

Stock Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2014-2015

Council Membership

The past year has seen a full programme of meetings, with a council meeting each month supplemented by a separate meeting to focus on planning applications. During the past year we have had nine councillors all of whom give up a considerable amount of time to attend Parish Council meetings on a voluntary basis. The commitment and diligence of all councillors is something for which parishioners can be proud. In particular I would like to thank Jo Lee who has done some great work on community speedwatch and also lobbying Essex Highways on speeding through the village. Jo has decided to stand down as a councillor and we wish her well in the future.

The Village Environment

The Parish Council spends a considerable amount of time dealing with the upkeep of the village and maintaining and improving its appearance continues to be an important priority. Some of the works undertaken this year include:

- Double yellow lines - in conjunction with South East Essex Parking Partnership double yellow lines were placed near to junctions with the High Street to improve road safety.
- Surface water drainage improvement works on the Common.
- Resurfacing of the Church car park

We employ a village handyman to undertake maintenance and small works to improve the appearance of the village.

Hankins Wood, Swan Lane

The Parish Council successfully lobbied Chelmsford City Council to purchase Hankins Wood in Swan Lane. The freehold of the wood will remain with the City Council but a long lease is to be granted to the Parish Council. We intend to remove the barbed wire around the perimeter of the wood and also improve the area used for parking on Swan Lane.

World War One commemoration July 2014

The Parish Council held a WWI commemoration event on Sunday 27th July. The event, opened by the Mayor of Chelmsford, featured the Essex Yeomanry band, together with music and poetry from the period. Exhibitors included Stow Maries WWI aerodrome, History Horse and the Royal British Legion. Many thanks to all those who helped organise the commemoration. It was a fitting tribute to the men of Stock who fought and died during WW1.

Roads and Traffic

The “Community Speedwatch” team has been working hard to try and reduce the number of speeding vehicles passing through the village. A number of new recruits have come forward to assist and I would like to thank the whole team for helping to undertake this important work.

The Parish Council continues to lobby Essex County Council regarding Highways Panel regarding lowering speed limits on the roads around the village.

Planning Matters

The Parish Council continues to monitor and make comments on planning applications. The number of applications before the Parish Council was again in excess of 100 during the past year.

Police Matters

Stock remains a safe place to live and crime levels are comparatively low. However crime levels have slightly increased during the year. According to Essex Police in the period between the 1st January 2014 and 31st March 2014 there were 26 offences recorded compared to 23 over the same period in 2015. Much of the crime related theft from houses, outbuildings and vehicles. The Parish Council continues to lobby Essex Police to increase their presence in the village.

Finance

There has been a modest increase in the precept of 1.5%.

Other Matters

We will be hosting a Play in the Park event on 3rd August between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Play in the park is a free two hour multi-activity session for children aged 6-11 and includes sports, arts, crafts, games and free-play.

Many thanks to the Parish Councillors for their commitment throughout the year. The Clerk continues to provide detailed support and information that is invaluable and appreciated. Equally Councillor Ian Grundy continues to work hard on behalf of the Parish in his duties and his support to the Parish Council is valued.

Nick Fairman
Chairman, Stock Parish Council
May 2015