

HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-21 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, 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 usually organises the popular Annual Christmas Fayre and maintains numerous footpaths and open spaces throughout the village including the management of Kendal Park Nature Reserve.

Staff: Clerk to the Council, Anne-Marie Bates
Admin Assist. Julie Mullett
Maintenance Staff: Brett Wilson / Jake Lillywhite

Report by the Chairman of Hullbridge Parish Council

In March 2020, Covid-19 totally changed how we live our lives and continues to do so even though there appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine programme.

The usual running of the Parish Council has reverted to virtual Parish Council meetings, but the continuation of the services that we provide has not been affected with the dedication and efficiency of Parish Council Staff. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Council to thank each one of them for their work and efforts.

I would like to also thank my fellow Councillors for their continued efforts during these unprecedented times.

A special thanks to Councillors E. Smith, fK Ager and Mrs W Stevenson for their service on the Council as due to Personal reasons and with the delay of Elections 2020 resigning from their positions.

In May 2021 the Elections take place, so a new Parish Council will be in place for a three-year Term of Office.

During 2020 we are pleased that our communication with Barratt David Wilson has resulted in a Memorial and

garden of contemplation at the entrance to the development.

In the future Remembrance Services will be able to take place here, which will provide a safe area.

Sadly, our Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer Anne-Marie Bates is resigning from her post at the end of May as she and her family are moving out of Essex. We would like to thank her for all her work and effort over the last eight years and gaining the Council Quality Gold status during that time. We wish her well in her future endeavours.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce Mrs. Nicola Harding as the new Clerk and wish her all the best in her new role.

Cllr Miss A Marriott

Your Parish Precept

2021/22

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Hullbridge Parish Council's Budget for 2021/22 is £182,941 which equates to **£1.84** increase for an average Band D property per year:

Which is only: **£0.035 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 ensuring we get good value for money and obtaining the most competitive prices.

Our budget for 2020/2021 was £180,119 and this was spent on a number of responsibilities.

We do 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 on 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. Unfortunately, our maintenance staff are having to pick up a large amount of glass and rubbish left there each day. Please put items in the bins. Thank you.

Over **260 Christmas parcels** were delivered and greatly received by those residents who are 80 and over. If you are 80 this year or if you know of someone then please contact the Parish Office to make sure you/they are on our list.

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

Allotments

We have 135 plots which are all enjoyed with a wealth of crops grown. This year's Annual Competition was cancelled but hopefully it will resume this year. If interested in a plot then please contact the Parish Office.

Best Frontage Competition

2020 competition did not take place but we hope it will again this year.

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 the 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

2020 didn't take place but we still ran our competitions. Well done to those who took part.

The winners of the **Chairman's Christmas Card Competition 2020** were “Abigail Chandler” and “Austin Adams”.

The Best Shop Front window was won by “Broadway Grill” Well Done.

We are hoping that in 2021 the Fayre will be held on **Saturday 4th December 2021 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.

Parish Full Council Meetings

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

Councillors: Miss A Marriott (Chairman) D. Elwell (Vice Chairman), D. East, I. Kenlin Mrs. L Campbell-Daley, D. Jeffery, J. Chaffin, D. Heales, P. White and Ms. S. Thomas.