

# HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2013-14

## Your Parish Council

The Parish Council consists of 13 Members, all volunteering their time for the benefit of the Community, there are three Committees, various Sub Committees and Working Groups which together assist in the efficient smooth running of the Council. From our newly refurbished Parish Council Office the Clerk to the Council and her staff are able to provide information, assist with any concerns/ideas and also carries out a lot of the Maintenance throughout the Village and deals with all the administration and keeps the Parish webpage / Parish Noticeboards up to date.

### Report by the Chairman of Hullbridge Parish Council

I have had the pleasure again this year to be the Chairman of Hullbridge Parish Council.

I have represented the Council at a variety of meetings and functions during my term of office, which has been busy and

productive. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Vice-Chairman Cllr Mrs. W. Stevenson, Fellow Councillors and Parish Staff for all their support.

In August we had our Summer Fayre which was unfortunately affected by the weather, but still enjoyed by many and in December was the Annual Christmas Fayre which was a great success. A special thanks goes to the Hullbridge Community Association which put on a fantastic Santa's Grotto, also Santa and Cooks Coaches who provided the Horses and carriage.

The Parish Plan has now been adopted by the Council and our thanks goes to the Hullbridge Village Community Group that has put in an enormous amount of work. This document is still to be published for residents viewing.

## Your Parish Precept

2014/15

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Hullbridge Parish Council's Budget for 2014/2015 is £118,930 which equates to

**£49.70**

Precept average Band D property per year:

Which is only:

**£4.14 per month**

Or

**96p per week**

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

Rochford District Council after Consultation have had their Core Strategy and Allocations Document agreed and adopted which details that northwards from Lower Road to West Avenue/Windermere Avenue between 2016-2026 500 dwellings will be built, this area will also include community facilities, open / play spaces.

The Parish Council are opposed to Green Belt land being used and are doing everything in its power to make sure that any future developments there are provisions made to improve infrastructure, facilities etc. for the benefit of the whole community.

**The Pooles Lane car park** was taken over by the Parish Council in 1998. We are glad to announce that even though other District car parks have had charges imposed, ours continues to be Free. The car park is well used by residents and visitors and a big asset to the Village.

### **Hanging Baskets**

We are pleased to confirm that we will be continuing to have hanging baskets along Ferry Road. After a review we have decided that a Local Nursery (Riverside) will be providing/arranging the plants and our own

Maintenance Staff will be watering the plants.

### **Forthcoming Year**

The Parish Council are pleased to be working closely with Riverside Primary and working on several possible ventures which we hope will come into fruition.

**On 11<sup>th</sup> June** in partnership with Rochford District Council we will be holding a Community Litter/Dog Fouling Awareness Day, this will include a Community Litter Pick, School Assembly, School Dog Fouling Poster Competition and a Roadshow. We hope the Community pulls together to make Hullbridge a cleaner Village. More details of the event will follow.

**The Hullbridge Show** will be in a different format this year and be run as a Music Festival. It will be held on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August** at the Sports & Social Club, Lower Road between 1-5pm – details to follow.

**The Christmas Fayre** will be held on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December between 3-6pm** at Pooles Lane car park / HCA with Santa arriving at 4.15pm by Horse and Carriage with the Lights being switched On by a Guest at 5.45pm. There will be a variety of stalls, entertainment and activities and the winner of

the new **Chairman's Christmas Card Competition** will be announced. If you would like a stall then please contact the Parish Clerk.

Please come and support these Community events and if you would like to help, please contact the Clerk. It is our aim this year for the Parish Council to work more closely with the Community and encourage residents to be involved and help to ensure Hullbridge continues to be a good place to live.

The Parish Council will be running the Annual **Best Kept Garden Competition**, with 27<sup>th</sup> June being the shortlist date and Judging taking place on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Last year's the winner was Mr. Burton.

War Memorial, I'm in the process of gathering names of fallen Hullbridge Service Men / Women to put on a plaque.

*Hullbridge Parish Council*

*Parish Office*

*98 Ferry Road*

*01702 232038*

*OPEN Monday 12.30-2.30*

*Tues/ Wed/Thurs 10-12*

*Clerk to the Council*

*Mrs. Anne-Marie Bates*

*Email: [clerk@hullbridgepc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@hullbridgepc.co.uk)*

*Website*

*<http://www.essexinfo.net/hullbridge-parish-council/>*

## **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. Our budget for 2013/2014 was £116,035 and this was spent on a number of responsibilities. Some of which were:

- Christmas Parcels to the Elderly
- Floral baskets in Ferry Road
- Allotments
- Free use of Pooles Lane car park
- Managing and maintaining Kendal Nature Reserve
- Events including the Summer and Christmas Fayres
- Street lighting in un-adopted roads
- CCTV in the car park and Ferry Road
- Maintenance of street furniture, Pooles lane car park, Rose Garden, The Memorial, some grass verges and footpaths.

