

Annual Report for Shalford Parish Council, some of its activities and the services that have been provided during the year up to April 2009.

Parish Council Meetings and Election of Officers

There have been 10 Parish Council meetings, an Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting. The Parish Council comprises:

Chairman: Councillor John Phipps
Vice-Chairman: Councillor Jenni Harrison
Councillor Colin Golding (Co-opted)
Councillor David Isbel
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.

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 - The Parish Council works in conjunction with Essex County Council through the Parish Paths Partnership scheme to continue to improve our network of footpaths. Work continues in providing more way-markers and bridges to our footpaths. The mowing of the foot paths in the parish is undertaken by a contractor, Bob Bell, and a volunteer Councillor Alan Oates.

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 — To help with the publication of books about Shalford.

St Andrews Church PCC £2000 - A contribution towards the cost of cutting the grass in the Churchyard. Village Hall Management Committee £3300 - towards a gang mower.

To accompany this annual report please see the Summary of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 March 2009.

Cathryn Carlisle

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

May 2009