

HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-20 Published 15.06.20

Your Parish Council

Hullbridge Parish Council consists of 13 Members who volunteer their time for the benefit of the Community and attend our monthly Full Council meetings, Committees, various Sub Committees and Working Groups, which together assist in the efficient smooth running of the Council.

From our Parish Council Office, the Clerk to the Council and her Team provide a service to the Community providing information to residents, in person also via our website, Facebook page and Noticeboards, we also answer an array of queries. Staff provides full administration for the day to day running of the Council, including all financial matters, Health and Safety and making sure the Council is working legally and within their remit. The Parish Council organises the popular Annual Christmas Fayre and maintains numerous footpaths and open spaces throughout the village including the management of Kendal Park Nature Reserve.

Report by the Chairman of Hullbridge Parish Council

In May 2019 I was elected Chairman and I have attended

a number of events both in an official and an unofficial capacity.

Barratt David Wilson (BDW) have started the development of the site at Malyons Farm and we continue to have regular meetings with the Developer making sure Councillor and Resident concerns are raised and where possible rectified.

We are pleased that our request for a War Memorial within the site has been delivered by BDW and at this year's Remembrance Service, which saw a great turnout, the new War Memorial was dedicated and blessed.

BDW will be putting a cap on the Memorial also as the development progresses there will be benches and a garden of reflection.

The Village sign on the corner of Watery Lane will remain in situ as will the time capsule.

We continue to work hard for the interests of residents and we have made representation on a number of outside bodies, including the Essex Coastal Forum, ECC Transport, Citizens Advice Bureau and the Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils.

I would like to thank my Vice Chairman Cllr D Elwell and fellow Councillors for their efforts and support over the last year, also to the Clerk to the Council and her staff for the efficient administration and the maintenance around the village. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Martin Bewers the General Maintenance Officer for his service over the last 5 years who in January 2020 moved onto pastures new. We have filled the position and Welcome Brett Wilson on to our team and wish him all the best in his new role.

Cllr Miss A Marriott

Your Parish Precept

2020/21

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Hullbridge Parish Council's Budget for 2020/21 is £180,119 which equates to **£76.33**

For an average Band D property per year:

Which is only: **£1.47 per week**

The Members of YOUR Council are working for you the ratepayer to give you "Best Value" for money

Finance/ Policy /

Appointments Committee

The Parish Council strives to achieve “Best Value” for all its expenditure, whilst abiding by our financial regulations ensuring we get good value for money and obtaining the most competitive prices.

We have a 5-year Financial Forecast and Action Plan and have adopted and updated our Policies and Procedures. Our budget for 2019/2020 was £114,805 and this was spent on a number of responsibilities.

The Parish Council continues to provide support to a number of organisations including Essex Air Ambulance and Citizens Advice Bureau.

We do have a grant scheme where organisations can apply for a small grant – please contact the Clerk for more information.

Income & Expenditure

Due to the current Coronavirus situation our Income & Expenditure Accounts will not be ratified until later on in the year. Electors will have an opportunity to view the accounts and dates will be displayed and confirmed again later on in the year.

Clr David Jeffery

General Purposes Committee

Under this Committee’s remit it looks after the Parish Council’s street scene assets, which includes Parish street lights, teen shelter, public seating, notice boards, bins,

War Memorial, village signs, green gym, bus shelters and play equipment. The budget for 2019/2020 was £40,150.

Pooles Lane car park we are pleased that this is continuing to be free. Unfortunately, our maintenance staff are continuing to pick up a large amount of glass and rubbish left there each day.

The public toilet has over the last year been hit with graffiti and anti-social activities which the Police are monitoring.

Over 220 Christmas parcels

were delivered to those residents who are 80 and over. Riverside Primary School Council kindly packed the parcels along with two residents Mr. & Mrs. Bowley – special thanks to them.

If you are 80 this year or if you know of someone then please contact the Parish Office to make sure they are on our list.

