GOOD EASTER PARISH COUNCIL

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME BRONZE

The Parish Council meets on the last Thursday of every other month; agendas are available on the website or notice board or by contacting the clerk three days prior to each meeting. Members of the public are very welcome to attend meetings and may address the Council at the start of the meeting during the public session.

	Cllr Graham Seeley—Chairman graham.seeley@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Cllr Leila Balin—Vice Chairman leila.balin@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Cllr Paul West paul.west@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Cllr Tim Glass tim.glass@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Cllr Tom Leng tom.leng@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Cllr Brian Anderson brian.anderson@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Cllr Malcolm Johnston malcolm.johnston@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Miss Lucy White, CiLCA, BA (Hons) Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Email: clerk@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 07703 170512

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Chairman's Report—Cllr Graham Seeley

Hello everybody. Another two months have passed and another Parish Council meeting was held. The procedure is fairly constant. We always start with a 10 minute slot where members of the public can ask Councillors questions or just voice an opinion on any subject related to the village. Or you can just come along and listen to the discussions at the meeting. You will always be made most welcome.

On the agenda this month I was able to report that the sports field association is holding an Easter egg hunt in April (which may have already happened by the time you read this) and they are currently planning the village fete in July. Cllr West reported that the steps to the Village Hall have been repaired. He also reported that the hall committee was seeking new members. This is a perennial problem; I know that the sports field association is also looking for new members. So if you feel like contributing to the running of our wonderful village, there are two committees looking for support.

VE Day is nearly upon us. It is now 80 years since the end of the war in Europe so the Parish Councillors invite you to a complimentary drink and light buffet at 6pm on Thursday 8th May. This is an occasion to celebrate the end of hostilities and to commemorate those who suffered or died to give us the freedoms we enjoy today.

Our final duty at our recent meeting was to organise a litter pick around the village on 18th May. We organise this every year to help keep the village tidy. Your help is always appreciated. Meet at the village hall at 10am on the 18th May. It's always fun and a very rewarding activity.

That's enough of my ramblings for this month. Remember, Parish Council meetings are open to everyone and you'll be made most welcome.

Graham Seeley, Chairman, Good Easter Parish Council.

Clerk's Report – Lucy White



Welcome to Our First Parish Council Newsletter!

The Parish Council is delighted to bring you the very first edition of our Parish Council newsletter, designed to improve communication and engagement with our local community. Councillors want to keep you informed about the work we do, the decisions they make, and how you can get involved in shaping the future of our parish.

Celebrating Our National Association of Local Council's Bronze Award

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME BRONZE

I am proud to announce that the Parish Council has recently been awarded the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Bronze Award. This achievement recognises the council's commitment to good governance, transparency, and continuous improvement in serving our community. It means that the council meets high standards in how it operates, ensuring that it works efficiently and effectively on your behalf.

Civility and Respect Pledge

In addition to this, the council has signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge, demonstrating its commitment to fostering a positive and respectful environment within our council and the wider community. By adopting this pledge, the council is reinforcing the importance of constructive dialogue, mutual respect, and professionalism in all our interactions. This helps to ensure that our Parish Council remains a welcoming and inclusive space for all.

Lucy White—Parish Clerk

Civility & Respect

New Community Building

For some time, the Parish Council has been considering the situation relating to the status of social amenities within the village. As residents will be aware, the village has no pub, no shop, no school and little public transport. Fortunately, both the village hall and the sports pavilion are located on land owned by the Parish Council, but both of these buildings are nearing the end of their useful life and, unless replaced, in the not-too-distant future, will leave the village with no community amenity at all.

The existing village hall was procured from the army and modestly re-built by local labour at the end of the First World War, as a social facility for returning soldiers. The village hall has been extended and renovated during its hundred-year history and, although it is currently reasonably well maintained by a group of volunteers, it is a poorly insulated, flimsy, timber framed building sitting on brick plinths with a corrugated tin roof and is reaching the end of its viable economic life.



The village hall is used for a wide variety of events, functions and clubs, as well as the meeting place for the Parish Council and the polling station in local and general elections and is therefore an essential asset to the village, but has very limited parking and no outdoor space. The Parish Council have estimated that the village hall may be economically viable for another ten years.

The sports pavilion was constructed approximately 40 years ago by volunteers in the village, mainly using timber panels and a corrugated roof which had been salvaged locally. Despite ongoing maintenance and repairs by a very small group of volunteers, its condition is generally poor and already beyond economic repair. The biggest benefits of the pavilion are its immediate proximity to the sportsfield and its car park. The Parish Council have estimated that the sports pavilion might be suitable for limited (mostly outdoor) events for perhaps another 5 to 10 years.



The Parish Council have been concerned for some time about the untenable scenario of both the pavilion and the village hall becoming unfit for use in the foreseeable future and recognises that the separate locations of the village hall and the pavilion lead to duplication of cleaning, running costs, committee activity and fragmentation of the events and clubs that use these facilities. Instead of spending a sizable sum of money trying to salvage both buildings in disparate locations, the obvious solution would be to build a New Community Building on the sports field, with direct access to the car park.

The Parish Council has established a working group to assess the viability of this proposal who have visited a number of recently constructed similar buildings to prepare a brief that would satisfy the requirements of the groups that currently use the two existing facilities.

The Parish Council have engaged an architect to design a single New Community Building to meet all the needs of the village hall and sports pavilion, including changing facilities and have submitted a pre-application to Chelmsford City Council, which was generally well received in respect of scale, location and function.

Obviously, the biggest hurdle to overcome will be the funding of the project, which will be a huge task and the Parish Council has engaged a funding consultant to produce a one-off report identifying all the possible sources of funding grants that may be relevant. One option might be to redevelop the existing village hall site, which will be redundant once the New Community Building is completed, as a single storey dwelling.

