



Kelvedon Parish Council Annual Report 2019



Chairman's Report – Cllr India Jayatillake

Elections

As a reminder, the local elections (including Parish Council elections) are to be held on the 2nd May. We would strongly encourage you to use your democratic right to vote and it's important to all of Kelvedon's parish councillors that we are properly elected as your representatives.

Conclusion

Kelvedon Parish Council is currently extremely busy in managing all of the issues that I've listed above, as well as maintaining the village as usual and ensuring that we are as accessible and relevant to our community as possible. We are juggling many tasks, with the expert assistance of our Clerk, Pippa and assistant Sue, who provide invaluable support for the councillors. With so much going on locally and so many pressing concerns for our residents, it has been a challenging and very busy first year as Chairman. However, it has also been a great privilege for us all to serve you and to ensure that Kelvedon is the best village that it can be.

Finance

Accounts as at 13 February 2019

(Unaudited)

Current Account:	64,634
Deposit Account:	52,719
Building Society Account:	<u>179,759</u>
	<u>297,112</u>

The bulk of the monies held on deposit and in the Building Society account are earmarked for long term projects, such as improvements to the Recreation Ground and Pavilion, as well as funds to be put towards purchases of equipment, to enable us to work more efficiently and quickly on maintenance jobs. At a time when income from higher Local Authorities is decreasing year on year, and we are being required to take on more and more work from those higher tier Authorities, efforts have been made to ensure that the Parish has enough funds to cover all of the services and maintenance we provide, as well as providing for the future.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr India Jayatillake (Chair)
 Cllr James Astley (Vice-Chair)
 Cllr Jean Anderson
 Cllr Stephen Goode
 Cllr Jamie Hooper
 Cllr Natalie Leach
 Cllr Craig Martin
 Cllr Richard Minns
 Cllr Emma Ormond
 Cllr Mike Pilbeam
 Cllr Anne Tremain

Clerk: Philippa Potter
 Clerk's Assistant: Sue Greem
 Maintenance: Lewis Hunt

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The year 2018/19 has been an exceedingly year for Kelvedon Parish Council, as we have been heavily involved in several key issues for the village, including the Neighbourhood Plan, imminent housing development and campaigning against potential closure of our library.

Neighbourhood Plan

Following on from the Neighbourhood Plan consultation last year, the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Kelvedon passed through the stage known as Regulation 14 and will soon go to Regulation 15 – for Braintree District Council (BDC) to analyse the Plan to check that it is sound, as far as they are concerned. Once the Plan passes successfully through Regulation 15, it will proceed to Regulation 16 (further consultation), before it goes before a Planning Inspector who will decide whether it is sound. If this is successful, the Plan will be brought to the village in a referendum, for you to decide whether or not it is adopted.

It has taken a huge amount of effort on the part of a relatively small number of volunteers to produce the Neighbourhood Plan and I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks for all of their hard work so far. With the help of some professional advisors, we hope to be able to present the draft Plan to BDC within the next few weeks.

Planning/Development

As you may be aware, there is still no Local Plan in place for Braintree District. The upshot of this is that, as BDC cannot consistently prove a 5 year housing supply, and until the new Local Plan is in place, they are less able to effectively defend against speculative developments. This means that, in the absence of a Local Plan, Kelvedon cannot ensure that only around 300 new homes are built in the next few years (this being the number of houses originally allocated to Kelvedon).

CALA Homes have acquired the site West of Kelvedon Station (Monks Farm) and have held a consultation in the village and also had a preliminary meeting with the Parish Council at the end of last year. These opportunities have been very useful in order for the Parish Council to represent our residents and to do our best to ensure that the needs and desires of the residents, as compiled into the draft Neighbourhood Plan, are observed by the developer. The site opposite Monks Farm, Watering Farm, has been granted outline planning permission for 35 homes, but has not progressed any further, at this stage.



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The other site that has been put forward to BDC is at London Road, which would not only comprise housing, but is intending to provide some retail, industrial, early years and elderly care provision as well as a GP hub. This hub could also include an administration centre for the company that runs the Kelvedon and Feering Health Centre. Kelvedon Parish Council have also had a preliminary meeting with the group hoping to develop this site, ahead of outline planning permission being applied for. Again, we have used this opportunity to seek assurances that the requirements of the residents of Kelvedon are strongly borne in mind by the developer.

