

Annual Report for Great Saling Parish Council Year ending April 2018

Parish Council met on the following dates during year 2017/18

11 th January	8 th February	8th March
12th April	3 rd May AGM APM	14th June
12th July	9th August	13th Sept
11th Oct	8th Nov	13th Dec

Parish Clerk: Mrs Cathryn Carlisle

Elected Officers for the 5 seats are:-

Chairman Mrs Diane Greenwood

Other Council Members:

Mr Peter Martin
Mr Colin Bennett
Mrs Sue Baugh
Mrs Kathy Jiggins

Great Saling Parish Council would like to report the following items and services that have been provided during the year up to April 2018

Parish Council Meetings and Election of Officers: There have been 10 Parish Council meetings, an Annual Parish Meeting and at the Annual Meeting councilors and parishioners were elected to the following positions:

Village Hall Representatives:- Mrs Diane Greenwood and Peter Martin

Footpaths: Mr Colin Bennett
Website: Cathryn Carlisle

Chairman's Report

The proposed West of Braintree development, along with proposed development in Uttlesford continue to loom large over our area. The Parish Councils, Joint Councils and SERCLE continue to monitor events. Since the Planning Inspectorate's examination held in January a previously proposed development has come forward and complained that they were not included in the process; this has postponed matters and we are yet to see any decisions made.

The other big issue that we have faced in the last year has been the arrival of Travellers on our playing field. In July last year we held a public meeting to discuss this matter and it was agreed that we would place a number of concrete bollards to provide a more permanent solution; grant funding was obtained, and the concrete bollards are now in place. The Parish Council seeks further funding to place a height barrier over the gate to give further protection to our most treasured open space. As Spring arrives and Summer beckons, Travellers are already on the move again and we must be vigilant in observing their movements to protect all open spaces in our Parish.

If one good thing came out of the Traveller incidents it was the heightened sense of Community that was evident; not only within our Parish but also neighboring parishes. I strongly feel that we should build on this to create a close knit and thriving community that offers something for everyone here, and I would encourage everyone to volunteer and get involved from time to time; from the fete, the litter pick; and more social events at the Village Hall - it would be wonderful to have some kind of social club run by the parishioners to provide events and strengthen that sense of community. If you are willing to get involved in community life then please do not hesitate to contact me!

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.

Mrs Yvonne Morton undertakes the internal audit and the appointed External auditors are Littlejohn LLP

Precept.

Although the Parish Council has maintained expenses at previous levels the precept has increased due to a reduction in funding from Braintree District Council.

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.

Subscriptions:

The Parish Council subscribes to the following organizations for consultation purposes:

National Association of Local Councils,
Essex Association of Local Councils,

Braintree Association of Local Councils,
Rural Community Council of Essex,
Essex Playing Field Association

Grants to local organizations:

Churchyard Grass Cutting £200
Parish Magazine £150

Planning:

The Parish Council considers all proposed planning applications either at a planning sub-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.

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 14 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.

Grass Verge Grass Cutting:

The Grass cutting is undertaken by MDLandscapes

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 undertakes this service. Some of the village lights have been switched to the part night scheme. They go off at midnight and come back on at 5.30am

Street Cleaning:

The Parish Council annually does a litter pick around the village.

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 public paths throughout the village is undertaken by Robert Bucknell.

Notice Boards:

The Parish Council provides a Notice Board in the Village. The Clerk regularly updates the notice board, which provides local Information.

Dog Waste Bins:

These are provided by and emptied by Braintree District Council

Website:

The Parish Council's website address is: www.essexinfo.net/greatsalingpc

Community Right to Buy:

The Council has completed an entry on the Land Registry in respect of White Hart. This means that, should the White Hart be put back on the market, the community has 6 months to put in a bid to buy the property.

Action Group

The Action Group and the Parish Council continue to work together.

Attendance Record

	April	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Di Greenwood	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y	Y	y	Y	Y	Y	Apol
Peter Martin	Y	Y	Apol	Y	Apol	Apol	Y	Apol	Apol	Y	Apol	Apol
Colin Bennett	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	y	Apo	Y	Y
Jasmine Beckett	No Apol	Y	Resigned	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sue Baugh		y	Apol	Y	Apol	Y	Y	y	Apol	Apol	Y	Y
Dc Banthorpe			C	y		Apol	Y	y	Apol	Y	Apol	Y
Kathy Jiggins							y	y	y	Y	Y	Y
CC Butland								Apol	y	Y		Apol

June Meeting Cancelled August Meeting Cancelled

A = Apologies

Y = Attended

C = Meeting Cancelled due no Quorum

R = Resigned

X = Not Attended

Contact Details for Clerk and Councilors:

Mr Peter Martin	07801236461
Mrs Diane Greenwood	01371 851763
Mr Colin Bennett	01371 850320
Mrs Sue Baugh	01371 850168
Mrs Kathy Jiggins	01371 850002
Clerk Cathryn Carlisle	01440 731964

The Parish Council Meeting are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month Meetings in the Village Hall and commence at 7.30 p.m.

Agenda's will be published on the notice board at least 3 clear days in advance of the meeting.

10th January	14 th February	14th March	11th April
9th May APM & AGM	13th June	11th July	8th August
12th Sept	10th Oct	14th Nov	12th Dec