

# *Great Ecclestone Parish Council*

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH**

### **MEETING**

**7:00pm Monday 8th April  
2024 in the Lounge of**

**Great Ecclestone Village Centre**

**Welcome by the Chairman**

**Reports:**

**Parish Council Chairman's Report  
Parish Council Financial Report  
Borough Councillor's Report  
Great Ecclestone in Bloom Report  
Flood Report**

**Police Report (if able to attend)**

**Subjects for discussion:**

**Please notify the Clerk or your Councillors before the meeting of any items for discussion  
[members@greatecclestone.org](mailto:members@greatecclestone.org)**

**All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting between April and June each year. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the Parish Council and other organisations in the village to outline what they have been doing over the last 12 months. It also enables the residents of Great Ecclestone to have their say on anything they consider is important to the village, this is welcomed and is the purpose of the meeting. A written record of the meeting will be taken.**

### **Chairman's Report 2023**

This is the Parish Council (PC) Chairman's report for 2023/2024. Let me start off by thanking the Clerk to the Parish Council, Hugh Glover, for his sterling efforts this year in helping to guide the PC in the right direction and completing all its business. I value his help and advice greatly.

Once again the PC did not gain a full complement of nominees at the local elections and therefore no election of councillors was called, with resignations this left the PC undermanned. This year we have welcomed Cllr Trevor Browning (co-opted), Cllr Alan Yates (unelected, uncontested) and the return of Cllr Nick Cross (co-opted), from the previous Council to increase the PC to 7 councillors.

With the thoughts of the pandemic becoming a distant memory it is more important now than any time in our past that we work together as a team of councillors for the good of the whole village. This year we have seen the village grow even further with the erection of houses in the Pinfold area and extra houses in the Copp Lane area. This influx of more people puts the services of the village at greater strain especially in the form of car parking and an increase in traffic flow. Our next major project will be the erection of houses on the Northern side of Copp Lane and the introduction of the new link road. It is therefore imperative that the PC gets together and works as a team in order to improve our environs. Many of these changes are out of our control and as we have to work for the village as a whole we cannot take sides when it comes to planning.

Last year we welcomed the Third Carolian Age with the crowning of King Charles III. The PC decided not to celebrate this event as it had with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as it was too close to that event. A plaque was erected to commemorate the Coronation.

A village can only improve if the villagers want it to improve therefore I would on behalf of the PC like to thank Nathan Montgomery (a young villager) for his plantings in the village to help make it colourful and John Cluett the lengthsman for cleaning the Square area and the West End. There are also a growing number of volunteers who also make the village look good, these are too numerous to mention but I would like to thank on behalf of the PC the phantom road sign cleaner who has made a sterling effort in cleaning the old finger post of the A586, this is probably akin to painting the Forth Bridge, the gardening volunteers and the growing number of litter pickers who are all regularly seen picking up litter in the village streets.

This year the PC handed back the playing field to Wyre Borough Council who plan to plant trees in that area. We have also purchased speed monitoring equipment for roads in the village to help reduce speeds and hence keep the roads safer for all concerned. As mentioned in the Chairman's report last year it is hoped in the near future that the PC takes over the operation of the car park on Thone Meadows Phase one as this will go some way to alleviating what is becoming an issue with the lack of parking in the village but more essentially the Square. We as a PC need to encourage more people to use the shop/facilities in the village therefore it is essential that we improve parking. The new car park includes an electric charging station increasing our public charging stations to three. This lack of action on the handing over of the car park is due to solicitors rather than the PC.

This year's Christmas decorations were less than in past years due to the LCC ruling that Christmas lights could not be attached to lamp standards. Even though we had lost this facility the decorations were very pretty and were an asset to the Square. The rule also applies to hanging baskets and the PC have looked at other ways of hanging these to maintain the floral aspect of the village.

