



Shalford Parish Council

Parish Clerk:

Cathryn Carlisle

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Annual Parish Assembly Minutes Wednesday 25th April 2018

Present

7 members of the council

DC Tattersley and DC Schweir

CC Butland

50 members of the public

Cathryn Carlisle (Clerk)

1. Welcome – Colin Golding Parish Council Chairman

Councillor Golding welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced all the councillors and District Councillor and County Councillor.

The purpose of the meeting is to let organisations, club, societies to have a platform and explain what they do and when.

We have invited this year 2 guest speakers Essex and Herts Air Ambulance and Andrew Brown ECC Landfill Restoration Manager, as far as the Parish Council are concerned our Annual Report has been delivered to every household in the parish.

In my introduction to the report, I have again focused on the proposal by BDC to build a Garden Community between Gt Saling and Stebbing. We continue to fight this proposal along with our neighbouring Parishes and obviously we are at odds with the District Councillors who support the proposal as the best way to satisfy the housing shortage.

Last year we told you we were setting up a Highway Working Party to look at the traffic problems in the Parish and Adrian Gurnett who chairs that group will update you later in the meeting. We have also set up a Footpath Working Group as we feel many footpaths are getting neglected and Richard Norman who chairs that group will also speak later.

So on to the formalities before we hear from our guest speakers.

2. Apologies

There were none

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2017 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

4. Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Derek Smith

History

1997 - Essex Air Amb Established and began fundraising

1998 - Leased in 1st helicopter, a Bolkov 105 Db – which began operating from Boreham in July

1999 - Began 7 days a week daylight flying

2003 - Helicopter upgraded in May to a Eurocopter EC135 T2

2007 - Herts Air Amb established and began fundraising and merged with Essex Air Amb to form E.H.A.A.T.

2008 - Herts Air Amb became operational in November, and we added Pre-Hospital doctors to work alongside our Critical Care Paramedics. We also added Rapid Response Vehicles to our fleet.

2011 - Moved from Boreham to Earls Colne, moving into brand new premises on E.C. Business park in 2015

2016 - Decided to purchase a Helicopter for the 1st time and continue to lease the other.

2017 – Rebranded E.H.A.A.T with one new brand design and unveiled our new branded Helicopters (Red and Yellow stripes) incl our brand new Augusta Westland 169, which was unveiled at Audley End House in June. We have also recently taken on a 10-year lease of another new Helicopter, a MD902 Explorer

2018 – Goals are to operate 24 hours a day, and purchase a 2nd Helicopter

This can only be done with continued public support, as we receive no Government Funding and no Lottery Money

Activity 2016/2017

1,622 call outs (1,220 Helicopter and 402 Rapid Response Vehicles) – including 401 Road Traffic Collisions – 665 Medical Emergencies (Heart Attacks/Other Collapses etc) and 533 other Emergencies (Falls/Assaults/Sports Injuries etc)

981 in Essex, 363 in Herts and 278 in surrounding areas – mention Canvey Island?

672 taken to Hospital by us, 361 treated at the scene by us and 589 stand downs – that is over 1,000 patients by us

Fleet and On-Board

HEMS = Helicopter Emergency Medical Service

We now have a Fleet of 2 Helicopters and some Rapid Response Vehicles to cover Essex, Herts and the Surrounding Areas

Each helicopter now has a Pilot, Co-Pilot, a Pre-Hospital Doctor and a Critical Care Paramedic. The addition of the 2nd Pilot has released the Paramedic to be Patient Attentive for the whole flight, whereas previously they had to act as navigator at times

We can reach the further parts of Essex and Herts in between 17-20 minutes

Currently we do not fly at night, but part of our 5-year plan is to consider the requirements of doing that, both in terms of having enough Pilots, Doctors etc, and also looking at the financial implications of flying 24 hours a day

Currently we can call on 8 Doctors, 17 Critical Care Paramedics and 8 Pilots/Co-Pilots.

