

HOCKLEY

Summer

News

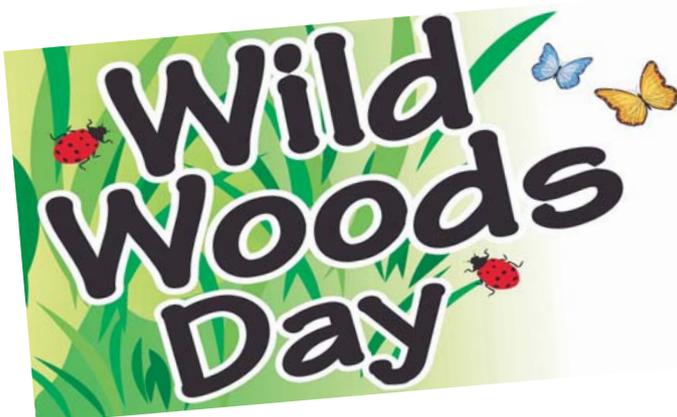
Issue 66 – 2015



New Parish chairman 2015/16



At the Annual Meeting in May Cllr Roy Martin was nominated as Chairman for the coming year. Roy has served on the council as Chairman on previous occasions and it was a unanimous decision on the part of all members to support him again.



The Parish Council's new Chairman Cllr Roy Martin and Vice Chairman Cllr Veronica Randall started the new council year at Rochford District Council's Wild Woods Day in Hockley Woods at the end of May where they met with Titan the Robot, who wowed children, parents and our councillors alike.



Thank you to the councillors who came along to Rochford District Council's Wild Woods Day to help out at our stand.

It was hard work but an enjoyable day with good weather. There was a lot of interaction with the community giving us some useful feedback on the work we are doing and what they

would like to see in Hockley. Visitors seemed interested in the parish and appreciated the opportunity to speak with councillors so it was worthwhile and we took note of all ideas and comments for future discussion at council.



Chairman's Corner

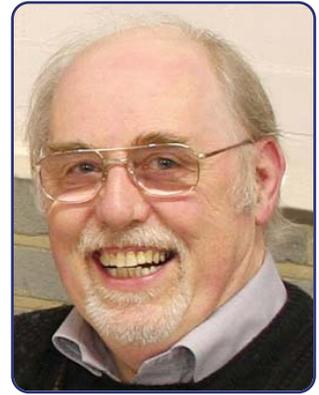
The Parish Council held its Annual Meeting in May where I was elected Chairman for 2015-16, alongside Councillor Veronica Randall who was re-elected Vice Chair. We have both previously held these positions and hope to be able to continue to support and build on the council's achievements over the past year. Members were also pleased to welcome Nick Boxall as a new co-opted councillor for Central Ward. The council has restructured its committees for 2015-16 and introduced a Community Committee. We aim to bring together our community work to enable us to enhance communications within the parish to get new ideas off the ground in Hockley and, where possible, provide support by way of funding.

The Parish Annual Assembly took place on 12th May 2015 and residents, representatives from the Chamber of Trade, local churches and groups heard the Chairman report on the work of the council during the previous year. Rochford District Council has recently introduced Town Teams in Rayleigh and Rochford and an opportunity was taken to launch Hockley's Team at the Assembly with a presentation on the aims of this initiative. A Town Team is a business led community group made up of representatives from the local community to promote retail centres and the surrounding areas as unique destinations to attract visitors and new businesses. Hockley is fortunate to have open spaces, picturesque walks and historic character to offer visitors.

If you have an interest in any of the various Council Community groups or the Hockley Team, please contact the Parish Clerk or any member of the council who will be pleased to let you have information on how to become involved.

Councillors regularly make themselves available at the monthly Village Market should you have any matters or ideas you would like to discuss and we look forward to seeing some of you at the local events planned for the summer.

Cllr Roy Martin, Chairman, Hockley Parish Council



Cllr Roy Martin (chairman)



Hockley Parish Council Footpaths

Hockley has some beautiful countryside which can be accessed by the public footpath network. Footpath 13 which starts in the town centre (next to the fish and chip shop) and ends at The Dome, Lower Road can be the start of such a walk with spectacular views across the river Crouch, St Peter and St Paul's Church and Plumberow Mount which is an ancient

monument. This footpath extends to Rayleigh in the east, Hullbridge in the north, Canewdon and Ashingdon in the west.

