



FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY

## CHAIRMANS REPORT 2014/2015.

Good evening and thank you all for attending.

The Parish Council has been trying to liaise with the leader of Basildon Council regarding the Parish Council using the Village Hall, as it has been impossible for the Parish Council to arrange social events and Parish Council meetings.

The Parish Council would like to hold the meetings within the Parish but the school is not available for us to use and the Christian Centre is not available to hire so we had no other option but to look elsewhere.

As a result of this the Parish Council have resolved to have future meetings within Barleylands.

To ensure that the costs stay the same the electorate meetings will be held on average bi monthly.

### ACHIEVEMENTS for the year 2014/2015

#### Saling Green Roundabout

The Parish Council funded £670.00 towards the improvements at Saling Green roundabout with additional funding coming from Basildon Council. A new tree has been planted and the area now looks clean and tidy.

#### Duck House

Last year the residents of Handley Chase requested a grant to have a floating duck house for their local pond that the Parish Council was only to pleased to support and from the recent photo's I have seen, the pond residents are very happy too.

## Salt Bag Scheme

Essex County Council again supplied one ton of salt free of charge in case of snow which thankfully we didn't have to use this year.

## Swan Sign

The Swan sign in Crouch Street has been repaired and painted.

## Bus Shelter Roof in Bridge Street.

The Parish Council was awarded £3,390.83 from the Community Initiative Fund (CIF) for a replacement roof on the bus shelter in Bridge Street. The Parish Council was awarded the funding in November but the Borough Council is currently drawing up an agreement for the adoption of the shelter by the Parish Council. Once this agreement is finalised the Parish Council will arrange for the contractor to carry out the works. While these works are being carried out there will be a temporary stop in the near vicinity.

## Bus Shelter Panels in Wash Road.

At last the bus shelter panels in Wash Road have been replaced. We reported it last year and arranged for the works to be carried out in November.

Unfortunately there is only one contractor that Essex County Council use to repair the bus shelters and as he was replacing all the bus stop flags in Essex there was a long delay. However with Essex County Council taking on the work it does mean that Noak Bridge village didn't have to pay for it.

## Teen Shelter

We had requests from mothers and other residents to move the teen shelter from the Lower Street Park. After a consultation the residents of Noak Bridge wanted to keep it in the Lower Street Park.

## Social Activities

A fete in August was held on the Wash Road playing fields to commemorate the World War One hundred years anniversary.

We were awarded a grant of £1000 from Basildon Council that helped to make the day a great success. We raised £1025.70 that gave us the opportunity to send a donation to Help the Heroes and to fund a very successful children's Christmas Party which was held at the Steeple View Memorial Hall.

Sadly we have been unable to arrange any much enjoyed Quiz Nights for reasons I gave at the start of the meeting.

The Noak Bridge Strollers Group are still out and about and recently enjoyed the Bluebells over Norsey Wood and Hanningfield Reserve.

### Small Grant Scheme

The Parish Council has a small grant awarding scheme of £1000, last year this was distributed between the Saling Green roundabout improvements and the Duck House in Handleys Chase.

The Parish Council is eligible for the general power of competence, which is a power from the Localism act. A benefit of this being that the Parish Council can spend funds on any improvements or projects within the Parish without restrictions of legislation.

The Parish Council would welcome applications for the grant. The key requirement is that any organisation or group should be voluntary and non-profit making and be active in Noak Bridge. Grant application forms can be downloaded from the website or made by contacting the clerk.

### Thanks

I would just like to express our thanks to Dennis and Carole Jones for their hard work and dedication to Noak Bridge village for keeping the area tidy, painting posts and benches and planting flowers and shrubs in and around our village.

This is all done on a voluntary basis with the Parish Council giving a small grant for materials and plants.

Last but not least I would like to say on behalf of the Councillor's a big thank you to Karen.

If it wasn't for her hard work and dedication we would not get any grants to improve the village and for social events to bring the community together. This has been a very difficult year for the Councillor's and especially for Karen. I would like to thank the Parish Council team for their help over the last year. What some of you may or may not be aware of that a lot of time is taken up behind the scenes, with phone calls, paperwork and chasing up people to get information and work carried out.

Thank you.