

HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26 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 2025, I was elected Chair of Hullbridge Parish Council at a time of significant change within local government. Ongoing restructuring is expected to place increasing responsibilities on parish councils, bringing both challenges and opportunities for our community.

Together with my fellow councillors, I am committed to providing clear leadership and ensuring that the Parish Council is well-positioned to adapt to these changes. Our focus will be on supporting residents, maintaining strong local representation, and guiding the parish through this period of uncertainty with transparency and resilience.

The Parish Council are proud to have delivered further LED street lights and 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 remains committed to supporting local groups and charities through its grant programme, enabling them to continue delivering vital services within the community. During the 2025–2026 financial year, grants were awarded to The Men's Shed, The Windermere Centre, Wyvern Community Transport, and The Parkinson's Café.

We are also proud to have delivered over 300 Christmas parcels to Hullbridge residents aged over 80, an initiative made possible with the valued support of the local Co-op.

In addition, the Parish Council has worked in partnership with Rochford District Council to part-fund a new defibrillator for the village, now installed on the exterior wall of the Library, further enhancing community safety.

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.

Cllr K. O'Brien.



Your Parish Precept

2026/27

Hullbridge Parish Council's Budget for 2026/27 is £266,551 which equates to **£4.12** increase for an average Band D property per year: Which is only: **£0.07** 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 2025/2026 was £252,417 and this was spent on many responsibilities including village enhancement and maintenance. We have a **Grant Scheme** where organisations can apply for a grant upto £500 – 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 installed new CCTV in the car park in Spring 2025.

Over **300 Christmas parcels** were delivered by the Council, the local 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 Plot 32 If interested in a plot then please contact the Parish Office.

Wild About Hullbridge

This new competition will replace the Best Kept Front Gardens. We look forward to seeing your entries.

Hanging Baskets / Planters

Hullbridge Parish Council continues to maintain the plants along Ferry Road This years flowers are supplied by Potash Nurseries 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. Kendal Park has dispensers for doggy bags.

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

2025 Was a great event with a lovely community atmosphere.

Chairman's Christmas Card

Competition 2025 winner was

Alexis. The Fayre in 2026 will be held on **Saturday 28th November**

between 3-6pm at Pooles Lane car park This will be the same format as 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: *K. O'Brien (Chair), I. Kenlin (Vice Chair), D. Elwell, C. Agius, D. Flack, P. White, A. Marriott, J. O'Brien, S. Cooper, S. Naish, K. Charters, S. Walsh, J. Hampstead.*