Money

We spend in excess of £500,000 a month keeping our Fleet going

Each time we go an incident the average cost is approx. £2,500 to £2,700

Money raised by: -

300 Supporters making regular donations

89,000 regularly playing our Lottery

300 Volunteers

550 Fundraisers – regularly holding events to raise money for us

We also run a number of major fundraising events each year ourselves, in 2018 we have Curry & Casino Night, The Big Pub Quiz, 2 Dog Walks, Strictly Air Ambulance, 2 Cycle Rides, 2 Motor Bike Runs, Afternoon Teas in June (not too late to sign up), Climbing Mont Blanc, a National Air Ambulance Week and Festive Fundraising Events

We currently have 6 shops in Herts, with maybe 1 or 2 more to open, and then we will start to look at opening up retail outlets in Essex

Income is: -

Lottery/Raffles £8,197K

Legacies £1,707K

Donations £1,253K

Fundraising/Raffles £263K

In Memoria £253K

Balance comes from Collection Tins/Shops/Investment Income/Shops and Grants

NO MONEY COMES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OR THE LOTTERY

Other

Early in 2018, we were visited by the CQC, who gave us a clean bill of health.

5. Stoneley Park Andrew Brown ECC Landfill Restoration Manager

The Landfill site closed in 1995 and the amenity site closed in 2010 once the Springfield site the flagship for ECC opened. ECC have been trying to get planning permission since the closure of the amenity site this was eventually given in 2017 after sorting out a few issues with highways with regards to the parking. The site is promoting Health and Wellbeing.

They did expect to find anything buried in the site but did find an old car. They've planted 412 plants (wildflowers, aquatic plants) new trees have been planted. There will be a path around the top edge of the park.

There is still gas coming from the landfill site where 1.2 million ton of waste was put. ECC have but a smaller unit that produces 50wtts per hour, this goes back into the grid so it will pay for itself.

ECC will maintain the site for the next 2 years where it will be handed over to the Parish Council. Q will the damaged compass at the top of the hill be repaired

A Damage will be looked into and discussions will be had with the Parish Council to see what we can put in its place.

Q A resident ask if a locking gate could be put on the entrance so that it could be locked in an evening to stop unsavoury business taking place.

A ECC hasn't got anyone who can come and lock the gate is a resident would like to take this on please speak to the Clerk who will liaise with ECC.

6. **Shalford Carpet Bowls Club- Vic Goodey**

Good Evening my name is Vic Goodey and I have the pleasure of being the Chairperson of Shalford Village Hall Carpet Bowls Club.

The Club

Our club is affiliated to the English Carpet Bowls Association with an elected committee representing twenty-four members. We have been in existence since 1992 and a few members were there at the start.

Most members either come from or have a long-standing connection with Shalford. We have attracted other bowlers from clubs that may have closed or play on a different day. We meet every Tuesday in the Village Hall and play between 7:30 and 9:30 pm. with Tea, Coffee, Biscuits and gossip halfway through the games.

We have been joined by new members and have a good turnout every Tuesday. The hall accommodates two carpets and we can play six games on one evening. Therefore, everyone gets two or three games. However, if the number of members gets too high, we may be required to enforce a waiting list.

We play friendly matches both home and away which are well supported, and we have made friends in all the clubs we visit. Our friendly matches gives us the chance to sport our team colours of Yellow and Black.

The standard of our game continues to improve, and we win many more of our friendlies than we used to, it isn't really about winning but it is nice when we do.

Shalford has been represented in Charity Tournaments as far away as Needham Market and as near as Braintree Leisure Centre. We hope to improve on our performances in the future. Shalford Carpet Bowls Club does not play "League" games although some members play at other clubs who are registered for league.

We continue to improve the club and purchased new Carpets and Bowls last year which have been a big success. We have members who attended a referee training course. Please visit our website, there is a link from the Parish Council Site our website where you can see when our matches are scheduled and some more pictures of the members in action. I hope to keep adding new pages to maintain an interest.

We fully support the efforts of the Village Hall committee and Parish Councillors and the work they do for Shalford. We helped to raise money at the "Village Hall Fun Day" by providing a carpet and allowing people to have a go. We even got a new member from the activity.