Allotments

We have 130 plots which are all enjoyed with a wealth of crops grown. We hold an Annual Competition in July which proves to be very popular and was **won in 2019** by:

1st Place

Mrs. Oates (plot 33)

2nd Place

Mr. Cornhill (plots 27/28)

3rd Place

Mr. Humphrey (plot 8/9)

If you are interested in having a plot then please provide your details to the Clerk and indicate if you would like a half plot (90sqm) or a full plot-180sqm. Don’t forget the Hullbridge Garden Association shop (adjacent to the Co Op) is open to the public for all your Allotment / Garden /small animal needs.

Opening Times:Wed 10am-noon
Fri 6-8pm, Sat. 2pm-4pm
Sun 10am-noon. For six weeks April – June it is also open 10am – noon
Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri.

Best Frontage Competition

Every year we run this competition, in 2019 the winners were:

1st Place

26 Mayfield Avenue

2nd Place

Spring Song, The Avenue

3rd Place –

14 Towerside, Tower Park

Highly Commended

38 Grasmere Avenue

6 Malyons Lane

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you for making Hullbridge being in bloom.

Hanging Baskets / Planters

Hullbridge Parish Council continues to maintain the plants along Ferry Road and last year’s baskets provided a lovely floral display.

The flowers are supplied by a Local Nursery (Riverside) and are in full bloom between May and September. Clr P White

Parks / Open Spaces / Conservation / Footpaths Committee

This Committee makes sure our parks and open spaces including Kendal Park Nature Reserve are maintained, developed and enhanced and to do this has a budget in 2019/20 of £18,255.

We have continued to make improvements and due to a leak, the pond is in the process of being repaired. This has been delayed due to weather and now the Coronavirus Pandemic. We hope that this will be finished as soon as possible so residents and visitors can enjoy pond dipping from the new platform also the picnic area. We will be having an official open day as soon as possible.

We endeavor with our Management Plan to secure the future of the Reserve and make it an oasis for wildlife. Please keep all dogs on a lead in the Reserve and clear up after them.

The Recreation Ground is a great facility and is popular and enjoyed by residents and visitors. We continue to be in partnership with Rochford District Council to maintain and improve this open space. The footpath link to the Dome to provide a circular walk is still being investigated and we are hoping the scheme that Natural England and funds that RDC have just been awarded for a Coastal path project will assist us. Cllr P White

Litter / Dog Fouling

Please help keep "Hullbridge Tidy" and use litter bins and dog bins which are throughout the village. Please note that doggy bags can be put in normal rubbish bins.

Street Light Issues

The Parish Council manages all the Street Lights in un-adopted roads, so please report to us of any issues. Adopted roads please report to Essex County Council.

HARP – we are still taking in donations at the Office.

Wheelchairs /Walking Frames

Our popular service is continuing and we provide a free loan service so please contact the Office if needed.

Annual Christmas Fayre

2019 Fayre had a very good turn out and was enjoyed by many, thank you to all those who participated. Special thanks to the HCA and Cooks Carriages.

The winner of the **Chairman's Christmas Card Competition 2019** was **Ruby Carter**

Well Done and to all those who sent in their entries.

The Best Shop Front window

was won by **Kay9 Paws** – Professional Pet Groomers. Well Done.

The Chairman also makes a donation to a local charity and this year £350 was presented to **1st Hullbridge Scout Group**.

We are hoping that in 2020 the Fayre will be held on **Saturday 5th December between 3-6pm** at Pooles Lane car park / HCA

with the Lights being switched on by our Special Guests at 5.45pm.

As with previous year's there will be a variety of stalls, entertainment and activities not forgetting Santa arriving by horse drawn carriage (sponsored by Cooks Carriages) and a Santa's Grotto (sponsored by the HCA). If you would like a stall / be part of the Entertainment or help at the event, then please contact the Clerk.

We have invested in additional Christmas lighting and new displays were put up along the length of Ferry Road and in Pooles Lane car park.