You may also have seen a proposal that has just been put forward to BDC for a garden community adjacent to our village, known as Kelvedon New Town. The Parish Council have not made any comments on this proposal, as it has not yet been put forward through the Planning or Local Plan (Sustainability Appraisal) processes and therefore it would be premature for us to do so. We are, however, very well aware of the implications of this development, were it to be approved to enter the Planning or Local Plan processes, and we would follow its progress closely, ensuring that we provide a robust response on behalf of our residents, once it is appropriate.

Library Status

Hopefully you will have seen, in one way or another, that Essex Libraries have proceeded to consult on the future of the library service. Kelvedon Library is currently slated as a Tier 4 library, meaning that it is listed for closure. In response to this news, a working party has been formed that includes our District Councillor John Elliott, representatives of Kelvedon and Feering Parish Councils and representatives of the Museum/Heritage Society. We are also being assisted by a Trustee of the Aylett's Foundation, as they are the owners of the building, and Cllr Robert Mitchell, as our Essex County Councillor. Our aim is to have Kelvedon Library moved from Tier 4 to Tier 3, which would be a community run library, with some assistance from Essex Libraries.

At the time of writing this report, the Essex Libraries consultation has just closed. Both Feering and Kelvedon Parish Councils have submitted Expressions of Interest, meaning that Essex Libraries will be in touch with the Councils to discuss our requirements further. As a working party, we have also submitted a challenge to the way in which libraries have been scored – for example, Coggeshall is currently listed as a Tier 3 library, whilst only scoring one point higher than Kelvedon.

We also have a list of over 60 volunteers from across both villages, who would help to run a community library. This is an extremely encouraging number, as it shows the value that the local residents place on having a facility of this nature. Thank you so much to all of you who have already volunteered and if you're interested in joining this group, please do let the Clerks of either Kelvedon or Feering Parish Council know. In addition, there have been several petitions sent in to Essex County Council (ECC) by residents and the School Council of Kelvedon St Mary's, who are also in contact with the working party.

The next stages for the working party are to meet with our MP, Priti Patel and Cllr Barker of ECC, in order to further discuss how Kelvedon can retain a library and to start creating a business plan, to show the ECC how we intend to run a community library, should we be given the opportunity to do so.

The working party has also created a survey, to consult the residents of both Kelvedon and Feering about their requirements and desires for any future community-run library. We would be very grateful if you would participate in this exercise, to ensure that our residents are catered for as well as possible. Copies of the survey can be found at the 'Library' stand, adjacent to the Museum and Heritage Society stands, here this evening. Otherwise, a copy will be published in the June issue of Kelvedon News, or a link to an online survey can be found on the Kelvedon Parish Council website.

ECC Devolution Pilot

Kelvedon Parish Council is one of a small number of councils across Essex that have been chosen to take part in a pilot scheme aiming to 'devolve' some of ECC's current responsibilities regarding footpath maintenance etc. We're hoping that this will mean that the Parish Council are much better able to deal with queries and complaints from residents regarding maintenance of public rights of way around the village, as well as minor repairs and maintenance of road signs, pavements, grass verge cutting and other minor jobs, rather than having the frustration of having to refer all of these issues to ECC to handle. We'll be given a small sum for undertaking this work, but the main reason for taking part in the pilot is to, hopefully, provide a much better service for our local residents.

Special Constables

As a response to a seemingly higher than usual amount of crime last year, we have been investigating the possibility of employing Community Special Constables for the village. We really appreciate any feedback from residents in order for us to make the right decisions on this issue, which is why we also have a section at our Parish Assembly for a presentation regarding special constables, including the experience that Witham has had. Please do let us know what your views are on this topic.

IWMF

The issue of the incinerator at Rivenhall has raised its head again, with a new proposal for a shorter, less intrusive stack height and lower emissions. Although this seems more positive for the locality than the previous proposal, the Parish Council are still objecting to the incinerator proposal in its entirety. Our full statement can be found on the Kelvedon Parish Council website.

Future Projects

The Parish Council have some exciting projects in mind for the longer term, including an upgrade of the Rec and possibly the Village Green and amenity space at Kingfisher Way, if there's enough support for it. We're very keen that our beautiful village is made even more attractive, for the benefit of those who live here. To this end, we've asked for some initial concept designs to be drawn up, which you'll be able to see and comment on this evening. Once we've had time to consider all of the comments and consult any other parties that may have an interest in these areas, we can proceed with any upgrades once the funds become available.

