

SHALFORD
PARISH COUNCIL
for the residents of Shalford
Year 2017/18



Parish Council Meetings – all welcome

Parish Council meetings, which are open to all, are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, in the Village Hall, commencing at 7:30 p.m.

Agendas will be published on the notice board and web site at least 3 clear days in advance of the meeting.

Each meeting starts with the Public Forum - which last for 15 minutes is where parishioners are encouraged to come along and share their views and concerns.

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

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2017/18

18 th Jan 2017	30 th Sept 2017
15 th Feb 2017	18 th Oct 2017
15 th Mar 2017	15 th Nov 2017
19 th Apr 2017	20 th Dec 2017
APM 27 th Apr	17 th Jan 2018
11 th May (1 week earlier)	21 st Feb 2018
21 st June 2017	21 st Mar 2018
19 th July 2017	18 th Apr 2018
No Aug Meeting	APM 25 th April 2018

Contact Details for the Parish Clerk

Mrs Cathryn Carlisle, Herkstead Green Bungalow, Cornish Hall End,
Braintree, Essex CM7 4HH - Tel: 01440 731964

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Chairman's Report

Much has been going on behind the scenes at Shalford Parish Council during the last year as we try to keep our village a pleasant, safe place to live.

I would hope by now most residents are aware of Braintree District Council's proposal to build up to 14,000 houses on the land between Great Saling and Stebbing which they euphemistically call "West of Braintree Garden Community".

We have been working with our neighbouring Parishes of Great Saling, Rayne, Great Bardfield, Felsted and Stebbing to fight these proposals. The latest step in the process was a public hearing of the plan, held at Colchester Football Stadium, in front of a Government Planning Inspector. Our Joint Parish Council group was represented by a Planning Consultant at the hearing and he raised many objections on our behalf which were noted by the Inspector. We now have to wait until later in Spring to find out what the Inspector's conclusions are.

Alongside this BDC also issued an "Issues and Options" consultation on "West of Braintree Garden Community". There were several hundred responses opposing the development and only two in favour and they were from the developer, who wants to build the houses and Essex County Council. The consultation will be reported on at the BDC Local Plan Sub-Committee meeting in May, so it remains to be seen if the Council will listen to the voices of the people who elected them.

This is far from the end of our fight and we are likely to need further professional advice as the process develops, so we are still fund raising with the other Parish Councils to ensure we can give the best representation possible.

I would urge you to voice your objections to our District Councillors and MP at every opportunity and please respond to every consultation from BDC. It is not a **done deal**.

Our Highways Working Party has met on a number of occasions and has conducted a survey in the village, gathering information about people's concerns about speeding traffic, parking, accident black spots etc. Their report is currently in preparation and we hope to submit it to Essex Highways Department later in the year.

We have also set up a Footpath Working Group this year with the intention of taking over some of the maintenance responsibilities from Essex County Council who have sadly neglected footpaths as a "low priority" in recent years.

All our Parish Councillors dedicate a lot of their time and effort to try to maintain our village way of life but despite our efforts we are still losing services such as the Saturday No9 bus and some of the library services but as with "West of Braintree" we don't give up without a fight. So I would like to conclude by thanking all my colleagues for their selfless approach in serving as Parish Councillors.

Shalford Parish Councillors

Seven Councillors, next election May 2019

Chairman:

Councillor Colin Golding



(2008)

Vice Chairman:

Councillor Gillian Askew



(2012)

Other Council Members:



Alan Oates
(2005)



David Eversden
(2006)



Mandy French
(2015)



Adrian Gurnett
(2017)



Richard Norman
(2017)



Cathryn Carlisle
(2006)

Parish Clerk

District Councillor's

County Councillor

Mrs Cathryn Carlisle

Peter Tattersley

Peter Schwier

Graham Butland

Councillors Role's

Planning Committee Chairman: Councillor Mandy French

Website: Councillor David Eversden

Village Hall Committee Representative: Councillor David Eversden

Transport Representative: Cllr Gillian Askew

Bridleways Cllr Mandy French

Footpaths Cllrs French, Cllr Norman, Cllr Oates, Cllr Golding

Highways Cllr Gurnett, Cllr Askew

Meeting Attendance – DC & CC normally have more than one parish council meeting on any one evening to attend

	Apr	May	June	July	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Colin Golding	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y
Mandy French	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	I	Y
Gillian Askew	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	A	Y
David Eversden	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	I	Y	Y
Alan Oates	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y
Adrian Gurnett	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Richard Norman	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y
District Councillors	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y
CC G Butland	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N

Legend

A – Apology H – Holiday I – Illness N – Non-Attendance
R – Resigned Y – Attended

The Details – what we do

Finances: -

The Parish Council holds two separate accounts at Barclays Bank 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.

