



# Shalford Parish Council

Parish Clerk:

Cathryn Carlisle

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Annual Parish Assembly Minutes Wednesday 26th April 2017

Present 6 members of the Council

DC Schwier

38 members of the public

Cathryn Carlisle (Clerk)

1. Welcome to the 2017 Shalford Parish meeting.

My name is Colin Golding and I am the Chairman of Shalford Parish Council. My fellow Councillors are sitting in the front row and we are pleased to also welcome one of our District Councillors Peter Schwier.

The purpose of the APM is to give the Village organisations the opportunity to tell you about their activities and to promote themselves.

But as always we have invited guest speakers and tonight we have Nick Buhaenko Smith from SERCLE and Nigel Wilson from Andrewsfield Aviation.

You should have received a copy of the PC annual report through your letterbox and I don't intend to go through it in any detail but just to say we meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month here in the Village Hall at 7:30 and residents are most welcome to attend and have their say.

In the Annual Report I say that there are two issues that we believe threaten our village and our rural way of life.

The first is the volume and speed of vehicles going through the village, so we are setting up a working party of Councillors and residents to develop a highways plan for Shalford. This will identify all the problems we face and look for solutions. We will then submit it to the appropriate authorities. If you want to join that working party then let Cathy our Clerk have your name and contact details.

The second issue is Braintree District Council's proposal to build a New Garden Community of up to 10,000 houses on our doorstep.

That is why we have invited Nick to talk tonight about the campaign to try to stop it. I won't say anymore and steel his thunder, except to say that if it goes ahead it will almost certainly see the demise of Andrewsfield which is why we have also invited Nigel, who is a flying

instructor based at Andrewsfield, to talk about the airfield and why it is such a great community asset.

2. Apologies

Angela and Alec Tanner  
DC Tattersley  
The Vicar  
CC Walters  
Cllr Norman

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were approved and signed Proposed by Cllr Oates Seconded by Cllr Askew

4. **Nick Buhaenko-Smith** - SERCLE A campaign against West of Braintree Garden Community settlement

Nick Buhaenko-Smith gave a presentation on the West Of Braintree Proposed Garden Community

What is the West of Braintree (WoB) Proposal

- Garden Community” with leafy suburbs and green lanes
- A development with infrastructure first
- *“A place where our children and grandchildren can live”*
- A development that conserves nature
- High quality housing with a large % of affordable home

West of Braintree - The reality?

- A 10,000+ commuter town that brings along all the issues with a large estate:
  - A construction site that lasts decades?
  - Increased traffic
  - Increased crime
  - Pollution – light, noise and air
  - Loss of countryside
  - Unaffordable housing
  - Loss of Andrewsfield and other community assets

What Can you Do?

- Support your Parish Council!

- Support resident campaign!
- Ask you district councillors on their views
- Look towards the May county council elections and find out what the candidates views are?

## 5. **Nigel Willson Flying** Instructor Andrewsfield Aviation

Why Andrewsfield is a great community asset

Nigel Willson gave an excellent talk on the History of Andrewsfield which was originally known as RAF Great Saling, the airfield was supposed to take – 15-18 months to build the Americans had it built in 10 months it had everything the Americans need this included a cinema etc. The resident squadrons included B17's Marauders famous planes Mild and Bitter( B-26 Marauder Mild And Bitter Completes 100th Bombing Mission in 1944) B-26, "Flak Bait" (41-31773) survived to the end of hostilities with 202 missions to its credit. These planes are now in America. The Airfield was renamed after General Frank Andrews who over saw the building of the airfield. The Polish Mustangs moved in after the Americans left.

After the war finished the airfield was returned to Agriculture, in 1975 Clive Harvey and Robert Bucknell formed the Club. Since then the Club has flourished today it doesn't just training recreational pilots it trains commercial pilots.

The Club has Cessna 152 x 5 Cessna 172 Piper Warrior.

Courses that can be obtained there are as follows:-

LAPL

PPL Private Pilot License

CPL Commercial Pilot License

Flight Instructors Courses

Flight Examiners Courses

IMC/Night Rating

Advanced Pilots License

Formation Flying

People come from all over the country to training,

To start training to be a pilot you need a medical, you have to take 9 written exams, a minimum of 45hrs flying training, you can fly solo after 10-15 hrs of flying, you need to training in Cross Country Flights, skills testing. The minimum age to start flying solo is 16yrs.