Finally

If you fancy finding out what we are like in the flesh, come and have a go we welcome anyone who wants to try. The game is challenging enough to make it interesting and accessible to people of many levels of ability. The first two visits are free and there are plenty of members to show you how to bowl.

At £2:00 a year membership and £2:00 a night, we think it is the best entertainment around.

Thank you, for the opportunity to speak.

7. Village Hall Management Committee – Andrew Hull

I'm Andrew Hull the Vice Chairman of the Village Hall Committee

The Village Hall Committee had its AGM a couple of weeks ago, which was well attended in Village Hall term.

Hall Hire

The Hall continues to be well used by Local Clubs and organisations and is used most days. We aim to be cheaper with our hire rates than our other competitors and we have no intention to raise our rates in the short term.

Playing Field

Our football pitch and cricket square are the envy of all surrounding Villages Halls, and regularly being recognised by Essex Playing Fields Association. For its high standard. We now have a team from Ilford signed up for 17 cricket matches, Shalford is now their new home ground.

Roof Project

The Village Hall Committee have been raising money since 2012, they now have over £21K. It's the final push and we are waiting to hear from if our final grant application to the Garfield Weston Association is successful, the Village Hall Committee are hoping this will be the last year the APM will be held in the hall in its present condition.

Future Project

Windows

Gang Mower

Play Area

Parking

A Special Thank you to Lawrence for agreeing to cut the grass for the 50th year, if anyone deserves a medal it Lawrence.

The Village Hall Committee have pencilled in the 25th August for a possible Family Fun Day, as per normal Help/Volunteers are always needed.

8. Fostac - Sue Morton

Activities since the last FOSTAC AGM in May 2017 have helped to raise money to enable FOSTAC to contribute to the cost of replacing all the rain goods on the south side of the Church. The total costs were £14,800, to which FOSTAC contributed half the costs. The work was completed in October 2017.

FOSTAC Events that have taken place in 2018

2018 Started with a Valentines Tea on 14/2/18

Talk by Charlie Haylock on 17/3/18

Mediterranean Supper 14/4/18

Planned Events for 2018

FOSTAC AGM +Cheese & Wine – 3/5/18

Summer Lunch – 24/6/18

Afternoon Tea & sale of costume jewellery – 25/7/18

Jazz Evening with supper – 8/9/18

Medieval Medicines talk by Lynn Bloom – 19/10/18

St Andrew's Night – 30/11/18

Christmas Concert – 8/11/18

Tickets for events are available from Shalford Village Stores.

We would welcome anyone wishing to join our group who is interested in helping to raise funds to help preserve St Andrew's Church, and at the same time supporting events for our local community.

Our attention now turns to new projects.

As everyone knows, the upkeep of our Churches' is continuous! Therefore, the events already arranged for 2018, FOSTAC is working on ideas for new projects going forward.

There are a number being considered, and once the PCC has received costs, FOSTAC will mutually agree with the PCC new projects to take forward.

As with all organisations, there are always expenses to be paid but FOSTAC tries to keep these to a minimum with many FOSTAC members donating towards events by supplying refreshments and raffle prizes.

FOSTAC hopes that everyone will continue to support all the events planned and welcome new ideas from anyone who is keen to help with bringing the community together which FOSTAC feels it has successfully done over the years.

Thanks to all who have supported us over the years and we hope for your continued support.

9. Shalford Local History Association - Barbara Mavis

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month except December at 2.30pm in the annex of the village hall.

This year we have visited the American Museum at Wethersfield twice, once to look at the photographs and archives when we spent at least three hours there, the second time we included a trip round the airfield It is just amazing how much information there is. I felt that that at any moment the air crews would be dashing around us and an aircraft would be landing on the runway. One thing we found out was that over 4000 local girls had married Americans. WOW I wonder how the local boys felt.

In September we welcomed Claire Willets from Braintree Museum who came to talk about methods available for archiving and how to start an access database, Claires' talk was very informative also made us realise just how much work we have to do.

As a group we have visited the local school and will be recording some of the record books (attendees details). This year the school will be taking part in The May Langford Trophy. The children will be comparing school to-day with school one hundred years ago, every child will be able to take part, the history group will choose the winner, who will be presented with the shield and a prize.

