

HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25 Published

Your Parish Council

Hullbridge Parish Council is made up of 13 dedicated Councillors who generously volunteer their time to serve the local community. They attend monthly Full Council meetings, as well as various Committees, Sub Committees, and Working Groups, all of which contribute to the effective and smooth operation of the Council.

From our Parish Council Office, the Clerk and her team deliver valuable services to residents, offering information both in person and through our website, Facebook page, and Noticeboards, while also responding to a wide range of queries.

The staff manage all aspects of the Council's daily administration, including financial matters, health and safety, and ensuring compliance with legal requirements.

The Parish Council is also responsible for the upkeep of several footpaths and open spaces across the village, including the management of Kendal Park Nature Reserve and the Rose Garden. Our maintenance team takes great

pride in keeping Hullbridge a pleasant 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 Chair of Hullbridge Parish Council

In May 2024 I was honored to be elected as the Chair of Hullbridge Parish Council, becoming the youngest Chair in our history. It has been a busy and fulfilling year. One of my personal highlights was our successful Community Christmas Event, which saw fantastic participation and a wonderful festive spirit!

2025 will see the council responding to safety concerns raised by residents . We will be installing a new CCTV system for Pooles Lane Car Park and have recently upgraded the street lights in the area to LED. The council are in the process of applying for a Vehicle Activated Speed Sign for Lower Road, which we hope will help address concerns over speeding along this stretch of road .

The Parish Council continues to support local groups and charities through grants that help them deliver vital services to the community. In 2024 grants were given to Riverside Primary School, Windermere Centre and the Harbour Club . We are also proud to have launched our twice yearly newsletter, bringing you the latest information on the Parish Council and the local community. The newsletter has helped us engage with and assist residents who are looking to set up a Men's Shed in the local area, and we hope this comes to fruition in the near future . We have also launched our brand new award for Hullbridge Citizen of the Year, with Ms Kemp the school lollipop lady for over 20 years being the first and very worthy recipient.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to my fellow Councillors, who dedicate their time and effort to serving our local community, having unanimously chosen not to accept the Councillor allowance to which they are entitled. ***Cllr C. Agius***



Your Parish Precept

2025/26

Hullbridge Parish Council's Budget for 2025/26 is £252,417 which equates to £3.31 increase for an average Band D property per year:

Which is only: £0.06 per week

The Parish 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 2024/2025 was £237,172 and this was spent on many responsibilities including 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

The Car park continues to be free and the Parish Council will be installing new CCTV in the car park in Spring 2025.

Over **300 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 138 plots which are all enjoyed with a wealth of crops grown. This year's Annual Competition was a success and was won by K. Wilkinson If interested in a plot then please contact the Parish Office.

Best Frontage Competition

2024 took place with biodiversity in mind, the winners this year being 14, Towerside, Tower Park.

Hanging Baskets / Planters

Hullbridge Parish Council continues to maintain the plants along Ferry Road The flowers are supplied by a Local Nursery (Cherry Lane) 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, and is currently committed to replacing these with LED lights. Please report any issues to us. For adopted roads please report to Essex County Council.

Wheelchairs /Walking Frames

Our popular free service is continuing, so if you require a short term 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

2024 Was a huge success with a lovely community atmosphere.

Chairman's Christmas Card

Competition 2024 winner was Henry Harris. The Fayre in 2025 will be held on **Saturday 29th**

November between 3-6pm 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: C. Agius (Chair), K. O'Brien (Vice Chair), D. Elwell, I. Kenlin, D. Flack, P. White, A. Marriott, Mrs J. O'Brien, S. Cooper, S. Naish, K. Charters, S. Walsh. J. Hampstead