A PPL costs between £7,000- £8,000

CPL Cost £10,000 on top of PPL

Then you need to added in other qualification that cost £25,000, to get a all type rating to fly something like a 737 it would cost another £26,000.

Naple Air Centre is contracted by Andrewsfield Aviation Limited (AAL) to provide EASA pilot training courses under the approval of AAL by the UK CAA and are specifically listed on the approval certificate and inspected by the CAA on behalf of EASA. So not only is Andrewsfield a well-known and used airfield on our doorstep its not just an airfield its where they train future pilots for the larger organizations on a small field. There are other airfields but they don't offer what Andrewsfield does with all the amount of expertise.

If Andrewsfield was to shut Stansted flights would be able to fly lower over the area.

A short film was show of a formation flight.

### **Shalford Carpet Bowls Club- Vic Goody**

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

Our club is affiliated to the English Carpet Bowls Association with an elected committee representing twenty four members. Most members either come from or have long standing connection with Shalford.

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 join 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.

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

Shalford has been represented in some Charity Tournaments and two members reached the quarter final stage of a Pairs Tournament in an event held at the Braintree Leisure Centre last December. 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 purchased new Carpets and Bowls last year and they have been a big success. If these last as long and as well as the old ones we can look forward to playing on them for many years.

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 add a photograph Archive page to keep a record of past members and achievements.

### ***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.

6. **Village Hall Management** Committee - Colin Golding

Shalford Village Hall and recreation ground exists by virtue of the time and effort put in by the dedicated members of the Management Committee and helpers.

We owe a special thanks to one of those helpers Lawrence Rawlinson who cuts the grass for us during the year which saves us a great deal of money and I am pleased to say he has agreed to carry on this year.

With all the improvements we have made to the facilities over the last few years we have seen a continued growth in lettings which is very pleasing and helps our viability. In fact the Hall is now used most days or evenings during the week.

On the subject of improvements, we obtained grants this year to buy a replacement tractor for cutting the grass, it will also allow us to undertake some of the field maintenance work that we currently have to employ contractors to do, thereby saving money.

As many of you know we have been raising money for our roof refurbishment project and the fund reached over £19k this year. This meant that we could put a grant application in to Veolia Environmental Trust for the balance of the project cost and we are waiting to hear the outcome. If successful we will not only be refurbishing the roof but putting in a new vaulted, insulated ceiling and replacing the windows with new high energy efficient ones thereby saving on heating costs. If this goes ahead we will be asking for the understanding of our regular hirers as we will have to close the Hall for a few weeks but there will be plenty of notice.

In terms of events we held two tea parties for the senior citizens of the village, one on the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and the other at Christmas and we were grateful to the Parish Council for sponsoring these.

We also had the annual Cricket Festival which boosted the roof fund.

Turning to finance, our accounts have been audited again this year by an external auditor. Last year we didn't increase our letting charges but with increased utility bills and the like we have had to make a small increase this year to cover our costs. However we still rely on fund raising events and grants to make improvements to the facilities.

So again thank you to all those who support us and hopefully I will be speaking to your next year under a new roof and improved hall.

7. **Fostac** - Sue Morton

Activities since the FOSTAC AGM in May 2016 have helped to raise money to enable FOSTAC to contribute to the cost of restoring the Organ in St Andrew's Church. This work is now complete, and an Organ Recital took place on Sunday 23 April 2017 to celebrate the refurbishment. Over the last year FOSTAC has also contributed to the cost of curtains for the St Andrew's Church meeting room, and glass for the ringing chamber.

### **Events held from March 2016**

2016 started with a March Spring Tea held on the 1/3/16. Other events that took place were:

Chelmsford Cathedral Choir - 21 May 2016

Come & Sing - 25 June 2016

60's evening with Hog Roast - 16 July 2016

Tea Party – 11/9/16

Braintree Male Voice Choir – 11 October 2016

Christmas Fayre coach trip to Ely Cathedral 17 November 2016

Christmas Concert – 10 December 2016

### **Planned Events for 2017**

2017 started with a Spring Tea on 15/3/17

Janet Dann Comedienne 2/6/17

Hog Roast Songs from the Shows – 22/7/17

Gospel Choir – 23/9/17

Pastry Demo – 17/10/17

St Andrew's Night – 18/11/17

Potential Coach trip on 22/11 or 23/11 to Bury St Edmunds Christmas Market

Christmas Concert – 9/12/17

### **Tickets for events are available from Shalford Village Stores.**

During the year we were pleased to welcome a new member to the Committee Alison Gurnett, however 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, FOSTAC is working on ideas for new events and 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.