The village is still a rural village with all year round colour from both plantings and natural vegetation. It is a delight walking through the village at all times of the year from the first flowering of the snowdrops and daffodils on the A586 to the red and golds of the autumn foliage on the larch at the bottom of Raikes Road and the flowering of the Autumn croci. Wyre in Bloom judges the village on one day in August, in 2023 and this year we gained a silver gilt certificate. The PC are undertaking a plan to replace the old wooden barrels which have disintegrated over time with sturdier concrete and plastic containers. This will ensure longevity and are far more economical than the wooden barrels. This year the Great Eccleston Show Committee has donated a plough to the village which will be used in one of the flower beds. This ensures that we retain the links with our farming heritage and also with the Great Eccleston Show and Tractor Pull.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their hard work over the past year.

David J Astall  
Chairman of the Parish Council

## Great Ecclestone Parish Council

Income and Expenditure	Actual	Budget	Variance	12-Feb-24	Budget 2023/202 4	Budget 2024/202 5
	£	£	£	12		
Income						
Interest (yearly)	130	50	80		50	100
Market	1,300	1,600	(300)		1,600	1,500
Wyre Borough Council Precept	39,000	39,000	0		39,000	41,000
WIB	2,271	2,968	(697)		2,968	2,900
Precept support for Village Centre	6,000	6,000	0	A	6,000	6,300
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>48,701</b>	<b>49,618</b>	<b>(917)</b>		<b>49,618</b>	<b>51,800</b>
Expenses						
Accounting and legal fees	287	280	(7)		280	300
Employee Costs	8,921	8,250	(671)		8,250	9,700
CCTV / Signage 2014/2015 / (Fixed Assets)	8,027	8,000	(27)		8,000	6,750
Insurance Costs	1,064	1,064	0	A	1,064	1,035
Lengthsman & Planting	10,254	9,100	(1,154)		9,100	4,400
Planting (Figures split for 2023/24)	0	0	0			4,250
Membership Fees	260	260	0	A	260	270
Printing, Postage and Stationery	603	500	(103)		500	500
Publications	20	20	0	A	20	20
Rates	165	165	0	A	165	170
Repairs	1,896	2,000	104	A	2,000	2,000
Room Hire & storage	1,149	1,050	(99)		1,050	1,100
Election Expenses	128	0	(128)		0	200
Free resource Section 137	290	1,000	710		1,000	1,000
Training	400	400	0		400	400
Travel	838	800	(38)		800	800
Web Site Hosting and Maintenance	798	700	(98)		700	700
Xmas/ Other/Events	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	2,250
Contingency	500	2,000	1,500	A	2,000	4,000
Village Centre support	13,000	12,000	(1,000)	A	12,000	12,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>48,600</b>	<b>49,589</b>	<b>989</b>		<b>49,589</b>	<b>51,845</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>72</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>-45</b>

A= Adjustment for accruals or provisions

Year	Precept	Salary Grant	Total	% Increase/Decrease	Tax Base	Per Rate D	Increase per household £	Increase %
2009	2010	17,000	2,319	19,319				
2010	2011	12,500	2,357	14,857	(23.1)			
2011	2012	12,500	2,375	14,875	0.1			
2012	2013	12,500	2,295	14,795	(0.5)			
2013	2014	13,500	2,287	15,787	6.7			
2014	2015	13,500	None	13,500	(14.5)			
2015	2016	14,000	None	14,000	3.7			
2016	2017	15,000	None	15,000	7.1			
2017	2018	16,000	None	16,000	6.7			
2018	2019	16,500	None	16,500	3.1			
2019	2020	20,500	None	20,500	24.2	577	35.52	
2020	2021	23,000	None	23,000	12.2	634	36.26	0.73 2.07
2021	2022	26,000	None	26,000	13.0	689	37.73	1.48 4.07
2022	2023	34,000	None	34,000	30.8	743	45.75	8.01 21.24
2023	2024	45,000	None	45,000	32.4	781	57.61	11.87 25.94
2024	2025	47,300	None	47,300	5.1	779	60.72	3.11 5.39
Average Per annum				6.8				

# **SUSAN CATTERALL - WYRE BOROUGH** **COUNCILLOR - 2023 TO 2024 ANNUAL** **REPORT**

This year has led to the introduction of new administration changes as well as staff reorganisation to keep Wyre Borough Council progressive and efficient. The major changes during this period was a change to both the Chief Executive Officer and the Council Leader.

