



# GREAT YELDHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24



It has been a very busy 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 Parish Council are very grateful for your efforts. Looking back on all the successes we have achieved together.

## Key Actions 2022/23:

- To commemorate **HRH King Charles III Coronation on 6/7<sup>th</sup> May 2024** the Parish Council organised and provided a complimentary BBQ, Coronation Cake and refreshments with entertainment and activities which was part funded by an Awards for All Lottery grant of £2,400.
- Submitted a Planning Application for the change of use of land to site the **Great Yeldham Men's Shed**; creating a safe space to support vulnerable groups from the adverse effects of loneliness and isolation and alleviating mental health problems. The Parish Council helped secure a further 2 grants to help with the outside refurbishment £1,500 United Charities and Lottery Awards for All grant of £3,619.
- Continue to work on plans to develop **Bowtell's Meadow** once transferred to the Parish Council. The Working Group with Ebie, the company selected to take those ideas forward including installing new playground equipment, maintenance plans to upkeep the Meadow and introduce new trees/shrubs, perimeter path, benches and picnic furniture. The scheme is dependent on securing funding.
- **Sports & Recreation Ground.** Working in partnership with the Sports Ground Management Committee to refurbish the site and deal with on-going maintenance issues. Key works have included: installation of a pavilion handrail which was part funded by the Parish Council and a £300 grant from BDC's Councillors' Community Grant; roof repairs to the storage shed; repainting of hazard lines to access road speed humps, rendering repairs, painting, electrical work, catch fencing and repairs to security lighting. **CCTV has now been installed at the Recreation Ground, which was donated and installed by Central CCTV Limited.** Signs have been installed at the Recreation Ground informing members of the public that CCTV is now in operation. The Parish Council would like to thank Central CCTV Limited for their very generous donation. Hopefully the system will help to discourage antisocial behaviour and damage to property. Future plans for refurbishing the grounds are still being investigated including replacement basketball nets/court markings and a Multi-Use Games Area but are dependent on securing funding.

## Parish Councillors:

- **Cllr Philip Rawlinson**  
(Chairman)  
[philipraw@btinternet.com](mailto:philipraw@btinternet.com)
- **Cllr John Marks**  
(Deputy Chairman)  
[johnmarkspc@gmail.com](mailto:johnmarkspc@gmail.com)
- **Cllr Georgina Burr**  
[Gburr.gypc@gmail.com](mailto:Gburr.gypc@gmail.com)
- **Cllr Anne Burrows**  
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- **Cllr Philip King**  
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- **Cllr Mark Lovell**  
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- **Cllr Bikaram Chahal**  
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- **Cllr Barry Sargeant**  
01787 236041
- **Cllr Gary Theobald**  
[gtheobaldgypc@gmail.com](mailto:gtheobaldgypc@gmail.com)

**CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL**  
Parish Clerk: 01787 237832 Email: [greatyeldhampc@btinternet.com](mailto: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

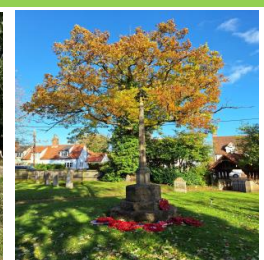
Email: [clerk@greatyeldhampc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greatyeldhampc.co.uk)

Website:

<https://greatyeldhampc.co.uk>

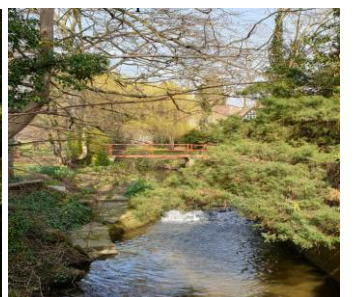


[www.greatyeldhampc.co.uk](http://www.greatyeldhampc.co.uk)





- Organised the annual **Christmas Tree & Carol Service** on 2nd December with singing from St Andrews C of E Primary School choir, a visit from Santa on the vintage festive bus and complimentary chocolate reindeers provided by the Parish Council. A **Christmas Afternoon Tea for over 60's** was organised on the 20<sup>th</sup> December, 40 older people attended and were treated to an afternoon of tasty treats and music.
- The Parish Council continued to fund the hire of the Reading Room for the village **Post Office Service** as part of the Village Hub which provides a warm place with refreshments and pick up Prescription Service. The service has experienced a few teething problems with technology/connection issues, hopefully this has now been resolved with a dedicated internet connection through the Parish Office.
- **Autumn Clean-up** hired the Amenity Refuse Vehicle on 21st October for residents to dispose of their unwanted household items.
- Provides a **Handyman Service** to undertake jobs throughout the village including hedge/tree cutting/pruning, sweeping leaf fall, checking play equipment and general grounds maintenance.
- Work continues to improve the **Burial Grounds** including tree pruning, pest control and ground maintenance. Unfortunately, there have been a few vehicle collisions, break-ins and anti-social behaviour at the cemetery which has resulted in damage to: the entrance wall, the storage facility gates, the iron entrance gate and damage to the shelter ceiling and graffiti. The working group are looking at ways to improve security measures.
- **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 24 **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. 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 proposed plans for Churchfields Bridge, Vehicle Activated Signs, road/bridge defects, potholes, damaged signs and public footpaths. *A big thank you to our **volunteer Litter Picking Heros** who help clear litter from our village. If you're interested in becoming a Litter Picking Hero, contact the clerk.*
- **Other Projects/Working Groups/Charities** continue 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 £1444.66 in small grants to 17 local applicants towards the purchase of school uniforms for children leaving primary school to attend secondary education. The **United Charities** provided grants of £4239 to 6 local groups for the prevention or relief of poverty and religious activities.