In July last year we held an exhibition in the village hall, the hall was full of photographs, maps, documents, interviews, and a loop system showing houses and views around the village. It was attended by our M.P. James Cleverly, five of our councillors, and over 100 of local people, we looked at some of our many books of photographs. Lots of stories were told, tea was drunk, raffle was held, lots of talking not least by our committee. A very busy but happy day. Which we are repeating this year, so please put this date in your dairy June 30th.

This year we have been very fortunate to receive from the Councillors' Community Grants enough money to enable us to buy a projector and screen, flatbed scanner, laser printer, digital camera, laptop, hard drive, which will make our job of recording all the archives, and in the future make them available to the public. We wish to thank our two district Councillors for all their support.

We also have to thank the Shalford Milers for their donation which enabled us to purchase some exhibition boards.

We also received a donation of the other sets of exhibition boards. I must also thank David Cobb for all the history books he has given us.

I feel we are very lucky people because we live in this beautiful village at this time, things are changing so fast that our way of live will be soon lost for ever, just look how it has changed in the last fifty years

This is why it is so important that we preserve our past.

I almost forgot to thank the Village Hall Committee for allowing us the use of the little room to store our archives and all their support over the year.

10. Bendlowes Trust

Thanked Sally a Trustee and Mel and other helpers Gill, Mandy and Nora

Bendlowes – People Working For People have enjoyed a successful year. Their monthly meet and Greet continues to flourish. Last year they organised an afternoon tea at The Bell, Panfield and two daytime luncheons meetings – first at The Castle Great Leighs the second at Weavers just after Christmas. Both lunches were supported by 20-25 people and proved to be a great success. Something we will do again.

The first Friday in December last year saw our first Free Festive Meet & Greet during which we supplied festive food including hot sausage rolls and mince pies together with a glass of red or white wine no charge was made, or donation accepted.

Vic and Marian are both treasures to People Working for people by offering their amazing musical service. In December we enjoyed some 12 days of Christmas Rendition that was amazing and very loud the voices nearly took the roof off. Hopefully this will happen again.

The only downside is that we've not had any donations this or gift this year unlike other years. They may have to think twice if they are holding a Festive Meet and Greet at Christmas.

February this year they attended an outing to Warner Textiles in Braintree, and a further 2 trip are organised for later in the year 20 May to Stow Maries War Aerodrome near Malden to enjoy their Wings and Wheels day celebrating all that is good in the air and ground.

2nd is to Paper Mill Lock at Little Baddow on Wednesday 20th June to visit their tearooms and hopefully enjoy a riverboat trip providing the weather is suitable.

11. Shaford Horticultural Society - Heather Smith

The SHS is a committee of volunteers who stage a summer and an autumn Horticultural Show each year for the social benefit of the village. It is a non-profit making organisation and its costs are financed by sponsorship of its Schedule through advertising and by an annual quiz held in January of each year.

The Shows' encourage the leisure activities of the village and beyond, with friendly competitive showing of their endeavours and a social gathering for those who merely wish to spectate. Each Show embraces vegetable, fruit and flower growing, floral art, cookery, handicraft and photography. The children are not forgotten, and with the encouragement of the school and parents they have their own classes of craft and design.

To run the Society, we have a small committee, but we need more volunteers to help us achieve our aims. Please come and talk to us at the SHS table and see a sample of the activities we embrace.

12. St Andrews Church – Rev Colin Wilson

Shalford surprises Rev Wilson that Shalford doesn't have a village green and duck pond but what they do have is residents that make things happen there is a real community feel to Shalford.

St Andrew Church and church yard is 800 yrs old its open from 8.30 am to early evening, its amazing how many people visit the church not just for services but at other times. Services are usually at 9.30 on a Sunday and once a month at 8.00 am. The £100,000 extension that English Heritage insisted had a lead roof which consists of a toilet, kitchen and small meeting room has had the lead removed. They are hoping that the replace will be a material that is not attractive to thieves. The holds a coffee morning on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month between 10-12 they now have a proper coffee machine. Many people are unaware of the church until they need it being Wedding, Baptisms, Funerals.