Parish Safety Volunteers / Heart Watch

Cllr White is fully trained as a Parish Safety Volunteer and he can visit your home and fit "free" fire alarms and provide safety advice. If you would like a visit then please contact Essex Fire and Rescue Service on 0300 303 0088 or visit www.essex-fire.gov.uk Cllr J Chaffin is a member of Heart Watch who continues to provide such an important service, **new Members are needed**. If you call Emergency Services at night please make sure you light up the property so finding it is made easier.

Highways / Footpaths

Issues can be reported to Essex County Council online via their "Tell Us" page <http://www.essexhighways.org/Transport-and-roads.aspx>

Emergency Plan

We are in the process of putting together a Village Emergency Plan, in such an event are you able to volunteer your expertise (Doctor /Tree Surgeon/Carer etc.) or equipment (4X4 / Generator) if so, please contact the Clerk. This information would not be for public record and kept confidential under the Data Protection Act and only made accessible in an event of an emergency to Key Staff/Councillors.

Parish Full Council Meetings

These are held on the 2nd Monday of each month (excluding August) at the Hullbridge Centre, Windermere Avenue starting at 7.30pm. Residents are welcome to attend to forward their ideas and concerns. (Currently Suspended until further notice).

Parish Staff

Anne-Marie Bates

Clerk to the Council / RFO

Julie Mullett

Administration Assistant

Martin Bewers / Brett Wilson

General Maintenance Officer

Jake Lillywhite – Assistant GMO

District (Hullbridge Ward) Councillors 2019/2020

Cllr Mrs. D. Hoy

Cllr M. Hoy

Cllr S Wilson

County Councillor 2019/2020

Cllr Mrs. Carole Weston

Member of Parliament

Mark Francois MP

Parish Councillors 2019/2020

Cllr. Miss A Marriott
(Chairman)

Cllr D Elwell
(Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. D Jeffery
(Finance and Personnel
Committee Chairman)

Cllr. D East (Planning Chairman)

Cllr. E Smith (V.Chair. Planning)

Cllr I Kenlin (V.Chair. General
Purposes and Footpaths)

Cllr fK Ager

Cllr J. Chaffin

Cllr. Mrs. L. Campbell-Daley

Cllr. Mrs. W. Stevenson

Cllr P White (Chairman of
General Purposes Committee
and Footpaths Committee)

Cllr D Heales (V.Chair
Finance)

Cllr Ms S Thomas

Hullbridge Parish Council

*Parish Office
98 Ferry Road
Hullbridge
Essex SS5 6EX
01702 232038*

*Normally OPEN
Monday 12.30-2.30
Tues/ Wed/Thurs 10-12*

*Clerk to the Council
Mrs. Anne-Marie Bates*

*Email:
clerk@hullbridgepc.co.uk*

*Website
To be relaunched*

*Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hullbridge-Parish-Council/1544215995841235>*

Coronavirus

Since March 2020 we have had to deal with Covid-19 which has seen unprecedented measures and affected all our lives one way or another. We do not know what the future holds and when lockdown and social distancing measures will be lifted so we are having to adapt our lives accordingly. As a Parish Council our meetings have been suspended but Council business continues and staff are still working hard to fulfil our responsibilities and Councillors are carrying out their duties as much as they can. We are using our Facebook page to provide information to residents and we hope to launch our new website soon as our old one via Essexinfo ceased on 31st March. **If you need help** during this unprecedented times Rochford District Community Response Hub helpline is available **on 01268 779999**. It's for people who do not have friends or family nearby, or local support networks and who are struggling at this difficult time, perhaps delivery of shopping medicines or if alone simply need a reassuring voice. Businesses - Rochford District urge businesses to submit their details via the Council's online portal, to access their share of grant funding to support them during COVID-19 pandemic. www.rochford.gov.uk/BusinessRateGrants
Please STAY SAFE and STAY at HOME and follow Government Guidelines.