The footpaths in Hockley are maintained by the Parish Council and are good for health and fitness and enjoyable for all ages, please use them or lose them.

Please visit the parish website and see photographs of the paths, together with distances travelled. There is also a free map which can be downloaded and printed for you to use and study at your leisure so please use it.

Remember when using the footpaths respect the land you are using, keep your dog under control preferably on a lead and take your litter home.

Enjoy the spectacular views you are about to see and do not miss out on these beautiful walks available to you all for free every day.



Community Resilience Emergency Planning

A group of Councillors and staff attended an Emergency Planning Training Workshop arranged by the Essex Association of Local Councils at which advice and information was given to enable councils to put a local emergency plan in place to give support in the event of a major emergency. Following this, a new Community Resilience Working Group has been formed who are developing a local Hockley Parish Council Emergency Plan which can be activated at short notice if needed. All major emergencies should, in the first instance, be reported to the police who will guide our involvement. However the council will have an Emergency Response Team and hold a record of local contacts. The Parish Office will be used as a central base and provide practical support for those in need. Rochford District Council and Essex County Council also hold local council emergency contacts to aid their countywide emergency planning. Our Plan will be completed over the next few months and will be accessible on our website. Should any local businesses or groups wish to become involved we would be pleased to hear from you as all local input is invaluable in an emergency situation?



Keep Safe Scheme

What is Keep Safe?

Shops and businesses in the Rochford District will let you use a telephone or will make a call on your behalf if you get into distress. You may lose your phone, wallet, feel unwell or unsafe.

How does it work?

You have your own card and key fob. On the card/ fob you can put the name/number of someone who can be contacted should you need them. You should carry your card/fob with you at all times.

Once signed up to Keep Safe, Rochford District Council will tell you where Keep Safe venues are in your town. Keep Safe venues are also all over Essex – you can use any one that displays the Keep Safe sticker in their window to identify that they are part of the scheme.

Who can join?

The scheme is for anyone who may feel vulnerable whilst out and about. The scheme is free to join.

To join and obtain details of participating venues please contact:

Community Safety Team at Rochford District Council – Telephone: 01702 54636

Email: http://www.rochford.gov.uk/community_and_people/community_safety/keep-safe-scheme

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

It is important that a parish council is responsive to the needs of all sectors of its population and to this end when a young user of the Plumberow playspace complained there was no climbing frame, the Council's Environmental Committee swung into action. Parents of children using the playspace were interviewed and they confirmed the need for a more exciting and challenging piece of equipment. A survey was taken of all playspaces in the area and it had to be admitted that there was definitely room for improvement.

Having decided upon a suitable piece of equipment, the Parish Council submitted an application for funding to the Community Initiative Fund and was subsequently awarded a grant large enough to cover the purchase and installation of the equipment. A questionnaire was next circulated to all households in Hockley seeking residents' views and following an overwhelmingly positive response, an order placed with the manufacturer of choice. Hockley children (and no doubt their parents) will be delighted to learn that the climbing frame will be in place in July, well in time for the summer holidays.

The Environmental Committee is now looking at possible improvements to its other playspace at Laburnum Grove.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS ROUND-UP

Notice Boards – At the Old Fire Station we have installed a new notice board and refurbished the existing board to give us more space to display council information. Details of our councillors and meeting dates are published on the notice boards together with community events to be held during the year. Take a look at the boards and our website to keep up to date with what is happening in the parish.

Dog Attacks – Please keep the police and council authorities informed of any dog attacks you may encounter and if possible obtain the owners details.

Neighbourhood Policing – Steve Judd has expressed a wish to hear from residents if you have any matters you wish to discuss. He can be reached on 07710 046161.