**8. Shalford Local History Association - Barbara Mavis**

I have not yet discovered when the Shalford History Association was first formed, but I do know it was around in the 1980,s.

The Association has during this time published nine books on the history of Shalford, the latest being Tales around a Shalford Fireside, on sale at £5.

We are a small group 11 in number, but we are open to new members who have an interest in Shalford history past and present. We meet 10 times a year in the village hall, our annual fees are £10.

Every year we give the local school a project to work on, this year it is comparing their school life with children one hundred years ago, the school is then presented with the May Langford Cup

Our big project this year is to hold an exhibition July `1<sup>st</sup> in the village hall showing photographs, artefacts and almost everything we have discovered about Shalford and its people

This year we also hope to join the 21<sup>st</sup> c by going computerised and make all our records available in time to anybody

Last year saw the resignation of David Cobb who acted as Treasurer and Chairperson and was a member for over 20 years, we wish to thank David for all his hard work over the years.

The last 100 years has changed this country beyond recognition, the mechanisation of farms, and the and men leaving the land for other types of work most people owning at least one car and of course computers, just a few things, but enough to tell us how important it is to look after our heritage and our records.

**9. Bendlowes Trust - Alice Cox**

A very brief history of the Charity is that it was formed in 1573 by William Bendlowe. William Bendlowe was born 1516 and died at the age of 68 in 1584. He was a Sergeant-at-Law and Law Reporter. The Trust for Shalford was for 2 elderly gentlemen and 2 elderly women to receive coal and clothes.

We took on the task of promoting the Charity last June and since October last year we have received several very generous donations for which we are very grateful. These donations coupled to our two fund raising events has resulted in us increasing the Charity's cash fund by just under £1,000 which places us in a very strong position for the coming year.

We have now had five people volunteer to join the Bendlowe Supporters' club with a view to helping to organise and run events. Willing people are so vital to ensure the Charity flourishes and continues for many more years to come.

We believe the Charity's niche in the community is to encourage and provide social activities to enable the residents of Shalford to socialise as much as possible. So often when people retire or lose their partner their opportunity to have a good chat or discussion is diminished.

Our first function to fulfil this started in January this year – MEET AND GREET. Meet and Greet is held the first Friday of every month between 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. A light lunch of sandwiches, savouries, cake, tea and coffee, is provided, plus the opportunity to play board games such as scrabble or card games such as cribbage or just have a chat. I am pleased to report that this is proving to be very successful with approximately 25 to 30 people joining us every month. Our plan is to carry this through to Christmas and further if it is wanted.

We are also carrying our main objective to encourage people to socialise and enjoy themselves through into our fund raising events. Our next fund raising event is on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> May when Vic and Marion have so generously volunteered to play music and sing for us as they did last December. Please come along and support us as it promises to be an excellent evening.

I don't know if any of you have seen in the media "The Great Get Together" being promoted in memory of Jo Cox. The purpose is to gather neighbours together and share what we have in common. We felt that this matched our Charity very well and we are running a Beetle Drive here at the Village Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017. We have chosen a Beetle Drive as we are aiming at all age groups from young children to Grand Parents. Please spread the word and come along and support the event not just for Bendlowe's but also for the memory of Jo Cox.

William Bendlowe set the Charity up to benefit 4 people in the village so we feel very comfortable in catering for the minority as well as the majority. We are aiming to hire a minibus for up to 17 people and have an outing to the 95<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group in Horham, Suffolk on 25<sup>th</sup> June to visit their annual Americana Day.

We are also looking at possibly arranging a lunch for 6 to 8 people at a local venue.

We have on show on the table leaflets and flyers promoting our events; the history of William Bendlowe Charity; together with our Newsletter. Please feel free to pick any of them up and take home to read.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask me at the end of the meeting.

Finally, may I take this opportunity of thanking you all for listening.

#### **10. Shalford Horticultural Society - Heather Smith**

In 2016 the SHS ran two successful Shows and a well-attended quiz in January 2017. The quiz is the SHS's only means of fund raising which is used to pay for stationery, hall hire and to fund the major prizes still awarded at each Show.

Our biggest expense is the printing of 350 schedules which are delivered to every household in the Parish. We try to cover this cost through advertising by the sponsorship of local businesses. Last year the SHS barely covered the printing costs through such sponsorship.

