

Annual Report for Shalford Parish Council, some of its activities and the services that have been provided during the year up to April 2011

Parish Council Meetings and Election of Officers

There have been 12 Parish Council meetings, an Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting. The Parish Council comprises:

Chairman: Councillor John Phipps
Vice-Chairman: Councillor Kate Binks (Co-opted)
Councillor Colin Golding (Co-opted)
Councillor David Isbell
Councillor David Eversden
Councillor Alan Oates
Councillor Andrew Hull

Parish Clerk: Mrs Cathryn Carlisle

Planning Committee:
Chairman Councillor Alan Oates
Councillor Colin Golding,
Councillor David Isbell

Councillor Andrew Hull is the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Finances

The Parish Council holds three separate accounts at Barclays Bank PLC in Braintree. Mr Mal Hanley undertakes the internal audit and the appointed External auditors are Audit Commission.

VAT: The Parish Council annually reclaims VAT paid on services and equipment.

Insurance - The Parish Council provides insurance for its equipment and street furniture. Allianz Cornhill provides the Council's insurance and the policy also includes public liability insurance, personal accident cover, legal fees and employer's liability insurance.

Planning - The Parish Council considers all proposed planning applications either at a Planning Committee or at a full Council meeting where deadlines allow. Observations are then submitted to Braintree District Council advising where necessary on local information and issues. The Parish Council has looked at in the region of 20 Planning applications.

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

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 – Are cut by contractors employed by ECC

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

Bus Shelter maintenance - The Parish Council employs Phipps Landscapes to clean the bus shelters and empty the rubbish bins.

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 for an Activity Day during the school summer holidays.

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 - The Parish Council provided grants to:
Shalford Local History Association £250
Shalford Horticultural Society £250
Fostac £250.00
Bendeloves Trust £250

PTA £3000 to go towards an outdoor play area
St Andrews Church PCC £2000 - A contribution towards the cost of cutting the grass in the Churchyard.
Village Hall Management Committee £5000 towards the running cost of the Village Hall

The Parish Council has planted 5000 daffodil bulbs. Donated a Bench to be erected on the playing field to commentate the Parish Council this is to be erected in the near future.

We've replaced the notice board at Jaspers Green and repaired the bus shelter

To accompany this annual report please see the Summary of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 March 2011.

Cathryn Carlisle
Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer on behalf of Shalford Parish Council

May 2011