The Parish Council will be organising a presentation to enable all Good Easter residents to view the proposals and present their views later in the summer.





Meet Your Dedicated Councillors



Parish Councillors are the voice of the local community, working to make the village a better place to live, work, and enjoy. They listen to residents' concerns and help shape local services.

Councillors stand for election on a voluntary basis, and once elected, they serve the community by representing local views and help to influence decisions that affect daily life. It's not about politics – it's about people and making a positive difference.

You don't need any special qualifications – just a genuine interest in your community and a willingness to get involved. Whether it's improving footpaths, supporting local events, or planning for the future, Parish Councillors play a key role in keeping village life thriving.

Good Easter Parish Council is fortunate to have an incredibly proactive and engaged group of councillors who work tirelessly to support the residents of Good Easter. Whether it's tackling local issues, securing funding for projects, or attending meetings to represent your interests, they always go the extra mile to make a real difference.

From progressing plans for a new village hall and exploring affordable housing options, to addressing speeding concerns by forming a Community Speedwatch Group and responding to residents' feedback, their dedication and teamwork ensure our parish continues to thrive. Their passion for making Good Easter a better place to live is truly inspiring.

Community engagement is at the heart of what we do. We encourage you to attend council meetings, share your views, and get involved in local initiatives. If you have ideas, concerns, or simply want to learn more about how we work, we would love to hear from you.

Two of our Parish Councillors have kindly shared a little about themselves and their involvement in the community, which we hope you will find both interesting and inspiring.

Tim Glass

I am a (largely) retired Chartered Surveyor and company director. My wife, Juliet, and I have lived in our house in Farmbridge End Road for over 35 years.

We enjoy the countryside and being part of a local rural community. We walk the local footpaths with Percy (our Pug X Jack Russell) every day and like to support the Church, as well as local events and activities.

I am pleased, and proud, to be a local Councillor serving the village and its residents.

Malcolm Johnston

My first stint on the Parish Council (PC) was 2003-5 and I was also on the village committee that organised the late Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations (which gave rise to the village sign) and spent a few years on the village hall committee under the amazing Peggy Giblin. However, running a business was all consuming so I had to step down from the PC.

Fast forward to retirement in 2022 and I was co-opted to the PC with specific remit to help with the research into fund raising options for a potential new village hall/ community hub. I have also been involved in the village speed watch initiative and led on multiple attempts to get ECC to improve the app used to book the DigiGo service.

I joined the PC because I believe we have a shared responsibility for helping to improve the community in which we live. A village does not get an unique character by chance. A village is the sum of the families within it and thus relies on people stepping up to the plate and spending some time to help make the village a fabulous place to live, learn, work and play.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Church Warden	Diana Matthews	01245 231249
Church Secretary	Juliet Glass	01245 231624
Parish Council	Graham Seeley (Chair)	07835 308249
Parish Clerk	Lucy White	07703 170512
Village Hall Bookings	Allison Ward	07960 796346
Sportsfield Association	Ian Watkins (Chair)	07841 749015
Sportsfield Association	Marie Stephenson (Secretary)	07444 210522
Daisy Circle	Jan Bailey	01245 231866
Community First Responder	Chris Flack	07860 564309
High Roding Women's Institute	Angela King	01371 859287
Great Canfield Cricket Club	Johnathan Clark	01371 873403
Great Canfield Carpet Bowls	David Turner	01279 870578

FINANCE—2024-2025

Expenditure (Net)

Audit	£170
Salaries	£4,303
Working from Home Allowance	£49
Clerk's Mileage	£135
Bank Charges / Admin	£207
Insurance	£1,033
Subscriptions	£219
Grasscutting / Street Care	£2,612
Sportsfield	£899
Training	£90
S137	£75
Projects / Other	£770
Website / IT	£390
New Community Building	£3,396

Income

Chelmsford City Council (Precept)	£10,710
Essex Heritage Trust	£770

Bank Reconciliation—31st March 2025

Cash Book Balance	£24,354.92
Statement Balance	£24,354.92
Difference:	£0.00

Over the coming months, I will prepare the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for submission to the internal auditor.

As Good Easter Parish Council's precept is below £25,000, it is exempt from external audit requirements and formally claims exemption.

The Parish Council starts the 2025-2026 financial year with a healthy carry-forward, which will most likely be allocated to the New Community Building—an exciting project that Councillors are passionate about.

The precept for 2025-2026 was set at £11,349. Having kept it the same for the past three years, increasing costs have necessitated a small rise, amounting to just 31p per month for a Band D property. The Parish Council remains committed to keeping spending as low as possible—don't forget, your Councillors also pay their share of Council Tax!

Looking ahead, the Parish Council will continue working on community-focused initiatives, ensuring that local resources are used effectively to benefit residents. The Council welcomes input from parishioners and encourages everyone to stay engaged with council matters.

Lucy White—Responsible Financial Officer



VE (Victory in Europe) Day

COMMEMORATION EVENT

Thursday 8th May

Good Easter Parish Council cordially invites all residents of Good Easter to attend an informal commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8th May 2025 at Good Easter Sportsfield.





You are invited to arrive any time after 6pm for complimentary drinks and light buffet food, and at 7pm we will light the beacon and fire a rocket for each of the three residents of Good Easter who sacrificed their lives in the Second World War.

The bar will close at 8pm.

Join Us for the Village Litter Pick!

Date: Sunday, 18th May

Time: 10:00am

Meeting Point: Good Easter Village Hall

Let's come together to keep our village clean and beautiful!

All are welcome!

The Parish Council will provide some PPE and litter pickers, but feel free to bring your own.

Bring your friends, family, and community spirit!



For more details, contact the parish clerk: 07703 170512.