

Shalford Parish Council



Annual Report
2011/12

Annual Report for Shalford Parish Council Year ending April 2012

Parish Council met on the following dates during year 2011/12

18th May 2011

15th June 2011

20th July 2011

17th August 2011

21st September 2011

19th October 2011

16th November 2011

14th December 2011

18th January 2012

15th February 2012

21st March 2012

Parish Clerk: Mrs Cathryn Carlisle

Elected Officers for the 7 seats are:-

Chairman: Councillor Colin Golding (Cllr Golding replaced Cllr Kate Binks during the current year following her resignation in February 2012)

Vice-Chairman: Councillor David Eversden

Other Council Members:

Councillor Corinne Eves

Councillor Alan Oates

Councillor Gillian Askew

2 vacancies

Planning Committee Chairman: Councillor Colin Golding

Website: Councillor David Eversden maintains the Shalford Parish Council Website

Village Hall Committee Representative: Councillor David Eversden

Chairman's Report

It was with regret that two Councillors resigned during the year for personal reasons and at the time of writing this report the Council is actively looking for candidates to co-opt onto the Parish Council.

Councillors give up their time freely in order to try to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors to Shalford.

Anyone interested in being co-opted on to the Parish Council should contact the Clerk as soon as possible.

Residents are welcome to come and air their views at the monthly Parish Council meetings 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 3 years. Later in this report you will find the details of how the Parish Council has spent some of this money this year and the full audited accounts are published on the website and are available from the Clerk.

In the coming year one of our key focusses will be the Government's new planning legislation and the possible need to develop a Village Plan for Shalford in order to protect our village from unwanted development. As this is new legislation there is still a lot of uncertainty as to its implications and we will be taking every opportunity to learn more and get a better understanding so that we can ensure that Shalford's rural tranquillity is something we can all continue to enjoy.

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. Mr Mal Hanley 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 £4500 – A contribution towards the running cost of the Village Hall.

The Parish Council also provided grants to:

Shalford Local History Association £250

Shalford Horticultural Society £250

Fostac £250.00

Bendelows Trust £250

CCFC (Football Club) £250

These grants are intended to provide equipment or to use for projects that will help the organisations flourish in the village.

Other non-routine expenditure

The Parish Council has purchased the following:

2 Village gateway signs for Shalford Green

Salts bins for 3 locations in the village

An additional litter bin for the playing field

2 Moveable goal posts for the playing field for use by village children.

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 Allianz Cornhill.

Planning – All members of the Council sit on the Planning Committee. The Committee is chaired by Cllr Colin Golding.

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 20 Planning applications during the year. It has also responded to

Braintree District Council's Land Allocation review which will form part of Braintree District Council's District Plan.

Braintree District Council received a Section 106 contribution from the development of the Affordable Housing on Stondonfield. This had to be spent on recreational green spaces and in consultation with the Village Hall Management Committee it was agreed that this should be used for refurbishing the tennis court on the playing fields which will be undertaken in the Spring.

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 and the Parish Council liaises with ECC on the quality of this service.

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 Phipps Landscapes 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

Activity Days - The Parish Council paid for the Village Hall to hold an Activity Day during the school summer holidays.

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 and their proposals will be presented at the Annual Parish Assembly.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Parish Council arranged for an oak Tree to be planted on the green opposite the Village hall to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It has also purchased a beacon to be lit on the Monday evening of the Jubilee Weekend and is providing £1000 funding towards the celebrations.

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
Colin Golding T:- 01371 850246 E:- colin.golding@sky.com
David Eversden T:- 01371 850606 E:- david@shalford.fslife.co.uk
Corinne Eves T:- 01371 850871 E:- cje@pantvalleypetorium.com
Gillian Askew T:- 01371 851433 E:- gillianaskew@msn.com
Alan Oates T:- 01371 850621 E:- alankoates@aol.com

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2012/2013

18th April	16th May
Annual Parish Meeting	2 nd May
20 th June	18th July
15 th August	19th September
17th October	21st November
12th December	16 th January 2013
20th February	20th March