



RAYNE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

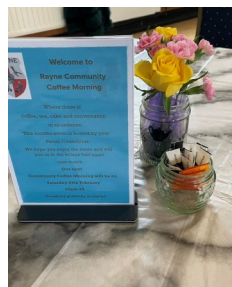
Chair's Report



Thank you for taking the time to read this annual report of the parish council, it is also an invitation to attend the Annual Parish Assembly which this year is being held at Rayne Primary School in Capel Rd at 7 pm on Wednesday 24th April. We were unsure of the Old School room improvement works at the time of booking which is why we took up the school's offer. Mrs Price, the headteacher, is looking forward to showing those who have not been inside the school for a few years the changes that have been made and also an opportunity to meet some of the pupils and their work. We have again several village and organisations who are coming to talk about their work in the community. If you require any further information, please contact our clerk, Hazel Godfrey whose contact details you will find later in this report.

There are always slight changes around the time of the start of the Parish year and last May was no different. We sadly lost Councillors Karen Spencer and Kimberley Davis from the Council, we thank them for the dedicated service they gave, and both would always be welcomed back when their work and personal commitments allow. We were fortunate that two new excellent candidates came forward to join the council and we are pleased to welcome Councillors Helen Luggar and Jason Nicholls into our fold. We look forward to them using their skills and enthusiasm to help enhance our community.

The other major change was our Chair, Ann Hooks, stepping down from the post after five years to focus on her newly elected role as the Braintree District councillor for Rayne and the Sailings. Ann has worked tirelessly during her time as chair and her commitment to the village has been taken through to her new role in the next step of the ladder in Local Government. It was a privilege to take on the role from Ann and I promise to sustain her drive and enthusiasm, she agreed to stay on as vice chair so we have retained that knowledge and experience.



My passion in my working life and in the current voluntary work I do is 'communication'. When I became a councillor, I stated that I wanted to help the Parish Council to become more accessible to the people it represents and more visible in the community. Over the past year we have started to do this with monthly Councillor surgeries on the station platform, and recently, our monthly Saturday coffee mornings at the village hall, I would encourage anyone who has an issue or question that they think the Council can help with to come along and chat to us. Of course our usual lines of contact are always available.

In our report last year, we laid out our aspirations for the forthcoming year and I am pleased to report that we have achieved them all. As well as the focus on community engagement our website needed to be updated. This was completed earlier this year and can be found at www.rayne-essex.gov.uk. Our thanks must go to Cllr Jan Rickwood who together with Hazel, our clerk, have led this project. Any website is only as good as the information it contains, and the ease with which it can be navigated and thanks to Jan, our self-taught 'webmaster' we are well on the way to achieving this. We are keen that all organisations and local businesses use the site so that it becomes a directory of the village. An events page has been added and we are keen that it is used to publicise all local activities. Please let us know of any events that are in your calendars.



Street lighting is always one of the important safety aspects of the village and we have been fortunate in the past weeks to be offered, free of charge, some LED lights that Essex County Council are not using. We decided to take them up on their offer and you will see very soon that all the street lighting we maintain will be much brighter and importantly far more efficient.

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Chair's Report Cont.



We have been pleased to support Joy Darby and her committee who have taken on the task of renovating the Old School Room, improvements have started to make this valuable village asset more efficient and updated usable space. Please support them in their fundraising efforts.

You may have noticed that our planters in The Street have been rebuilt and we look forward again to the colourful displays organised by our volunteers who maintain them throughout the year. Volunteers play an amazing part in helping our village in so many ways and we thank the litter pickers, memorial cleaners, friends of the Flitch Way and of course the Village Hall committee who do such valuable work.

As the council year comes to a close we have made some important decisions about the maintenance of the village. In the last few weeks, we have unfortunately had to say goodbye to our groundsman David who has moved on to pastures new. We thank him for his excellent service and wish him well in the future. This has meant that we are busy recruiting a replacement and hopefully, this will not take too long. In the meantime, Mark and our Groundsmen coordinator Cllr Trevor Rippingale are doing a sterling job retaining the high standards that we aim to uphold. We also have made the major decision to replace our well-used Tractor, Sasha, this is a large investment but thanks to some prudent financial planning we have a reserve fund for circumstances such as this.

We have taken great care as usual in preparing our finances whilst, like us all, managing the rising costs that will face us over the coming twelve months. Our finance team keep tight control over our expenditures and has set a budget that equates to an 8.6% or 45p rise per month on Band D properties. Our council wholeheartedly supports this recommendation to retain the staffing levels of service and maintenance that you quite rightly expect from us.

Before closing, I would like to thank you for your support of the Parish Council and thank you for your encouraging messages. We always try to do our best, but some issues take a little longer than we would like to resolve.