As with all village societies and clubs our existence is dependent on villager's participation and while there is interest in the Shows we will thrive.

We are a small committee who are always ready to welcome new committee members. However, knowledge of horticulture is not a requirement just sacksful of enthusiasm.

The committee members look forward to the 2017 Shows on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017 which can only happen with your support and entries.

**11. St Andrews Church – Rev Janet Nicholls Rural Adviser**

On behalf of Rector Colin Wilson and the PCC they would like to Thank everyone for their support in the church. Rev Nicholls Thanked the Parish Council for the grant they give each year towards the up keep of the Church Yard.

The Church hold services on a Sunday which many people attend, some resident only come to the festivals ie Christmas, Easter, Remembrance Sunday, some come just to the coffee mornings for a nice cup of coffee and nice cake, or just celebrating wedding and Christenings you are always welcome whenever. The church is always open in daylight hours. If anyone is interested in having a wedding please contact us.

If anyone hasn't had enough of AGM's the Church has there on Thursday evening.

**12. District Councillor Report - DC Peter Schwier**

2016/17 Report by Cllrs Schwier & Tattersley

We were elected in May, 2015 onto the Braintree District Council, at a time when the overall number of councillors was reduced from 61 to 49, resulting in all District Councillors representing a larger number of constituents than previously.

However, we do not feel that this has adversely affected our Three Fields Ward.

We both hold key positions on the Council. Cllr Schwier is a member of the influential Planning and Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Cllr Tattersley is the portfolio holder for health and communities on the council Cabinet.

We will always attempt to attend your Parish Council meetings, both to listen to any concerns you may have, and either suggest solutions, or in many cases try to resolve them through our contacts at the District Council. We also use the opportunity to advise and inform about important and relevant issues happening across the Braintree District which may interest or affect your Parish.

Sometimes dates clash meaning we cannot attend, but our good relationships and communications with your parish clerk can often overcome the non-attendance.

The last 12 months have seen a number of achievements at the District Council. Many of these do not attract much political or press attention, but which nevertheless are an important feature of the work of the Council. Examples include the inspection of food premises and places of work, maintenance of open spaces, lobbying for external funding, support to voluntary organisations, equalities and safeguarding obligations, business development, employment creation and liaison with other public bodies.

However, whilst many of these services receive no publicity, there are also a number of activities which do attract attention, not least our financial viability. The squeeze on local government finances comes from many directions, and pressure for increasing spending on key areas is inevitable. As a Council, we have made £11.2 million savings since 2010, whilst maintaining public satisfaction rates higher than the national average, 86%, compared to 67%.

Other achievements on which we are proud to be associated include:

- Increasing recycling facilities into flats
- Combining an excellent refuse collection and litter clearance service
- Granting planning permission for over 1200 houses in the past year, often with the support of parish councils
- Providing business loans to help, amongst others, provide new doctors surgeries. These provide ongoing income streams which help to minimise council tax bills.
- Allocating £250,000 to support Superfast Essex in providing improved internet coverage
- Increased participation in sporting activities
- Introducing obesity initiatives in schools
- Introducing community priced weddings and tea dances to increase the use of the Braintree Town Hall
- Introduction of councillor community grants

2017/18 will bring new challenges to both District and Parish Councils.

Funding levels from central government will continue to fall, requiring ever more innovative solutions to maintain services as an alternative to increasing council tax.

However, the most significant challenge the council has faced over recent years is the requirement by government for around 862 houses to be provided in the District, each year to 2033. A total of around 13,600 houses.

Some communities are advocating building these alongside existing settlements, whilst others prefer these to be concentrated in new purpose built Garden Communities.

Whatever the final decision is, infrastructure (roads, schools, community facilities, open space,) is clearly the key to the success of this significant challenge.

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

In addition to our obligations to the district as a whole, we will always aim to ensure the opinions and concerns of all our communities are fully understood by our District Council colleagues.

**13. Pam Lee Tree Warden**

Please contact me if you need to find out if you have a Tree Preservation Order on a Tree.

My details are on the website and in the Parish Magazine.

**14. David Paul**

Is Trying to get a better internet signal for Shalford Green and Jaspers Green, there in no guarantee for the next 10 years. Mr Paul has met with Graham Butland of BDC and Kevin Bently to find out if there is any chance that BDC and ECC will help to get one green box at Shalford Green enabled it would cost £29,500 plus another £44,500 for Jaspers Green.

**15. Questions**

There were no questions

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed.....

Dated.....