Cllr Tim Gleadall (chairman)

Annual Assembly of the Hockley Parish Council

Tuesday 12th May 2015

Chairman's Annual Report 2014-2015

The council has reached the end of its civic year and the Annual Assembly provides an opportunity for the local community and organisations to hear what the Parish Council has been doing on your behalf for the past year. Firstly, my thanks go to our Vice Chair Cllr Veronica Randall and fellow councillors for their hard work and support during the year. Our staff continue to serve the public well and the council would like to record our appreciation of their efforts. The Parish Council is a service provider for residents in Hockley, and a conduit for local views, working in partnership with many organisations within the community it represents. Our members regularly attend liaison meetings with other agencies and representatives from parish councils in Essex to share knowledge and experience. As the first level of local democracy, the parish is responsible to parishioners for a number of services. Our priorities are: the provision and maintenance of parish owned street lighting; management of our open spaces, play areas and nature reserve; statutory consultees on planning applications; working in partnership with Essex County on public rights of way and footpaths; provision of some bus shelters and point of contact for county, district and many other public services. We are investigating the feasibility of possible sites for allotments. Councillors make themselves available to residents and regularly attend Full Council and Committee Meetings to progress this work throughout the year. The Parish Council encourages residents and businesses to attend the meetings and there is time allocated to enable members of the public to address councillors and ask questions or make statements. We also hold forums to enable other organisations to keep us up-to-date with their local involvement and concerns relevant to Hockley. Our aim is to improve our existing responsibilities and add some new projects for your consideration. The reports that follow summarise our work and achievements for the past year.



Finance Committee – Chairman, Cllr Roy Martin

As anticipated, funding from central government for councils has again been reduced, so there are difficult decisions being made everywhere. However we are pleased to be able to report that with some careful planning, which will enable us to maintain and enhance our services, the council has set a budget of £244,525 for 2015/16, which means that the money raised from local taxpayers went down by 1.3% in the parish proportion of the council tax; based on a Band D property. Budgets are allocated to the committees to enable them to maintain continuity of existing services and plan new projects and each year we put aside a sum of money to cover large capital expenditure as it arises. Our audit inspection reports have been favourable and we have a robust risk assessment policy in place. In response to applications submitted by local organisations the Parish Council has awarded the following grants under The Local Government Act 1972, Section 137 for the year 2014/2015: Massive Youth Centre £7500, COPE (Community Older Persons Events) £500 and 55+ Social Centre £400. We are also able to assist eligible local charities with the hire of the parish hall by way of a grant. We strive to ensure that every penny is wisely spent and that we give the best service we can across the community. A Budget Summary accompanies this report and our Responsible Finance Officer will be pleased to discuss anything you may wish to raise regarding these figures.



Planning Committee – Chairman, Cllr Steve Chelmsford

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on all planning matters and always takes the opportunity to respond on issues relevant to Hockley. We trust that Rochford District Council take our views into consideration. We have commented on the many documents received to ensure the character of the village is preserved and, if possible, enhanced. The Hockley Area Action Plan has been adopted by Rochford District Council, and your parish councillors will ensure they are actively involved in its progress so the community can have a say in the ongoing development as it evolves, especially with reference to traffic issues and infrastructure. The Council continues to liaise with Rochford District Council and Essex County Council.



Personnel Committee – Chairman, Cllr Tim Gleadall

This Committee was formed to look after the well being of our staff and ensure they receive the appropriate training. We currently have eight members of staff working in the office, hall and on the ground. A training programme is now in place for both staff and councillors, which will enable us to be better informed in areas which benefit the wider community. Staff appraisals take place annually to enhance staff performance and improve staff satisfaction. You will see our parish rangers working around the village wearing their protective uniforms which creates a professional appearance when representing the council.



Environment Committee – Chairman, Cllr Brian Hazlewood

Marylands Nature Reserve – Last year new benches, a kissing gate, a drain, and a circular path were installed. The new path has not extended to the road as we were waiting for flood management work to be completed along the stream. Now that is done, we will continue the path to the road so that everyone has access to this nature reserve, more importantly perhaps, we have been assured that flooding in that area is a thing of the past.

Parish Rangers – The team consists of two trained members of staff who work to keep the village tidy, maintain the parish owned street furniture and signage, remove overgrown vegetation from pavements and footways, cut back verges and hedgerows. They also undertake maintenance at our open spaces and the children's play areas. They can only work on land owned by the Parish Council. They cannot work on private land nor, unfortunately, are they able to repair potholes.

Street Scene – As part of our ongoing street scene improvements, a new type of seat has been purchased and installed in Plumberow Avenue. There has been new planting by the railway bridge and outside the library and the seats in Spa Road will be repainted during the coming months. All seats are planned to be refurbished or replaced. Our mobile watering tank ensured the baskets around the village produced a magnificent display last year and it is intended to expand the planting programme during the coming year. New waste bins have been installed in the town centre. New fencing has been installed at the Zebra crossing. A water leak in the town centre has been repaired.

