

HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24 Published

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, 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 provide 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 maintains numerous footpaths and open spaces throughout the village including the management of Kendal Park Nature Reserve and the Rose Garden. The maintenance staff take great pride in keeping the village a nice place to live.

Staff: Clerk to the Council, Nicola Harding; Assistant Clerk, Julie Mullett; Accounts Assistant: Anna Drewitt

Maintenance Staff: Brett Wilson / Jake Lillywhite

Report by the Chairman of Hullbridge Parish Council

In May 2023 I was elected Chair in what is the 60th year of Hullbridge Parish Council. We have been busy during the past year with various community events, and along with the whole country celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III, planting a commemorative tree in Kendal Park with children from Riverside Primary and installing a new bench in the Rose Gardens. Grant funding was given to local groups to help celebrate this event. We also attended the school Summer Fete with our popular Human Fruit Machine, which had a reprise at our Christmas Fayre. We are continuing our Hullbridge Goes Green Initiative, installing two solar lampposts with a roll out of LED lights to follow from 2024. We will be running a new version of our Best Kept Front Garden Competition with biodiversity in mind. Our hardworking maintenance staff have been busy replacing three footbridges in the village and helping the Allotment site create a communal area for

plot holders, including a new wooden bench provided by the council where allotment holders can swap seeds, equipment, and ideas! They have also helped keep our open spaces safe after storm damage and have replanted flowers and bulbs all around the village. We have been lucky enough to get funding for a Bleed Kit which is now on the wall outside the Parish Office alongside the Defibrillator. The Parish Council continues to support many local groups and charities with grants to enable them to deliver important services to the local community. Our free wheelchair hire continues to be one of our most valued services and often helps support residents at difficult times. We have plans for the coming year including a Parish Newsletter twice a year to keep you all updated on local news and events. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and all the Parish Council staff for their continued support and hard work in helping to keep Hullbridge a fantastic place to live.

Cllr Ms A. Marriott



Your Parish Precept

2024/25

Hullbridge Parish Council's Budget for 2024/25 is £237,172 which equates to **£5.60** increase for an average Band D property per year:

Which is only: **£0.11 per week**

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

Finance

The Parish Council strives to achieve "Best Value" for all its expenditure, whilst abiding by our financial regulations to ensure we get good value for money and obtain the most competitive prices. Our budget for 2023/2024 was £220,883 and this was spent on several responsibilities village enhancement and maintenance. We have a Grant Scheme where organisations can apply for a small grant – please contact the Clerk for more information.

Income & Expenditure

Our Income & Expenditure Accounts will not be ratified until later in the year. Electors will have an opportunity to view the accounts and dates will be displayed.

Pooles Lane car park /Toilet

we are pleased that this is continuing to be free. We hope to look at various options regarding CCTV and Electric Charge Points soon.

Over **260 Christmas parcels** were delivered by the Council, the local Green Star Co-op supported us in achieving this, and these were well received by residents who are 80 and over. If you are 80 this year or if you know of someone, please contact the Parish Office to make sure you/they are on our list.

Allotments

We have over 135 plots which are all enjoyed with a wealth of crops grown. This year's Annual Competition was a success and was won by G. Stone. If interested in a plot then please contact the Parish Office.

Best Frontage Competition

2023 took place and the winners were 26 Mayfield Avenue.

Hanging Baskets / Planters

Hullbridge Parish Council continues to maintain the plants along Ferry Road The flowers are supplied by a Local Nursery (Riverside) and are in full bloom between May and September.

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 Street Lights in un-adopted roads,

so please report to us of any issues

Adopted roads please report to Essex County Council.

Wheelchairs /Walking Frames

Our popular free service is continuing, so if you require a short wheelchair/frame loan please contact us.

Highways / Footpaths

Issues can be reported to Essex County Council online via their "Tell Us" page

<http://www.essexhighways.org/Transport-and-roads.asp>

Annual Christmas Fayre

2023 Was a success in its new format. **Chairman's Christmas Card Competition 2023** winner was Olivia Hinds.

We are hoping that in 2024 the Fayre will be held on **Saturday 30th November 2024 between 4-6pm** at Pooles Lane car park This will be a similar event to last year and will be very much planned and kept with community spirit in mind. Please check our noticeboards and social media nearer the time.

Parish Full Council Meetings

These are usually held on the 2nd Monday of each month (excluding August) at the Windermere Centre at 7.30pm. All Residents are welcome.

Councillors: A. Marriott (Chair), C. Agius (Vice Chair), D. Elwell, I. Kenlin, D. Flack, P. White, K. O'Brien, Mrs J. O'Brien, S. Cooper, S. Naish, K. Charters, S. Walsh.

Post 2024 Local Elections.