An internal audit is undertaken, and the appointed External Auditors are the Audit Commission.

Managing Our Finances: -

Our income comes from the Parish Rate charged to each household within Shalford and shown against the BDC rate sent to all in March each year

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 organisations: -

Grants are available to provide equipment or to use for projects that will help the organisations flourish in the village. St Andrews Church PCC received a grant of £2,000 in 17/18 as a contribution towards making the churchyard a tranquil place to visit and contemplate.

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:-

The Parish Council is a Statutory Consultee under planning legislation. As such it can make recommendations to Braintree District Council (BDC) as to whether a particular application should be approved or not but they do not have to accept those recommendations. The Parish Council presided over 20 planning applications and Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) last 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. Due to financial constraints ECC now only cut footpaths once a year.

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 bus shelters at Clifffield, Church End 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 Meeting: -

Since 2009 it has been a statutory requirement for a Parish Council to organise the Annual Parish Meeting which is an opportunity for residents to ask questions of the Parish Council and for organisations in the village to talk about their activities and recruit new members.

Stoneley Park: -

The Parish Council has liaised with Essex County Council with regard to landscaping the old amenity area at Stoneley Park. This should be 99% completed by Easter 2018

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2018/2019

Normally on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Shalford Village Hall at 7.30pm - Public are Welcome to attend

Meeting Agenda displayed on the Parish Notice boards at Village Hall Car Park and Clifffield bus shelter, plus web site, 3 days prior to meetings

16th May

20th Jun

18th July

No Meeting August

19th Sept

17th Oct

21th Nov

19th Dec

16th Jan

20th Feb

20th Mar

17th Apr

APM 24th April

We receive payment from Braintree District Council known as a precept payment which is derived from our expected costs for the coming year which councillors submit each January to Braintree DC

One of the main aims in the past few years has been to improve our village environment for the benefit of all, late Autumn 2016 another 1,000 daffodils bulbs were planted in the Jaspers Green/Shalford Green areas and this year we plan to plant native Bluebells.

The Parish Council accounts are available to view on the website



Hulls Lane

Jaspers Green Telephone Box
our plans for a defibrillator in the phone box at Jaspers Green have been somewhat delayed



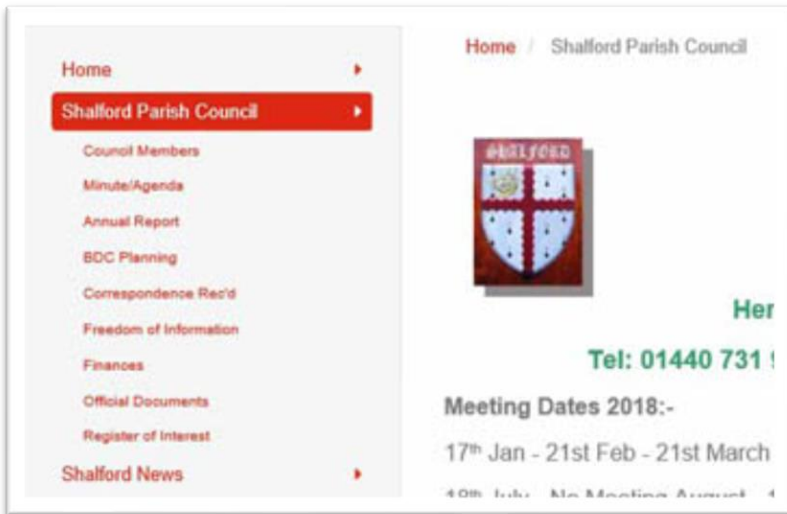
Stoneley Park



Keeping You Informed

Shalford Parish Council operates an open-door policy where all documents are published for all to view

Visit our improved website at: - <http://www.essexinfo.net/shalford>,. This is a completely free web hosting service provided by Essex County Council where we hold public records for example:



1. 14 years of Minutes & Agendas
2. 9 years of Annual Reports
3. 7 months of Planning Applications applying to Shalford with links to BDC planning search web site engine
4. Recent addition to view important documents received by our Parish Clerk

Join our Monthly Email Service

Receive one email per month providing Current News items and upcoming Events, in a secure system by sending your name & telephone contact number to: -

ADD ME at: - info@shalfordnews.co.uk

Shalford
Annual Parish Assembly
Shalford Village Hall
April 25th, 2018
7.30pm

GUEST SPEAKERS

Derek Smith

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

There will be a Collection for the above

AND

Andrew Brown

Landfill Restoration Manager ECC

Update on Stoneley Park

PLUS

**Presentations from various Village
Organisations**

**An opportunity to put questions and suggestions
to your Parish Council**

Refreshments will be provided

Everyone is Welcome