Street Lighting – The Parish Council is responsible for around 300 street lights which are unaffected by the County Council's Part-Night Lighting Plan. You can identify all parish lighting as the columns are marked with the letter 'P' on a green label. A rolling programme of replacing the parish owned street lighting with LED units is under way (so far 10 new LED units installed) and we would encourage residents to report any of our lights which require attention.

Allotments – There is a historic lack of suitable accessible sites in Hockley where the necessary facilities can be installed, however, funds have been allocated from the budget to carry out a feasibility study in this regard and the committee is working towards finding a suitable way forward to enable the Parish Council to meet its statutory duty to assist those residents interested in acquiring horticultural space. All options are carefully considered when presented to us.

Play equipment – The Parish Council successfully applied for funding from the Essex County Community Initiative Fund to update Plumberow Mount Play Area with a new piece of play equipment. The equipment has been chosen and is waiting to be installed. There is a new entrance gate, new signage and new dog bins at Plumberow Mount.



Hall Committee – Chairman Cllr Sue Martin

The Parish Hall at the Old Fire Station is owned and maintained by the council for community use. Although the hall is fairly well supported locally, running costs exceed income, thus, in order to maintain this facility, the council underwrites the difference and we are always looking for ways to increase usage. Our Hall Manager would be pleased to hear from you should you wish to hire the hall for an event. There has been no increase in the hall hire fees. The new workshop with security lighting is now fully installed to assist the Rangers. The Hall windows have been re-sealed and the brickwork has been re-pointed. Flower baskets have been added to the outside of the Hall. There are 2 Caretaker / Cleaners who alternate on a weekly basis.

In The Community

Festive Lights – The festive lights switch-on in November brought the community together to celebrate an even better event than the previous year. Spa Road was filled to capacity during the afternoon with visitors enjoying a great variety of market stalls and an entertainment programme on a much improved stage and music arrangement. The children's colouring competition, Punch & Judy, and face painting were all well attended in the Parish Hall. Hockley Library put together an amazing grotto and Santa worked tirelessly throughout the afternoon. The lights were switched on by the competition winners and the afternoon was brought to a close with a grand firework display. The new style event again attracted a lot of favourable feedback from the community and businesses and planning has already begun on the next event. The date for your diary is Saturday 21st November 2015 and we are pleased to report that Father Christmas will be back.

Newsletters – The Parish Council produced and published three editions of Hockley News during the year which is delivered to residents and provides latest information about Council news and events in the village.

Website – Provides a very clear and quick way to access information about the Council, the village and beyond.

Notice boards – Also keep the community informed of issues that affect them.

Special Events – Councillors run a Village Market once a month at the Parish Hall giving smaller local businesses an opportunity to promote their services and are always available at the market to chat with residents. The council again supported the Hockley & Hawkwell 55+ Social Centre Summer Fete in June. In August, the Parish Council held a WW1 commemorative service around the war memorial which was very well attended. In partnership with Hockley British Legion and representatives from our local churches we held the annual Remembrance Service in November at the war memorial which was followed by a parade comprised of local groups and accompanied by members of the public who all marched along Southend Road to Hawkwell to join their service. Other community events arranged in the last year have included the annual garden competition, Hockley's first Art Trail, a 'primary schools' Art Exhibition, and an Art Exhibition for local artists. During the coming year, arrangements for the Garden Competition in July, the Art Trail in July, and the annual Remembrance Service in November are already in place. Events are run by councillors on a voluntary basis and are mostly self funding. We look forward to seeing you at some or indeed all of these events.

Community Resilience – The Parish Council has introduced this group to work with other appropriate organisations to consider a community emergency plan incorporating preventative measures and a response programme. An emergency ready kit will be available in the Parish Council Office.

Councillors welcome your continued support as it is only working with your involvement that we are able to ensure Hockley continues to grow whilst maintaining its identity as a friendly village with a good community spirit.