As a result of the election both the proposed Mayor and Deputy Mayor were unsuccessful in regaining their positions as councillors. So it was agreed that Councillor Julie Robinson continue as Mayor for the term 2023 to 2024 and I agreed to carry on during that period as the Deputy Mayor but with carrying out an increased number of functions to share commitments more equally.

Again I have had the privilege to represent the Borough and promote our village at a wide variation of duties around the county. The most memorable of these was to be fortunate enough to attend the Coronation Garden Party at Buckingham Palace attended by William, Kate, Anne, Tim, Edward and Sophie.

Another special milestone for our village was the Centenary of the Great Ecclestone Bowling Club which I was asked to attend as my role of Deputy Mayor. Despite a day of bad weather some “under water” bowling took place with much laughing, emotion and reminiscing.

My role as Wyre Borough Councillor includes responsibility for a wide area including Great Eccleston, Inskip, St. Michael's and Churchtown. As such I invariably tend to be the first point of contact for those with varied problems and sometimes people who are unsure where to turn for advice and attention. As such I always try to be approachable and available.

This numerous contact from all ages of residents does include a wide spectrum of both Borough and County Council issues complaining or requesting advice and procedural information where I sometimes direct them to the appropriate department(s) or mostly forward their issues for them. The main Wyre Borough issues are those pertaining to planning, fouling of public areas, tree preservation orders and maintenance of public spaces.

My role on the Planning Committee has meant many applications including some testing decisions. These have included complaints and objections I have called in on behalf of the village involving a wide spectrum from septic tanks, barn conversions, children's homes and many more. Understandably concerned, emotional and sometimes rude people including one irate man at 10pm on a Saturday evening regarding an enforcement order.

Tree preservation orders continue to be an issue in the village causing both ill feeling and concern from some for the trees. Assisting with the procedure of this process and on occasion calling the application before the planning committee has been my main role.

It has been highlighted to me during this year that not everyone has either the knowledge or access to a computer which sadly is currently the method of contact of most organisations. One of these situations was where I helped lady to complete and forward her Council Tax Form for Single Occupancy after she had lost her partner. I am able to directly assist or enable the relevant Wyre Borough Department to make contact in these situations.

**Great Ecclestone Annual Parish Council Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
**Great Ecclestone in Bloom Report**

**Achievements leading up to judging in July 2023**

- Bus Stop repainted.
- 13 new self-watering barrels and planters purchased by Parish Council
- Redesign and build of new health centre beds – subsidised by GEHC
- Volunteers recruited and responsible for:
  - Renovated signs at either end of the Village
  - Village Centre Garden renovation phase 1
  - Maintenance and planting of 3 barrels
  - Design and planting in Health Centre beds
  - Design and renovation of Shady Bed, relocation of roses to bungalows
  - Replanting, repainting update of Pinfold
  - Cleaning and painting of all Village benches
  - Weeding and some planting at the bungalows
- Engagement with Wyre re landscaping on Garstang Road
- Jeans & boots theme including one in the phone box by Pollen.

<b>In Bloom Scoring out of 100 points</b>	2021 – 74 Silver 2022 – 74 Silver 2023 – 79 Silver Gilt – due to improved horticulture, natural environment, communication	75 to 84 points = Silver Gilt   Very Good 85 to 100 points = Gold   Excellent
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**Projects for 2024**

