



GREAT YELDHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Chairman's Report

It has been an incredible 12 months for our Parish Council, I would like to thank everyone in Great Yeldham who has contributed to supporting our community over the last months, both in organised groups and as individuals. The members of the Parish Council are very grateful for your efforts. Looking back on all the successes we have achieved together, I would like to take a moment to reflect on these.

Key Actions 2022/23:

- To commemorate **HRH The Queen's Platinum Jubilee** the village celebrated with a Beacon Lighting Ceremony and firework salute held on 2nd June followed by the Platinum Big Lunch on 5th June. Over 300 residents enjoyed a traditional afternoon tea with entertainment and activities organised by the Parish Council; part funded by an Awards For All Lottery grant of £2,940. On September the 8th the nation was deeply saddened to hear that Her Majesty the Queen passed away; the impact her reign had will not be forgotten.
- Facilitated the setup of **Great Yeldham Men's Shed** and supported the Committee/volunteers in creating a safe space to support vulnerable groups from the adverse effects of loneliness and isolation and alleviating mental health problems. The project secured £13,900 in grants and volunteers have worked tirelessly in adapting and refurbishing 2 containers in which to home the project .
- A Public Consultation was held in October which discussed suggestions and ideas put forward for the development of **Bowtell's Meadow** once it is transferred to the Parish Council. The Working Party is now in the process of taking those ideas forward and developing an action plan.
- Sports & Recreation Ground.** The Parish Council have been working in partnership with the Sports Ground Management Committee to refurbish the site and deal with on-going maintenance issues. The internal walls of the pavilion have been redecorated; the entrance height barrier was replaced due to damage; netting and supports were installed along the boundary to prevent footballs going into neighbouring gardens; plans to replace the brick shed roof are in progress. Future plans for refurbishing the site are still being progressed.
- The annual **Christmas Tree** was erected on Whitlock Green.

Parish Councillors:

- Cllr Philip Rawlinson (Chairman)**
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- Cllr John Marks (Deputy Chairman)**
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CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL
 Parish Clerk: 01787 237832 Email: greatyeldhampc@btinternet.com
 The Parish Office is open to the public on Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday from 10.30 am – 1.00 pm. (Parish Office, c/o Reading Room, Great Yeldham, Halstead, Essex, CO9 4ER.
 Telephone: 0187 238732
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www.greatyeldhampc.co.uk





- The Parish Council facilitated in re-establishing a **Post Office Service** for the village and provides funding for the service to operate in the Reading Room every Monday from 10.00 am to 12 noon as part of the Village Hub which provides a warm place with refreshments and pick up Prescription Service.
- In May the Parish Council provided a free **certificated First Aid training day** for Great Yeldham residents which including training on the defibrillator.
- Purchased **Table Tennis** Equipment in partnership with Table Tennis England to establish a Table Tennis club for the residents of Great Yeldham, every Wednesday at 7.00 pm in the Reading Room.
- The Parish Council continues to fund the **Handyman Service** to undertake jobs throughout the village including edge/tree cutting/pruning, sweeping leaf fall, checking play equipment, grounds maintenance work.
- Work continues to improve the **Burial Grounds** including tree pruning, pest control and grave maintenance. The working group are looking at ways to generate income for the future maintenance of the grounds.
- **Emergency Plan** is updated each year; our thanks go to volunteers who willing donate their time to help clear the footpaths of ice/snow when required. Discussed and commented on 22 **Planning Applications** affecting the village and attended BDC Planning Committee to represent the village, as necessary.
- **Village Maintenance.** The appointed grass cutting contractor continues to ensure that the village green, open spaces, burial grounds, St Andrews church yard and verges look tidy. Upkeep works continue with repairing the wet pour surface in the Play Park. Undertook pest control at the burial grounds and the sports ground. Worked with key partners in keeping waterways clear, reducing flooding in the village, maintaining road surfaces and highways. **Braintree District Council** contributed £1808.90 to help keep the Parish looking clean, tidy and well maintained for residents and visitors. The Parish Council continues to work and liaise with ECC Highways on Vehicle Activated Signs, road/bridge defects, potholes, damaged signs and public footpaths.
- **Other Projects, Working Groups and Charities** continue to work on their activities around the village, helping to solve any issues that may occur and working on the environment for all to enjoy working within a set budget. The **Education Foundation** provided £1530 in small grants to 18 local applicants towards the purchase of school uniform for those children leaving primary school to attend secondary education. The **United Charities** provided grants of £3721.94 to 5 local groups/organisations for the prevention or relief of poverty and religious activities.
- The **Website** www.greatyeldhampc.co.uk and **Facebook** page continues to keep residents up to date with current information, forthcoming events and legal requirements.
- **The 4 Villages Magazine** continues to produce an interesting and valued magazine, with 10 editions produced per annum which is posted to every village household with thanks to our editor/volunteers. Editions are available on the website.





The Parish Council would like to express special thanks to Christine, for all her time and hard work in creating the wonderful displays in the telephone box situated outside the Reading Room. Well done Christine, we always look forward to seeing the next amazing creation.