Councillor Tim Gleadall, Chairman Hockley Parish Council – May 2015

BUDGET SUMMARY FOR PRECEPT 2014/2015

	£		£
CURRENT A/C FUNDS AVAILABLE AS AT 30.09.13	14,642	LESS TRANSFER TP RESERVE	1,934
TRACKER A/C FUNDS AVAILABLE AS AT 30.09.13	261,017	LESS COMMITTED/ESTIMATED TO YEAR END	274,919
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AS AT 30.09.13	275,659		
		THEREFORE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO REDUCE PRECEPT	6,276
PLUS			
ESTIMATED INTEREST ON CREDIT BALANCES		BUDGET FOR 2014/2015	250,800
TO YEAR END	25.00	LESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO REDUCE PRECEPT	6,276
FUNDS AVAILABLE	275,684		
PLUS VAT REFUND FOR APRIL TO JUNE	7,445	AMOUNT TO BE PRECEPTED FOR 2014/2015	244.524
	283,129		

FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS ATTENDANCE REGISTER 2014-2015

Cllr Mark Anderson	83%	Cllr Brian Hazlewood	83%
Cllr Roy Martin	100%	Cllr Brian O'Shea	83%
Cllr Sue Martin	100%	Cllr Veronica Randall	100%
Cllr Michael Carter	83%	Cllr Lesley Vingoe	75%
Cllr Tim Gleadall	100%	Cllr Steve Chelmsford	75%
Cllr Shirley James	92%	Cllr Phil Meacham	33%
Cllr Colin Taylor	42%	Cllr Richard Amner	8%
Cllr Toni Carter	83%		

The percentages represent the number of attendances for each councillor. Lower percentages would include the following reasons: Holidays, sickness, work committment and other meetings.

RESPECTING THE COUNTRYSIDE – A PLEA BY THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE



Living in Hockley we are fortunate to have easy access to some of the most attractive countryside in SE Essex. However, ease of access brings its own problems, dumping - not fly-tipping (although sadly this does happen) but ordinary day to day garden refuse. Attractive walks along footpaths, particularly in the vicinity of housing, are not infrequently spoilt by sawn off branches and garden refuse of all types. Even the Marylands Nature Reserve has seen its fair share of other people's garden rubbish. The Rochford District Council has a very efficient green recycling scheme, so please use the green bin provided and leave the countryside for visitors and local wildlife to enjoy.



Wondering about the seats in the village? Following recent vandalism and general wear and tear to the benches in Spa Road and Main Road Hockley these are being renovated by the Parish Council. We have found a source of hardwood to refurbish the benches with concrete bases. The wood is called Meranti, and it looks a bit like red cedar. The wood does not require staining or painting so it should be low maintenance for about 10 – 15 years. The wood is from a certified source and it will cost about £100 to refurbish each bench. It is hoped all the seats will be back in use shortly.

Art Exhibition by Hockley's Primary Schools



Following the success of the Art Trail in 2014 the Parish Council was asked to hold an Art Exhibition in March for our Hockley Primary Schools. Each class from Reception to Year 6 at Hockley Primary School, Plumberow Primary Academy and Westerings Primary Academy (40 in total) provided an A1 page based on a subject of their choice. Some classes produced a single picture whereas others produced a collage of pictures. The range of themes was immense and included children's books, country cultures, historical periods and ideas from school visits. We received sufficient artwork to fill both floors at the Old Fire Station. The standard of the artwork was incredible, and the efforts of the teaching staff were apparent. Approximately 100 children, parents and grandparents visited the exhibition and everyone provided positive feedback. The teaching staff praised the idea of the exhibition and requested that we repeat the event next year, where hopefully there will be a greater number of visitors.

Art Exhibition by Local Artists

Hockley Parish Council arranged its first Art Exhibition for local artists in April at the Old Fire Station. Ten artists, half of which had never exhibited before, provided an excellent mix of art forms including oils, water colours, pastel, pencil and acrylics. The exhibits included landscapes, abstracts, fantasy sci-fi, impressionist, expressionist and portraits. Some of the artists painted on site during the exhibition. There was a steady stream of visitors on both days of the exhibition, and many artists managed to obtain sales. The public remarked on the standard and variety of the exhibits and the talent available in the area, and enjoyed picking out their favourite pictures. The artists stated that they thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to display their artwork, and all expressed an interest in exhibiting at the Art Trail this year. The event provided an opportunity for the newer artists to meet and learn from the more experienced exhibitors.