On behalf of the PCC Rev Wilson Thanked the Parish Council for the contribution to cutting the 2 acres of church yard. The Church costs £480 per week to run. St Andrew's is an old building that needs a lot of TLC.

Shalford News are looking for distributors on a regular basis.

13. Ringing Remembers

On 11 November 2018, 100 years since Armistice, bells will ring out in unison from every bell tower with ring able bells in churches and cathedrals across the whole country.

Church bells across the UK remained restricted throughout the course of the war and only rang freely once Armistice was declared. On 11 November 1918 the ringing of church bells erupted spontaneously across the country, as an outpouring of relief that 4 years of war had come to an end. The aim is to honour that moment and the 1,400 bell ringers who died in the war by recruiting 1,400 new bell ringers to take part in the commemorations this year.

The campaign to recruit bell ringers, Ringing Remembers, will keep this traditional British art alive in memory of the 1,400 who lost their lives – linking together past, present and future. There have already been quarter peals rung to commemorate 100 years to the day when Shalford and Wethersfield lost servicemen in the war. As well as normal ringing for Church Services we also ring for Weddings, Funerals and other special occasions.

Anyone interested in giving it a try can contact Roy Threadgold from Boydells Farm. Roy teaches at Wethersfield, it is the ideal place to learn as Roy is one of only three qualified instructors in Essex and the Wethersfield bells are as easy as any in the county to ring.

14. District Councillor Report - DC Peter Tattersley Report by District Councillors Schwier and Tattersley to the Parish Assemblies within the 3 Fields Ward of Braintree District Council.

The last year has been both challenging and interesting for us as your District Council Representatives. We were elected in May 2015 to represent the Parishes of Great Bardfield, Finchingfield, Panfield, Shalford, and Wethersfield, and will face reselection by the Conservative Party, and re-election in 2019.

We are not full time or salaried but receive a monthly allowance. In addition to attending Parish Council Meetings, we also have a role in the District Council and between us we attended around 340 meetings, seminars and events related directly to our elected responsibilities. This is in addition to the telephone and e-mail queries that occur on a daily basis.

Whilst this is a significant workload, we feel privileged to represent our Parishes on issues affecting them at the District Council. We also aim to keep the Parish Clerk aware about issues that the parish council may find interesting and informative which they may otherwise not get to hear about. Over the last couple of months, these have included external funding and grant

opportunities, clarification about the legal definition of affordable housing and rents, road closures, Braintree Town Centre Redevelopment proposals, A120 improvements, improved Wi-Fi, Assets of Community Value and clarification about the availability of brown field sites for development. We are also able to direct the Parish Council to the most appropriate Council Officer, Department or body that is able to deal with local Parish issues.

Whilst we would normally support the Parish Council's views on all things affecting their Parish, sometimes we have to consider issues in the wider community interest. A typical example would be the Braintree District Local Plan, and in particular the development of larger community settlements.

The District Council is obliged to provide within the Local Plan development space for around 850 new homes each year, up to the year 2033, when the Plan will be updated. Failure to provide this space will result in the Council's planning powers being handed to Government appointed, unelected Officers.

Clearly, the aim would be to restrict all new building to areas which have the local communities support, but unfortunately this is not always the case, although a good number of Parishes have recognised that some small scale development can be helpful in maintaining schools, shops and pubs. However, the Council can only allocate land where the landowner is willing to allow development. A criticism that the Council could have met its housing obligations through only allocating Brown Field Sites is misguided. Statistics gathered during the development of the Plan show that if all the brown field sites in the District were offered for development by the landowner, they would only provide 17% of the housing numbers required. This falls to 5% when the sites actually offered are considered.

The majority of the identified developments will take place in and around the major settlements of Braintree, Witham and Halstead, but in order to avoid widespread development of our villages it has been necessary to consider new developments to the East and West of Braintree. The proposal that is most likely to affect our Parishes, a development proposal to the West of Braintree, is for 2500 homes during the life of the Plan, although space is being identified for more properties, depending on circumstances after 2033. These proposals will help ensure there is housing available for our children and grandchildren, with the necessary infrastructure of roads, schools, health and leisure facilities, shops, and employment land. Of particular concern is that planning permission has been granted for over 1800 new homes where building has not started. This appears to be due to developers sitting on land waiting for property prices to increase.