- Historical and other information boards at the Bus Stop
- Redesign and build of Welcome Beds -enhanced surround, signs and planting
- 7 new barrels (6 self-watering) to be purchased by Parish Council
- Herb leaflet for Health Centre beds
- Purchase of high visibility jackets with In Bloom logo
- Retain and recruit more Volunteers to be responsible for:
  - Welcome Bed signs and maintenance after rebuild<sup>1</sup>
  - Village Centre Garden phase 2 renovation – including water butt and new compost area
  - Increase volunteer planting to 4 barrels
  - Hayloft outside Dentist
  - Maintenance of Pinfold & Hay basket
  - Maintenance of all round self-watering barrels<sup>1</sup>
  - Maintenance of Health Centre Beds
  - Maintenance of Shady Bed
  - Maintenance of Celebration Bed<sup>1</sup>
  - Repainting any Village benches and painting 2 benches on Garstang Road near West End
  - Weeding & new rose garden at the bungalows
  - Raising In Bloom funds with events in the Community and sponsorship
- Engagement with Wyre re landscaping
- Pebble design around tree at bus stop and corner of Leckonby
- Front door competition – sponsored by Pollen
- Jeans & boots theme including one in the phone box by Pollen

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<sup>1</sup> Previously NM

Update for 2024 as at 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Item	Description	Current Status
<b>Theme</b>	The RHS Theme for 2024 is friendship. Possible friendship rings at either end of the Village, companion planting, emphasis on partnerships. Trying to use hot colours in full sun and cooler colours on shady side of High St/Raikes. Memorial planters will be red.	
<b>Sponsorship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The usual charges for signpost advertising at either end of the Village will be invoiced in May by HG</li> <li>Pebby's have agreed again to pay £30 for plants in the barrel outside their shop.</li> <li>Pollen have agreed to look after and revitalise the phone box. They also want to sponsor a front door competition.</li> <li>GEHC have agreed to pay £100 towards the new barrel near their car park entrance.</li> <li>Newberry Homes are donating 1 Tonne bag of golden gravel for Pinfold.</li> <li>The Spring Craft Fair raised £331 to be spent on In Bloom – Volunteer Vests and planting in the Welcome Beds possibilities.</li> <li>Talks are ongoing with Moons, ES Williams, Dentist &amp; Greenthumb.</li> </ul>	<p>We do need to encourage more community involvement.</p> <p>PT to update at meeting.</p>
<b>Volunteers</b>	<p>We have recruited 2 more regular volunteers following a request on Facebook, bringing the total to 16 regulars plus some ad hoc ones. The Volunteers have kindly agreed to take on more responsibility for 2024 saving funds for the Parish Council. See list overleaf.</p> <p>The Volunteers have had 4 meetings so far and have started work on the Village Centre Garden and weeding the barrels &amp; planters as well as providing input and ideas.</p>	
<b>Information Boards</b>	Information boards and historical leaflet to be provided. Design and method outstanding.	PT gathering information.
<b>Welcome Beds</b>	2 Estimates received, Sub Committee propose work is given to Peter Hammond, slightly cheaper quote with more design involvement. Assuming approval at the Parish Council meeting, work will start in April. TB will renovate the Welcome sign.	Work to start after Parish Council agreement.
<b>Plough</b>	Awaiting information from DA	DA to update at meeting.
<b>Wyre Beds</b>	Liaising with Wyre on maintenance.	First emails exchanged.
<b>New Barrels for 2024</b>	<p>6 Self Watering Barrels + 1 regular planter included in Nathan's estimate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 x High Street opposite Leckonby street entrance at cottages (1 provided by Nathan)</li> <li>2 x Dentist (volunteers)</li> <li>1 x Barrows Lane</li> <li>1 x Health Centre bench (paid for by GEHC)</li> <li>1 x Bus Stop at Raikes</li> </ul>	<p>6 Self Watering to be ordered in April by HG.</p> <p>Nathan to provide one with planting at end May.</p>
<b>Barrels throughout the Village</b>	Nathan will plant at the end of May but then maintenance will be carried out by the Volunteers before & after the planting.	Planting has been agreed and due to start end of May.
<b>Planters and Beds</b>	Nathan will be responsible for planting and maintaining memorial planters, tiered planters, square planters & lamp post beds from 1 <sup>st</sup> June to 30 <sup>th</sup> September. Also St Mary's bed.	
<b>Celebration Bed</b>	Now looked after by Volunteers, pruned, additional compost, organic matter and cobbles added.	Completed, maintenance ongoing.
<b>Health Centre Beds</b>	Continued maintenance by Volunteers. Herb leaflet to be designed and issued.	PT in April