The Parish Council continues to provide support to a number of organisations.

### **Grant Funding**

We have also actively sought grant funding and this year we were successful in securing funding for a Climbing Spiders Web will be located at the Recreational Ground and hopefully installed before the summer 2014. We have been in discussion with Rochford District Council regarding the entrance to the Recreation Ground which should be re-designed in the near future providing a safer access for pedestrians and drivers. We are continuing to discuss the toilet situation with Rochford District Council and hope that a solution is found soon.

### **Income & Expenditure**

Please see attached our Income & Expenditure Accounts.

### **General Purposes Committee**

Under this Committees remit it looks after the Parish Council’s street scene assets, which includes the teen shelter, public seating, notice boards and bus shelters. Unfortunately there has been a spate of vandalism, we are working with the Police and also improving our CCTV Scheme to try to deter this from happening.

Over 145 Christmas parcels were delivered to the elderly residents who are aged 80+ and they were greatly appreciated.

### **Allotments**

The Allotments located in Lower Road are enjoyed by many with every plot taken up, the Clerk still holds a waiting list. The Parish Council also runs an Annual Competition in July which proves to be very popular and was won by **Mr. Humphrey – plots 8/9**

### **Hullbridge Youth Club –**

One of our Councillors, in a private capacity, has endeavored to open the youth club which was Re-launched at the beginning of 2014, a team of Volunteers are now CRB checked and trained and are now running the Club. There is also a morning and afterschool club which is proving to be popular.

### **Parks / Open Spaces / Conservation / Footpaths Committee**

This Committee is currently working with Hockley Parish Council to reinstate the footpath network especially where there has been erosion along the River and produce a new footpath map.

**Kendal Park NR**, the Committee have put together a tree management plan that delivers a coppicing program which will start in 2014. This will benefit the Nature Reserve and allow new species of flowers/insects etc. to flourish. It is also hoped that "Friends of Kendal Park" can be re-launched and these Volunteers can assist with keeping the Reserve clean, tidy and perhaps get the pond re-established. (If interested please contact the Clerk).

**Erosion**, there has unfortunately been substantial erosion along the River during the storms, we are in contact with the relevant Authority to get this problem rectified, so residents and visitors can keep enjoying the River walk.

### **Litter / Dog Fouling**

We are working with Rochford District Council to get more bins in the village and as previously mentioned a Community Day has been arranged for the 11<sup>th</sup> June. We hope to organise a separate Litter Pick later in the year to tackle Hullbridge Road, hopefully this Awareness day will encourage people to put litter in bins. If you are a dog walker, please pick up and place doggy

bags in the litter or Dog bins provided – Thank you.

### **Parish Full Council**

**Meetings** These are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month (excluding August) at the Hullbridge Centre, Windermere Avenue at 7.30pm – Everyone is Welcome to attend and forward their ideas and concerns.

### **Your Parish Councillors**

Cllr. Miss A. Marriott  
(Chairman and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee)

Cllr. Mrs. W. Stevenson  
(Vice-chairman)

Cllr. G Angus

Cllr. Mrs. L. Daley

Cllr. D East

(Planning Chairman)

Cllr. D Gatehouse

Cllr. Mrs. A. Hale

Cllr. M Hale

Cllr. M Hodson

(V.Chair Planning)

Cllr. Mrs. D Hoy

Cllr. M Hoy

Cllr. D Jeffery

(Finance and Personnel Committee Chairman)

Cllr. I Kenlin

(Footpath Committee Chairman)

### **Parish Staff**

Anne-Marie Bates

Clerk to the Council

Julie Mullett

Administration Assistant

George Bailey

General Maintenance Officer (GMO)

David Negus

Assistant GMO

### **District (Hullbridge Ward)**

#### **Councillors**

Cllr Mrs. A. Hale

Cllr Mrs. D. Hoy

Cllr M. Hoy

#### **County Councillor**

Cllr M Hoy

#### **Member of Parliament**

Rt Hon Mark Francois MP

#### **Highways**

Due to the very wet winter which resulted in many pot holes appearing on our roads the Parish Council has been vigilant and reported them to Essex County Council for action also chased them.

During the icy period Parish Council staff do salt certain areas of the village and also provides salt to a number of venues which need to stay open to provide a service to the Community.

#### **Neighbourhood Policing**

The Parish Council is in regular contact with the Police and holds monthly Neighbourhood Action Panel meetings at the Hullbridge Community Association which everyone is welcome to attend to discuss local crime, disorder and anti-social behavior. These meetings are advertised on the Parish Notice boards/ website also on the Police Website.