Key Actions for 2023/24

- To organise a Coronation event to celebrate His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort Coronation with a Coronation Big Lunch planned for Sunday 7th May 2023.
- To continue to support the opening of the Great Yeldham Men’s Shed; supporting the Committee and volunteers in creating a space to support the mental health and wellbeing of vulnerable groups in our local community and surrounding areas.
- To progress the transfer of Bowtells Meadow once the S106 Agreement has been triggered and to consult and implement recommendations for enhancing the open space on the meadow. Reviewing the play area/equipment for young children. Providing facilities for Youth activities/Youth Club.
- To work with ECC to establish a pedestrian path linking Strawberry Fields Development & Public Right of Way (Footpath 40).
- Continue to work with the Sports Ground Management Committee in refurbishing the grounds for the provision of new sporting facilities including outdoor exercise equipment, tennis courts, football pitches Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), improving and expanding the Skate Park and BMX track. The next phase will be to source funding opportunities for the MUGA and to repair the damaged brick shed roof.
- To organise a Village Tidy Up day in October, the Amenity Refuse Vehicle provided by Braintree District Council will be hired for this event.
- Investigating provision of Allotments. Improve planting area by the lay-by opposite the post office.
- To progress work with the installation of the Railway Station Display Board and street furniture.
- To review appropriate signage around the village: speed awareness, road crossing signs, continue to review and maintain street furniture, street scene and open spaces/footpaths.
- Continue working with Braintree, ECC and other key partners in development opportunities for the village including new housing, employment, health services and recreation facilities.
- Continue to work with the developers for Strawberry Fields and Nun’s Green.
- To meet the administrative costs of the running of the Parish Council in the discharge of its statutory duties including the cost of employing the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

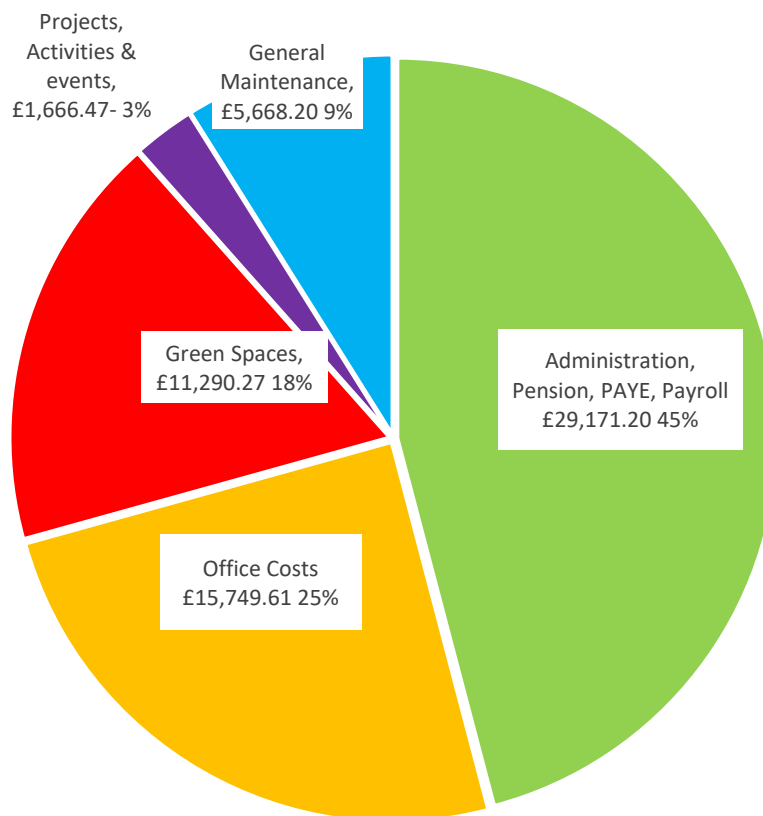


How your money was spent in 2022/23

Payments for the year was £83,741.59 represented by: Parish Council Admin/Running Costs £63,545.75 (breakdown below), Reserves £5,963.43, Men's Shed Grant Expenditure £4,756.56, Jubilee Grant Expenditure £2,940, Burial Grounds Expenditure £6,056.61.

Income for the year £83,532.73 represented by: Precept £49,386 (parish element of Council Tax), Burial Ground Fees £6,265, 4 Villages Magazine Contribution £3,274.56, BDC Street Cleaning £1,808.90, Grants Men's Shed £13,900, Lottery Jubilee Event £2,940, Other Income £642.60, VAT reclaim £5,315.67. Which leaves a reserves balance as at 01/04/23 of £56,403.17 of which £20,558.23 allocated to the management of the Burial Grounds, £9,143.44 balance of Men's Shed Grants, leaving a general reserve of £26,702.04. A detailed breakdown of receipts/payments is available on the parish website www.greatyeldhampc.co.uk

Great Yeldham Expenditure 2022/23



Administration: Employee/employer PAYE, Local Government Pension Scheme, Payroll costs.

Office Costs: professional fees for legal, payroll and audit requirements; office rent; printing, postage, telephone, internet and stationery; Insurance Premiums; Training and Subscriptions, Room Hire, Website, Elections

Green Spaces: Grounds Maintenance fees for the Burial Grounds, St Andrews Churchyard, Whitlock Green, Play Park, Verges, Footpaths, Sports and Recreation Ground

Projects, Activities & Events: Christmas Tree, Defibrillator, HRH Commemorative/Memorial Consumables, Phone Box Consumables, Pest Control

General Maintenance & Equipment: Play Park, Skateboard Park, Handyman Service, Electricity supply

CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: 01787 237832 Email: greatyeldhampc@btinternet.com (Please note the Parish Clerk works part-time, therefore emails and answerphone messages will be answered as soon as is possible). The Parish Office is open to the public on Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday from 10.30 am – 1.00 pm. (Due to unforeseen circumstances there may be occasions when the office is closed).