Item	Description	Current Status
<b>Community</b>	Create an identity – Logo now agreed for High Visibility Vests for Volunteers Raise funds with community events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring craft fair 2<sup>nd</sup> March at the VC organised but further events needed.</li> <li>• Have a GEIB stall at Show or at least information on the Tourist information van (also for Village Centre).</li> <li>• Sharon &amp; Pam to continue with the after-school garden club and involve school children.</li> <li>• Consider collection of used coffee grounds for garden composting.</li> <li>• Contact from Elswick with a view to a shared Scarecrow Festival later in the year.</li> </ul>	Logo agreed and being used. Vests due to be ordered April.
<b>Village Centre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Butt installed.</li> <li>• New compost area finished.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pruning, weeding tidying started.</li> <li>• Top tier renovation to use as seating area.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Bungalows</b>	The Volunteers will help with weeding once again and Rose bushes donated from Elswick will be used to extend their rose beds.	

On behalf of Great Eccleston in Bloom Sub-Committee  
 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## **Flood Report from the Chair of the FLAG**

Once again, with the precautions in place the main village did not suffer flooding from the River Wyre even though we did have one of the wettest winters on record. We must not be complacent, however and stay on the alert by signing up for the FloodLine Warnings and reporting incidents. Many schemes have been put into place to help alleviate the issue of river flooding and to date these seem to be working. This year we have seen a range of temperatures from the highs to the lows, a range of 33 deg to -8 deg. This could be more the norm than we have seen in the recent past.

Having stated that the main village did not suffer river flooding there was flooding this year at Moss Side which once again was hit with the rising tide and river levels leaving many properties flooded. In the early part of 2024 there was another breach at White's Bridge on the A586 and even though I have protested many times about the structure of this bridge and the height of the levees (being higher than the wall of the bridge) still nothing has been done to sort out the issue. This dyke becomes the main reason for the flooding at Moss Side. There is also a dangerous scenario emerging with White's Bridge itself. The levee is higher than the top of the bridge and several times this year water has been pushed through the bridge thus weakening its structure. There is also the issue of standing water at night, The road is 50mph and with no real warning of a flood a vehicle hitting standing water in the dark when it is a dark patch on a dark background could end in a very nasty accident.

We started the year with controversy from plans to develop the Cross House farm development into a caravan storage area. This development which has come up for planning on a yearly basis has already raised the level of the land and blocked the drainage system. This is on a zone 2 and 3 flood area. If the land floods due to this then the Moss Side area will also be flooded. Again on behalf of the FLAG I have protested to this development.

The main issue we have now with flooding in the main village is surface water flooding of which villagers are not alerted to in the same way that river flooding is. The Great Eccleston Flag has a dedicated area on its website that shows the current river flooding warnings and the river levels as well and the potential for surface level flooding. The more houses that are built on former farmland the more the likelihood of surface level flooding.

The issues with surface level flooding at the bottom of Raikes Road seems to have subsided with the flushing of the gulleys although puddling, due to cars parking on the pavement. All incidents that were reported to the FLAG were reported back straightaway. These included:

- Pennine Way – required a flush through of the gulleys
- Bottom of St Mary's Road – required a flush through of the gulleys
- Raikes Road overtopping gully – ongoing
- Barrows Lane – ongoing
- Copp Lane – ongoing due to building works
- A586 Cycle lane – the secondary drains were cleared

Last year saw a major issue with the Water Lane Water treatment plant with many tractors pumping water from the plant and shipping it further up the river. This is a temporary repair until the Water Lane Plant gets an upgrade.

A new attenuation tank has been added at Sunningdale in Little Eccleston which will work with the new housing development planned for the village.

Remember we all need to stay alert

David J Astall  
Chairman Great Eccleston FLAG