Hockley Art Trail

Report to follow in the next issue
of the Hockley News

HOCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Hockley Parish Councillors

CENTRAL WARD



VICE-CHAIRMAN
Cllr. Veronica Randall
t. 01702 20 21 42

Ex-officio all Committees
Committees: Resources & Procedures, Personnel
Working Groups: Hall, Newsletter & Website
Delegate: Community Safety Partnership
Neighbourhood Policing, Massive Youth Centre



Cllr. Tim Gleadall
t. 01702 20 16 88

Committees: Festive Lights
Working Groups: Special Events
Delegate: Hockley Residents Association
Hockley community Centre, Complaints
Grievance & Appeals Panel



Cllr. Mark Anderson
t. 01702 20 48 79

Committees: Resources & Procedures
Environmental, Festive Lights
Working Groups: Hall, Special Events
Delegate: Massive Youth Centre



Cllr. Toni Carter
t. 01702 20 56 48

Committees: Environmental & Open Spaces
Working Groups: Newsletter & Website
Complaints, Grievances & Appeals Panel



Cllr. Steve Chelmsford
t. 01702 20 01 78

Committees: Planning & Local Development
Festive Lights
Working Groups: Grants & Awards
Community Resilience, Newsletter & Website
Complaints, Grievances & Appeals Panel



Cllr. Shirley James
t. 01702 20 50 50

Committees: Planning & Local Development
Resources & Procedures, Personnel
Environmental & Open Spaces, Festive Lights
Working Groups: Newsletter, Hall, Special Events
Delegate: 55+ Social Centre, HCTC, Neighbourhood
Policing, Community Safety Partnership, Citizens
Advice Bureau, Passenger Transport Liaison



Cllr. Sue Martin
t. 01702 20 27 50

Committees: Resources & Procedures
Personnel, Festive Lights
Working Groups: Hall, Newsletter & Website
Special Events, Community Resilience
Delegate: 55+ Social Centre



Cllr. Brian O'Shea
t. 01702 20 43 34

Committees: Environmental, Personnel
Delegate: RHALC, Hockley Residents Association



Cllr. Lesley Vingoe
t. 01702 20 28 29

Committees: Environmental & Open Spaces
Personnel
Working Groups: Community Resilience
Grants & Awards
Delegate: Hockley Public Hall, RHALC
Hockley Town Team



Cllr. Nick Boxall
t. 07876 34 27 85

Committees: Planning & Local Development
Environmental & Open Spaces
Personnel, Resources & Procedures

NORTH WARD



Cllr. Mike Carter
t. 07958 70 70 70

Committees: Planning & Local Development
Environmental & Open Spaces, Festive Lights
Working Groups: Newsletter & Website
Complaints, Grievances and Appeals Panel



Cllr. Richard Amner
t. 07856 73 53 41

Hockley Parish Councillors

WEST WARD



CHAIRMAN
Cllr. Roy Martin
t. 01702 20 27 50

Ex-officio all Committees
Committees: Resources & Procedures
Festive Lights
Working Groups: Hall
Delegate: Hockley Community Centre
RHALC & Executive Member EALC



Cllr. Brian Hazlewood
t. 01702 20 17 86

Committees: Environmental & Open Spaces
Resources & Procedures



Cllr. Phil Meacham
t. 07005 98 01 28

Committees: Resources & Procedures
Delegate: Hockley Town Team

Parish Council Staff



Mike Letch
PARISH CLERK



Kate Smiles
ADMINISTRATION
ASSISTANT

telephone: 01702 20 77 07



John Harrison
ACCOUNTANT

Clive
Horsnell



Grant
Harrison



PARISH RANGERS



Nicola O'Riordan Finley
HALL MANAGER
telephone: 01702 20 53 40

MEETINGS FOR 2015

Meetings start at 7.30pm with the exception of the Annual Assembly which commences at 7.00pm prior to the Council Meeting

JULY 2015

Monday 20th Full Council

OCTOBER 2015

Monday 19th Full Council

AUGUST 2015

Tuesday 17th Full Council

NOVEMBER 2015

Monday 16th Full Council

SEPTEMBER 2015

Monday 21st Full Council

DECEMBER 2015

Monday 21st Full Council

ALL PARISH MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE OLD FIRE STATION

OFFICE OPENING TIMES: 9.30am-12.30pm

If you have any comments or enquiries, please contact Mike Letch, Clerk to the Parish Council

01702 20 77 07

email: enquiries@hockley-essex.gov.uk • website: hockley-essex.gov.uk

THE OLD FIRE STATION • 58 SOUTHEND ROAD • HOCKLEY • ESSEX SS5 4QH