Mike

Your Village, Your Meeting— The Annual Parish Assembly

The Annual Parish meeting is your opportunity to ask questions and the work of your council and hear from other organisations that form an integral part of village life. We look forward to meeting you on Wednesday 24th April at 7pm. Please see the agenda below on the events of the evening. Awards recognising the contribution made by villagers, will be presented during the meeting. We thank all villagers for their support in making Rayne such a pleasant place to live.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY AGENDA

The evening starts at 7pm with refreshments and tables/stalls set up by community groups for your interest

1. WELCOME – From the Chairman — Mr Mike Eldred at 7:30pm
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
4. PRESENTATIONS FROM INVITED SPEAKERS:

Pupils & Mrs Price from Rayne Primary School

Sgt Matt Green and PCSO Terrie Johnson—Essex Police

The role of the clerk—Hazel Godfrey

5. PRESENTATION OF CITIZENSHIP AWARDS
6. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS
7. CLOSURE— 9pm

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Continuing Parish Council Activities:

- ◆ Litter picking and emptying waste bins
- ◆ Provision of recycling sacks and waste bags to dog owners
- ◆ Maintenance of grass and associated hedge areas within the village, public footpaths and the planting of spring bulbs
- ◆ Provision and maintenance of street lighting (the parish council does not own all the village streetlights)
- ◆ Liaison with property owners on overgrowing vegetation affecting footpaths
- ◆ Monthly summary provided to Focus magazine and regular updates on social media
- ◆ Complaints to Essex Highways regarding potholes, defective streetlights and other highway issues.
- ◆ Reporting of flytipping to Braintree District Council Green Team.
- ◆ Provision of Precept grants to Rayne in Focus magazine and Rayne Village Hall.

Planning:

Rayne Parish Council is a statutory consultee on planning matters and lawfully has a right to be consulted on planning applications tendered to Braintree District Council, which would affect the village. In turn the Parish Council will invite applicants to come to a Parish Council meeting where the application will be discussed. Councillors are only able to object to planning on grounds found within the National Planning Policy Framework and although objections may be considered by Braintree District Council the District Planners are not obliged to agree with the Parish Council on the preferred outcome. Rayne Parish Council has worked hard during the year to put the residents' opinions forward to Braintree District Council and will continue to fight large developments that are considered unjustified for the area considering this an important piece of council work.

Councillor Attendance to Full Council meetings 2023/2024

A = Absent
X = No apologies received

Cllr	May	June	July	July Ext	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Precept	Dec	Jan	Feb	Feb Ext	Mar
Agutter	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Eldred (Chair)	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hooks (V. Chair)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lugger	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Murton	A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓
Nicholls	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A
Rickwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A
Rippingale	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stringer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Willis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wilsdon	A	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hooks (Dist)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Butland (ECC)	✓	A	A	A	A	A	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	A	A

KEEPING IN TOUCH:



@rayneparishcouncil



@rayneparish



@rayneparishcouncil



Rayne Parish Council



Rayne Parish Council



01376 552489



www.rayne-essex.gov.uk



rpc@rayne-essex.gov.uk

Rayne Community Information Point and Parish Office

This facility is there for you to bring any issues or concerns regarding the Parish, Braintree District or Essex County Councils to the Clerk for help or advice.

Open Mondays 12.30pm – 3.00pm and Thursdays 9.30am -12noon at the rear of Rayne Village Hall

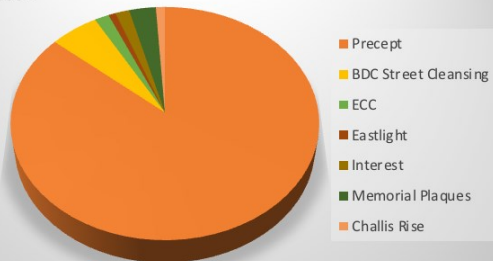
CIP, Gore Road, Rayne, Braintree, Essex CM77 6TX Telephone No.: 01376 552489

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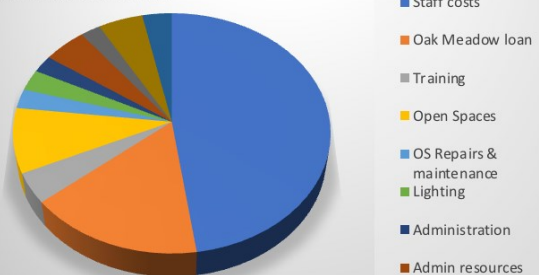


HOW IS YOUR MONEY SPENT?

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



Total Income £62,588

Total Expenditure £63,027

* Includes expenditure from reserves to build new website

Introducing Your Parish Councillors:



Chairman

Cllr Mike Eldred

Email: cllreldred@rayne-essex.gov.uk



Cllr Tom Agutter

Email: cllragutter@rayne-essex.gov.uk



Cllr Jan Rickwood

Email: cllrickwood@rayne-essex.gov.uk



Cllr Helen Lugger

Email: cllrlugger@rayne-essex.gov.uk



Cllr Scott Wilsdon

Email: cllrwilsdon@rayne-essex.gov.uk



Cllr Jason Nicholls

Email: cllrnicholls@rayne-essex.gov.uk

Vice Chair

Cllr Ann Hooks

Email: cllrhooks@rayne-essex.gov.uk



Cllr Celia Murton

Email: cllrmurton@rayne-essex.gov.uk



Cllr Trevor Rippingale

Email: cllrrippingale@rayne-essex.gov.uk



Cllr Paul Willis

Email: cllrwillis@rayne-essex.gov.uk



Cllr Martyn Stringer

Email: cllrstringer@rayne-essex.gov.uk



Clerk: Mrs Hazel Godfrey

Email: rpc@rayne-essex.gov.uk

