

Shalford Parish Council



Annual Report 2014/15

**Annual Report for
Shalford Parish Council
Year ending April 2015**

Parish Council met on the following dates during year 2014/15

17th April	15th May
Annual Parish Meeting	2 nd May
19 th June	17th July
No Meeting August	18th September
16th October	20th November
18th December	15 th January 2014
19th February	19th March

Parish Clerk: Mrs Cathryn Carlisle

Elected Officers for the 7 seats are:-

Chairman: Councillor Colin Golding

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Corinne Eves

Other Council Members:

Councillor Alan Oates
Councillor Gillian Askew
Councillor David Eversden
Councillor Neil Birks
1 Vacancy

Planning Committee Chairman: Councillor Corinne Eves

Website: Councillor David Eversden maintains the Shalford Parish Council Website

Village Hall Committee Representative: Councillor Gillian Askew

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 4 years. However this year Braintree District Council has reduced the support grant that it gives to all Parish Councils and we had to raise the precept by a small amount to offset this reduction. Later in this report you will find the details of how the Parish Council has spent some of this money in the last year and the full audited accounts are published on the website and are available from the Clerk.

Our efforts to improve the visual aspects of the village have continued and we were pleased to be able to use some section 106 money from Braintree District Council to fund the installation of new fencing around the Village Hall and recreation ground.

Also we were able to put Shalford "on the map" last summer, when the Tour de France came through our village, by erecting banners and bunting and we provided toilet facilities for the many spectators.

Our plan is to continue to improve the visual aspect of the village wherever possible and ensure Shalford is a great place to live.

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. Shelia Bronson 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 £4000 – A contribution towards the maintenance costs of the Village Hall.

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 – 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 17 Planning applications during the 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 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

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. However there have been protracted discussions at ECC with respect to the size and location of the proposed car park.

Contact Details for Clerk and Councillors:

Clerk Herkstead Green Bungalow, Cornish Hall End, Braintree, Essex CM7 4HH
Tel: - 01440 731964 Email shalford.pc@vodafoneemail.co.uk
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Corinne Eves T:- 01371 850871 E:- soames&eves@btinternet.com
Gillian Askew T:- 01371 851433 E:- gillianaskew@msn.com
Alan Oates T:- 01371 850621 E:- alankoates@btinternet.com
Neil Birks: neil@neilbirks.co.uk

Parish Council Meeting Dates
2015/2016

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

Meetings of the Parish Council are held on 3rd Wednesday of the month, in the Village Hall and commence at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda's will be published on the notice board at least 3 clear days in advance of the meeting.

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

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



Shalford Parish Council

Parish Clerk:

Cathryn Carlisle

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

Tel: 01440 731964 shalford.pc@vodafoneemail.co.uk www.essexinfo.net/shalford

**Would you like to make a
difference to Shalford by
becoming a Councillor?
The Parish Council
has 1 vacancy.**

***If you are interested in
being co-opted onto the
Council please contact the
clerk at the above address
Please reply by 20th May***