to residents and that he has agreed an action plan to tackle the issue. Finally, in 2020-21 the county Council introduced a new Locality Fund whereby each County Councillor was allocated £10,000 to use in their Division to support local projects.

I was delighted that I was able to support projects in all eight of the parishes as follows,

£2,250	Salings Parish Council to provide wooden gates at entry points to the village.
£1,000	William Bendlowe Charity towards the cost of building a petanque terrain at Shalford Village Hall.
£2,000	St Mary's Church, Wethersfield towards the cost of urgent roof repairs at the church.
£1,000	Panfield Community Association towards the cost of repairs to the roof of the Village Hall.
£1,000	Great Bardfield Parish Council towards the refurbishment of the school green footpath.
£1,000	Great Notley Parish Council to support the upgrading of village maps at the entrances to Great Notley and White Court.
£700	Wethersfield Community Centre to complete flooring in the community centre rooms.
£400	Friends of the Flitch Way to support the maintenance of the area.
£300	Rayne Village Hall to purchase PPE and cleaning supplies during the pandemic.
£132	Finchingfield Guildhall to purchase a whiteboard for the Guildhall.

Let us hope that 2021-22 will see a gradual and safe return to normality.