The Council is also looking to deal with the problem of homes being left unoccupied by doubling the council tax on those properties.

Against a backdrop of well-publicised reductions of Central Government Grant to local councils, the Council has found savings or opportunities for raising income for the financial year 2018/19

of around £877,000. We also continue to maintain all essential services and support the local economy and infrastructure by

- Providing a financial contribution to speed up a consultation on the preferred routes for the widening of the A12 and new route for the A120
- Working in partnership with the NHS to provide modern health care facilities in Braintree, Witham and Sible Hedingham
- Purchasing 63 acres of land at Great Notley to provide spaces for new factories and employment land
- Redeveloping the Braintree Town Centre
- Securing £4.95 million to build new slip roads to reduce the congestion around the A120 and Millennium Way
- Handing over the management of the Braintree Museum and Warner Archive to external Trustees who have the background and expertise to further enhance this asset
- Awarded over 80 grants to local community groups through the councillor grant scheme
- Provided improved disability access at our swimming pools and continue to introduce more schemes to allow over 60s to become more active, introducing new dementia friendly swimming and exercise sessions at our leisure centres and swimming pools, and investigating the growing problem of childhood obesity.
- Carrying out research into the extent of social isolation and loneliness, especially in our more rural areas, and helping to minimise the problem through continued use of the community transport and similar schemes.

We are proud to be associated with our dedicated Parish Councils, individual Parish Councillors and community groups in one of the most picturesque area of Essex.

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15. **County Councillor Graham Butland**

Annual Report from County Councillor Graham Butland, Member for Three Fields with Great Notley Division of Essex County Council.

Since being elected in May 2017 I have spent a significant period getting to know what is one of the largest geographical electoral divisions in Essex.

The Division contains nine Parishes namely, Rayne, Great Notley, Panfield, Shalford, Great Bardfield, Great Sailing, Bardfield Sailing, Wethersfield, and Finchingfield. In addition, there are a small number of residents who live in unparished areas of Braintree.

During the year, I have attended meetings of all Parish Councils in the area and established a good working relationship with both Parish Councillors and Clerks.

I have taken up several issues that have been raised with me both by individual constituents and Parish Councils. It will be no surprise to anyone that Highways matters, particularly those concerning potholes, have dominated my inbox.

It may be of interest to know that the County Council has resurfaced over 400 miles of roads – nearly 4 times around the M25 – and filled in 5,000 potholes during the last year. I recognise however, that this matter continues to be a cause for concern amongst constituents. The issue of speeding in our villages has also featured highly.

Other issues that have been raised with me are flooding and the availability, or lack of availability, of Broadband in parts of the area.

I have also been working closely with both the County Council and representatives of Finchingfield Parish Council on how necessary repairs to the iconic bridge in the village should be dealt with.

On the wider front the Key Achievements of Essex County Council during 2017/18 were: -

- 94% of Essex schools were judged good or outstanding - three points higher than the national average
- We helped 1,330 young people not in education, employment or training to move into employment or learning
- We gave substantial business support to 22 firms resulting in about £2.3m finance raised and multiple new products brought to market
- Reduced the number of delayed transfers of care due to social care to an average of 1,100 days per month
- Continued to invest in our country parks which has increased visitor numbers by 7.5% to almost three qtrs. of a million
- Supported the creation of 11,370 apprenticeships in the county, and we'll continue to invest to ensure our economy has the skills it needs to thrive.
- Promoted activities and delivered services which helped reduce the amount of household waste over the last 12 months by 32kg per household
- Begun construction work on 64 housing units – 41 units for private sale and 23 units for independent living for people with learning disabilities

During 2017/18 three separate initiatives were launched that give local communities access to funding to make improvements in their local area:

- **The Local Connections Fund** - £500,000 committed to support community-led activity, using a crowdfunding platform known as The Essex Crowd Movement. Depending on the number of individual pledges (min. £2), ECC will match the fundraising efforts of qualifying projects up to the value of £5,000.
- **The Local Services Fund** - £500,000 to support more formal, traditional services by being more locally responsive and to improve local places. The fund is being administered by the Essex Association of Local Councils who publicise the fund to parish councils, housing associations, and other formally constituted local groups.
- **The Essex Lottery** – The lottery is open to anybody aged 16 or over who is physically based in Essex. Tickets cost £1 and the Jackpot can be £25,000.

