

DRAFT

Great Ecclestone Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**7:00pm Monday 17th April
2023 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

Police Report

Subjects for discussion:

Please notify the Clerk or your Councillors before the meeting of any items for discussion

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 Chairman's report for 2022/2023. We started the year down on councillors and ended it in a far healthier state. The Parish Council has improved a great deal over the past few years gaining in strength and improving our communication skills in spite of the covid pandemic and lockdown which put everyone in the village under a strain.

As the influence of the pandemic subsides we can get back to something near normality but I doubt if we will ever achieve the normality we had before the lockdown. We will feel the effect less and less as time goes on but there is always a fear of something round the corner. Our task moving forward is to regain control and work as a team in order to improve the environs of the village. The village over the past year has changed; many of these changes have been out of our control, as the power of the Parish Council is diminished by centralising government. We unfortunately are going to have to grin and bear it, but as a Council we must ensure that we welcome the additions to our village with open arms.

On a mixed note, this year was dominated by the elation of the Platinum Jubilee and the sad passing of HM The Queen. The Jubilee Celebrations were originally to be facilitated by the Parish Council although in the end members of the Parish Council organised much of the celebrations on the day in the Square. The Parish Council would personally like to thank all those Parish Councillors for working hard on behalf of the Parish Council in making the day such a good success, whether it be on the day itself or in its organisation of the event. I would also like to thank all the volunteers from the village who also helped in the setting up and the organisation of the day as well as those artistes who gave their services for free. Even though not part of the Parish Council I would like to thank the other organisations around the village who organised events over the Jubilee Celebrations, it shows if we all work together we can put the Great in Great Eccleston. In addition to the celebrations in the Square the Parish Council commissioned a new rose bed in the Square of roses celebrating Queen Elizabeth's life. This was planted by Nathan Montgomery and embedded in the rose bed is a stone commemorating the Platinum Jubilee and we thank The Garth family for placing it in the bed on behalf of the Parish Council.

One of the elements of the Platinum Jubilee was the Queen's Canopy and part of this was the planting of a new Oak tree on the playing field. The Queens Canopy involves the planting of thousands of trees across the Commonwealth. As we live in a rural community it was fitting that Wyre Borough Council planted the tree together with a commemorative plaque on the playing field. The tree was planted on a rather cold day in late 2022 with the Chairman of the Parish Council placing the first soil in the ground. The event was also witnessed by Cllr Garth.

With petrol car production set to end in 7 years' time the Parish Council has installed 2 electricity charging points at the Leckonby Street end of the Square. These were officially switched on last year by Electricity North West and representatives of Charge my Street. The switching on was undertaken by the Chair of the Parish Council. The new Parish Council car park situated on the edge of the Rowland Homes Phase 1 development was hoped to have been finished this year but due to solicitors and red tape this is still ongoing. It is hoped this can be completed soon and will be handed over to the Parish Council, this car park also houses an electricity charging point. The addition of the new car park will hopefully alleviate some of the parking problems we suffer in the village. Regarding the parking in the village especially on Market Day this has been looked at over the year by the Parish Council so that we can in future try and improve the situation.

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Unfortunately due to new rules set by LCC in future years the Christmas decorations and the placing of hanging baskets on the lamp standards will be curtailed. The Parish Council felt as a body that we could not afford to spend large amounts of public money every three years due to LCC decision to charge Councils to check the brackets on the lamp standards. This was felt to be too expensive for the Parish to bear therefore it has been decided in future to place the Christmas lights around the Square and the Bus Shelter, which is owned by the Parish Council. The hanging baskets will be displayed on brackets not connected to the lamp standards but close to them in the beds.

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 almond trees and snowdrops to the red and golds of the autumn foliage on the larch at the bottom of Raikes Road and the flowering of the Autumn crocus. Wyre in Bloom judges the village on one day in August, in 2022 we won a silver certificate. As a continuing improvement of the floral displays in the village the Parish Council started the process of replacing the wooden barrels with plastic and concrete beds, this is to ensure longevity and are far more economical than the wooden barrels which disintegrate over time. Many of the displays now use a reservoir to help reduce the watering and the amount of water used. I would personally on behalf of the Parish Council like to thank all the volunteers who help with making Wyre in Bloom a success and also all those households that make their gardens so colourful with flowers all year round.