**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.**

- The **Website** [www.greatyeldhampc.co.uk](http://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, due to printing costs it was decided to reduce to 6 editions per annum, hand delivered to every village household with thanks to our editor/volunteers. Editions are available on the website.

### Key Actions for 2024/25

- To continue to support 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 by investigating funding opportunities for the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and general ongoing maintenance issues.
- To organise key events including a summer fete, Village Autumn Clean-Up, Christmas Tree and Carol Service, Over 60’s Tea Party.
- Improving security measures to prevent damage caused by anti-social behavior, key areas include the Skate Park, Cemetery and Bowtells Meadow Play Park. Investigating provision of Allotments.
- 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 employment, health services and recreation facilities.
- 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.




### Christmas Tree and Carol Service



This year's Christmas Tree and Carol Service, will take place on Whitlock Green on **Saturday 2nd December at 4.00pm for a 4.15pm switch on.**

The choir from St Andrews C of E Primary School we be joining us. **Santa will be making a special visit on the illuminated festive Vintage bus donated and run by the Newman family.**

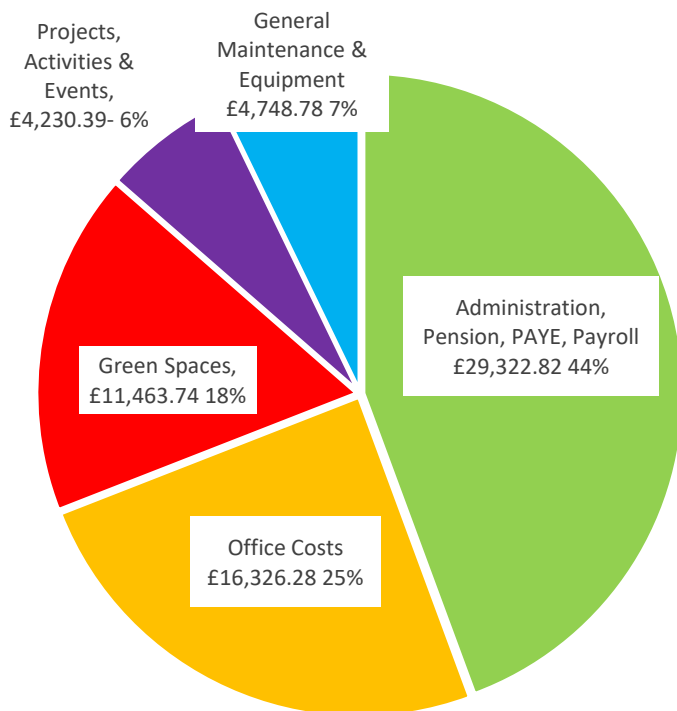
## How your money was spent in 2023/24

The opening cash balance as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 was £56,403.73 of which £9,143.44 balance of Grants held for the Men's Shed.

**Payments** for the year was £95,016.13 represented by: Parish Council Admin/Running Costs £66,092.91 (breakdown below), Ear-Marked Reserves £4,572.87 (Sports Ground Shed Roof and Coronation Event), Men's Shed Grant Expenditure £10,008.80, Awards for All Grant Expenditure for Coronation Event £2,875.97, Burial Grounds Expenditure £11,466.67

**Income** for the year £71,684.67 represented by: Precept £53,296.00 (parish element of Council Tax), Burial Ground Income/Fees £12,344 (of which £4,615 2 x Insurance Claims), BDC Street Cleaning £1,808.90, Grants Men's Shed £1,425, Lottery Awards for All Coronation Event £2,400, Other Income £410.65, Which leaves a reserves balance as at 01/04/24 of £33,072.27 of which £559.64 balance of Men's Shed Grants, leaving a reserve of £31,393.35. A detailed breakdown of receipts/payments is available on the parish website [www.greatyeldhampc.co.uk](http://www.greatyeldhampc.co.uk)

### Great Yeldham Expenditure 2023/24



**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, stationery; Insurance Premiums; Training and Subscriptions, 4 Villages Magazine, Post Office Service and Warm Hub, Room Hire, Website, Elections

**Green Spaces:** Grounds Maintenance fees for Burial Grounds, St Andrews Churchyard, Whitlock Drive Green(s), Play Park, Verges, Footpaths, Sports and Recreation Ground Grant

**Projects, Activities & Events:** Christmas Tree and Carol Service, 60+ Afternoon Tea, Defibrillator, Men's Shed Planning Application/Architect Fees, Replacement Bin (Sports Ground), Phone Box Consumables

**General Maintenance & Equipment:** Handyman Service, Play Park and Sports Ground Equipment, Dog Poo Dispenser Bags, Skateboard Park, Electricity supply.

### CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: 01787 237832 Email: [clerk@greartyeldhampc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greartyeldhampc.co.uk) (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 – 1.30 pm. (Due to unforeseen circumstances there may be occasions when the office is closed).



**GREAT YELDHAM**  
PARISH COUNCIL