I have been please to support a number of applications for projects within the Division.

Essex County Council Budget for 2018/19

We have set high ambitions for Essex in the face of a difficult financial context and the Council has a strong record of sound financial management, focusing on providing efficient services that matter to residents.

The Council will spend a gross budget (including schools) of £1,847m and a capital programme of £299m to deliver its priorities in 2018/19.

We have an outstanding track record of delivering value to tax-paying residents. We have delivered £350m of savings in the last 4 years by driving out inefficiency, generating income and reducing costs, and the budget now presented is based on delivering a further £59m of savings and efficiencies in 2018/19. This track record has enabled the Council not only to maintain services in new and improved ways at lower cost, but also to invest for the future so that Essex is a better place in which to live and work.

Despite our efforts, price increases, population growth and increasing demand for services, particularly for social care, means we will need to utilise the 2% Social Care precept facility offered by government, and increase Council Tax by 2.99%. The precept is being used to insulate Adult Social Care from the savings required across other portfolios.

We need to ensure effective services not just for today, but for the future. Therefore, we have ambitious plans for our capital investment - a capital programme of £299m, an increase of £32m on that for 2017/18. This investment will help deliver our strategic aims and priorities, and in some cases, give us a return on investment. The programme includes investment in independent living schemes for older and vulnerable adults, generating greater supply of housing, sufficiency of school places (including schools for children with special needs), and in schemes to promote economic growth, including improvements to the roads and footpaths that we all use daily. We are also providing an extra £3m investment in our highways over the coming twelve months.

Finally, I am available to try and help any resident who may be experiencing an issue which is the responsibility of Essex County Council. I can be contacted by email at cllr.graham.butland@essex.gov.uk

16. Footpath Report Cllr Norman

Back ground – Essex CC used to be responsible for keeping the footpaths and PRoW passable. Due to cut backs in funding in recent years they now only cut some of the vegetation once a year, which in the growing season isn't enough. The PCC is trying to establish the current situation and put extra resources into the right places ie making what we have go as far as possible.

They have established a 4-person working party – Cllrs Alan Oates, Mandy French,

Colin Golding and myself, but we are open to any volunteers from residents. If you want to help please see me afterwards.

Establish responsibility – We are nearing the completion of this part of the project.

We want to work with farmers and landowners.

Establish the current state of the footpaths and PRoW.

Decide where we need to concentrate our efforts.

Obtain funding. We have already made an initial bid and we now have to back that up.

Decide on a company to undertake any identified work.

Please Those residents who are dog walkers or just like a stroll through our parish please inform us of any problems you encounter, and we will add it to the list if appropriate.

17. Highways Report Cllr Gurnett

28% of people completed the questionnaire that the Parish Council did in October

94% use their car daily

97% Park their cars off road

2.3 Average heads per household

2.2 Average cars per household

Areas of Concern

School, Speed limit not observed, Lack of Footpaths, Victoria Hill, Corners of both Clifffield and Barryfields, Speeding Motorcyclist, Footpaths impassable, Racetrack, HGV shaking the house.

Priorities

88% Reduce Speed limit at school

73% Reduce Speed limit in village

76% Parking issues in the village

Double yellow lines (Clifffield)

27 Resident interested in joining Speedwatch

89% people thought that Speed reactive illuminated signs

All the results will be published on the website in due course. The Working Party will meet and create a presentation to ECC with requests for improvement to the Parish

The Chairman Thanked Everyone for attending the Meeting and invited everyone to stay and have some refreshments with the Councillors.