The village continues to grow in size with more housing developments being completed. We now have Farrier's Place on Ferraris field, Rowland Homes 1 and 2 together with houses on the site designated originally as a new health centre on Copp Lane. The area behind the Pinfold was also developed in this year and soon a larger development between Copp Lane and A586 will start. This development could include a new school, village hall and health centre. This will place more pressure on services in the village and the road management.

Finally, I would like to thank the councillors for their hard work over the past year. One person that should be singled out for his hard work in keeping the Parish Council in order is the Clerk to the Council. Therefore I would personally and on behalf of the Parish Council like to thank Hugh Glover, the Clerk to the Parish Council for all his hard work over the past year.

Tonight we have to say Good bye to Councillors Susan Cragg, Nick Cross and John Rowe as they are stepping down at this year's election. I would like to thank them for all their hard work over the years that they have been councillors and wish them all the best for the future.

David J Astall
Chairman of the Parish Council

COUNCILLOR SUSAN CATTERALL
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022 to 2023

This year I was proud to be chosen as the Deputy Mayor of Wyre, a roll which has been an honour especially in the Jubilee celebrations and sadly our queens last year.

Still lots going on in Great Eccleston with all the usual complaints and requests for assistance. The main complaints as ever being those relating to speeding through the village, road sweeping/litter and planning applications.

Andrew the man sleeping outdoors raised attention and concerns to some people but he eventually left the area of his own accord despite being made offers of accommodation.

I spent quite some time being involved with a complicated situation relating to a resident on the second phase of new houses on Copp Lane. Her issues with the builders, Jigsaw Homes, was eventually submitted to the Housing Ombudsman for arbitration which was due a decision at the end of March, 2023.

Fracking raised its head again with my attendance with various meetings before the change in the governments support.

An "A Level" student asked if I would take part in questions and answers regarding the village and how it has not only grown but changed over the years. She was interested in my views having lived here all my life and about my roll with the Parish and Wyre Borough Councils. I was glad to be involved in the interaction with her and was happy to help.

Finally I have been involved in a neighbour dispute in the village all this year which is still ongoing showing no signs of resolution.

CPI 10.7%
RPI 14.0%
December
2022

Income and Expenditure	Actual £	Budget £	Variance £	Month March 2023 12	Budget 2023/202 4	Tax Base 22/23	Tax Base 23/24	% increase
Income								
Interest (yearly)	13	50	(37)		50			
Market	1475.00	1,600	(125)		1,600			
Wyre Borough Council Precept	29,000	29,000	0		39,000	39.02	49.93	9.14
WIB	1,050	2,000	(950)		2,968			
Precept support for Village Centre	5,000	5,000	0	A	6,000	6.73	7.68	
Total Income	31,538	32,650	(1,112)		49,618	45.75	57.61	
Expenses								
Accounting and legal fees	958	250	(708)	A	280			12.00
Employee Costs	7,772	7,400	(372)		8,250			11.49
CCTV / Signage 2014/2015 / (Fixed Assets)	2,091	4,000	1,909	A	8,000			-20.00
Insurance Costs	1,020	1,020	0	A	1,064			4.31
Landscape/Litter/Brushing	9,078	8,500	(578)		9,100			7.06
Membership Fees	250	250	0	A	260			4.00
Printing, Postage and Stationery	552	500	(52)		500			0.00
Publications	20	20	0	A	20			0.00
Rates	150	150	0	A	165			10.00
Repairs	2,988	2,000	(988)	A	2,000			0.00
Room Hire & storage	1,049	1,000	(49)		1,050			5.00
Election Expenses	0	0	0		0			0.00
Free resource Section 137	0	1,000	1,000		1,000			0.00
Training	300	400	100		400			0.00
Travel	813	750	(63)		800			6.67
Web Site Hosting and Maintenance	746	700	(46)		700			0.00
Festival / Jubilee	3,932	0	(3,932)		2,000			0.00
Contingency	0	2,000	2,000	A	2,000			0.00
Village Centre support	9,500	5,000	(4,500)	A	12,000			0.00
Total Expenses	41,219	34,940	(6,279)		49,589			
Net Income	(9,681)	-2,290	(7,391)		29			

A= Adjustment for accruals or provisions

Balance Sheet as at	Month	March 2023
Assets		
Fixed Assets	27,583	
Amounts receivable	0	
HSBC plc Current	37	
HSBC Deposit	1,051	
Vat reclaimable	373	
Tax & NI Payable	149	
Total Assets	29,044	
Net Assets	29,044	
Equity		
Current Reserves	(16,068)	
Reserves brought forward	45,112	
Total Equity	29,044	