

QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD

1st April 2018 — 31st December 2018

YOUR COUNCIL

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CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW OF THE QUARTER

It has been a busy quarter for the Parish Council, having made recommendations to Maldon District Council on 13 planning applications, supporting a request to extend the 30 mph speed limit in Howe Green Road and helping to facilitate the establishment of a community shop in Purleigh. Regarding the shop, I won't reiterate all the details here as you will have read them in last month's edition. Suffice to say that the newly formed Management Committee is making great progress and the Parish Council will continue to support it in the ways described at the public meeting held in November. We have subscribed to the Plunkett Foundation (the charity with most expertise in this area) and have also re-joined the Rural Community Council of Essex who we hope will also be able to help the shop's management committee identify fund raising streams.

The Parish Council has also supported the Purleigh Community Fund's applications for grants towards the refurbishment of the children's play area and has taken receipt of a £10,000 grant from Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund towards this end.

In October we were pleased to join with other parishes in the District to persuade Maldon District Council not to ratify the decision of its finance committee to renege on its agreement with Essex County Council to provide funding for the roll out of superfast broadband in the District. We drew attention to the irony that at a time when the District Council expected Parish Councils in rural areas to access planning applications on line, it was withdrawing funding that could improve their experience and alleviate some of the real difficulties local councils were experiencing as a result of the withdrawal of paper plans, not to mention pointing out how desperately many Purleigh householders were in need of a faster broadband connection.

The Parish Council was also delighted that another property in Purleigh had won in the design category of the prestigious Maldon District Design and Conservation Awards 2018. The awards were presented on 6th November and Steven Potter attended the ceremony on behalf of the Parish Council as Graham Rayner (our Vice Chairman) and I had been unavailable. The award was for the extension and refurbishment of a Georgian house whose owners' aim had been to make the house work better for their family, with an improved connection to the garden and the provision of a larger modern kitchen.

The judges had been full of praise for this project. They had liked the manner in which the additions appeared as '*part of the organic growth of the building*', and they had described the approach as '*subtle, gentle and well considered.*' They had also noted that '*absolutely every aspect had been thought about*', and felt that the scheme was '*clever without being conspicuous.*' Purleigh has a wonderful record in this competition and the winning properties undoubtedly contribute to making Purleigh a parish with a built environment to be proud of.

In December we appointed Steve Bardwell to be our representative on the Stow Maries Joint Consultative Committee, the result of a Unilateral Undertaking signed between the District Council and the aerodrome, which will represent the interests of parties affected by the activities of the aerodrome, particularly in light of the District Council's decision to give planning permission which increased the number of flight movements to a maximum of 3,000 per year. The committee will only meet quarterly but please let us know if there are any items you wish our representative to raise at these meetings on your behalf.

Nigel Arthur

FINANCIAL MATTERS

During the period 1st April 2018 to 31st December 2018 the Parish Council's income and investments amounted to £86,967.51 and in the same period it spent £32,351.45 on parishioners' behalf. At 31st December 2018 the following monies were held:

General Fund:

Barclays Community (Current) Account	£11,092.38
Barclays Business Premium Account	£27,406.04
Petty Cash	£50.00
Earmarked Reserves:	
Historic Buildings Fund	£8,787.74
Miss Pawsey's Legacy	£7,279.90
	£54,616.06

Income and Expenditure

Income received during the quarter included a grant of £10,000.00 from Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund towards the refurbishment of the Children's Play area planned by the Purleigh Community Fund. We also received a small amount of interest, a wayleave payment and the sum of £757.50 from hiring the pavilion.

Significant items of expenditure included purchasing a new lock and keys for the pavilion (£483.90) and a copy of the 11th edition of *Arnold Baker on Local Council Administration*, a specialist text which enables the council to keep up to date with the latest legislative changes affecting local councils (£111.13). We also made a donation of £40 each to Essex Air Ambulance, Farleigh Hospice and the RNLI, whose work is greatly appreciated.

The Parish Council paid the sum of £240 so that the Management Committee of Purleigh Community Shop could become members of the Plunkett Foundation. This has given committee members access to two full days of dedicated support and consultancy in the New Year from one of the Foundation's experienced advisers to help them with the next steps forward.

Finally, as part of the commemorations to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War the Parish Council paid half of the cost of printing a booklet, given freely to any parishioner who wanted one, which described the history of Purleigh's War Memorial and discussed the men it

commemorated. The Council also donated £50 towards the memorable flower festival held in All Saints Church.

Notification of Local Bus Consultation

Essex County Council (ECC) is reviewing the way it supports local bus services which operate on evenings and Sundays and is carrying out a public consultation. The consultation also includes proposals regarding delivering ECC services differently and devolving ECC funded local bus services to local communities.

The consultation began on 19th December and will finish on 22nd March 2019. Questionnaires are available from ECC libraries, are online at: www.essex.gov.uk/local-bus-consultation or by phoning: 03457 430430.

If you have any queries about the bus consultation please contact: passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk.