GOOD EASTER PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter

Summer 2025



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

Do you know the difference between a heart attack and a cardiac arrest?

Would you know how to perform effective CPR (chest compressions) until help arrives?

Good Easter Parish Council is offering four free, informal training and information sessions at Good Easter Village Hall, led by our Community First Responder Chris Flack.

Chris has 23 years of experience and is a "Start a Heart" instructor with the East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST).

Why This Training Matters
EEAST responds to around 4,000 cardiac arrests each year. Good-quality CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) greatly improves the chances of survival.

Fewer than 1 in 10 people survive an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in the UK.

Every minute without effective CPR reduces a person's chance of survival by 10%.

At these sessions, Chris will show you:

- What to do if you encounter someone in cardiac arrest.
- How to perform effective CPR with confidence.
- You'll also get hands-on practice using "Little Annie" dummies, so you can walk away with the skills — and the confidence — to potentially save a life.

Session Details

Venue:	Good Easter Village Hall
Dates:	Saturday 9th August 2025 & Saturday 30th August 2025
Times:	Two sessions each day — 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM
Duration:	Each session lasts approx. 45 minutes

No booking required — just come along!



Interested in learning how to use the defibrillator on the Village Hall?
Let us know at the event, and we'll arrange a separate session for you.

If you live outside the Parish of Good Easter and would like a similar session in your parish, please contact Chris Flack directly on 07860 564309.

Let's equip our community with the knowledge and skills to make a difference when it matters most.



Very best regards,
Graham Seeley
Chairman, Good Easter Parish Council



Cllr Mike Steel—Essex County Council

Being a County Cllr for a very large rural area, my inbox gets filled mostly with requests for help and complaints about Highways, including traffic issues. This is something I am involved in, on a daily basis! So I was pleased to join the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) in Broomfield on the 21st May for a focused Vision Zero Day, as part of the ongoing shared commitment to eliminate all road deaths and serious injuries in Essex by 2040.

Coinciding with Walk to School Week, our engagement team spent the morning speaking with parents on the school run about road safety and the everyday challenges they face.

Some voiced concerns about local speeding and driver behaviour, highlighting why community-level conversations are so important. Children received Vision Zero stickers as part of a continued effort to promote safer journeys from a young age, and a number of parents also pledged their support for the Vision Zero movement.

Meanwhile, the widescale enforcement team of 15 officers were joined by the local Community Speed Watch team and carried out proactive checks throughout the area.



At the Broomfield location officers stopped 35 individuals, resulting in:

- 12 offences for mobile phone use while driving
- 3 for failing to wear a seatbelt.
- 2 for other traffic violations.
- 6 vehicle stop checks.

The team also ran TruCam speed enforcement across multiple sites, recording the following:

- Maldon Road, Great Baddow: 24 offences
- Ongar Road, Writtle: 7 offences
- Downham Road, Downham: 8 offences
- High Street, Stock: 3 offences
- Lordship Road, Writtle: 0 offences
- A138 Chelmer Road, Chelmsford: 25 offences
- A131 Beaulieu Parkway: 28 offences



Officers also seized four vehicles being driven without valid insurance- driving uninsured is illegal and irresponsible. Alarmingly, one of the vehicles was carrying a young family, including a baby incorrectly secured in an inappropriate seat, putting lives at considerable risk. This driver received a £300 fine and six points on their licence.

Additionally, during onsite conversations, one driver claimed to not be wearing a seatbelt due to claustrophobia; seatbelt use is not optional, it is the law and remains one of the simplest life-saving actions a driver or passenger can take. Another driver admitted to sending a picture to their partner, who was in hospital; regardless of circumstances, using a hand-held mobile phone behind the wheel is illegal and dangerous- even a moment's distraction can lead to devastating consequences.

I was very happy to represent ECC — it was great to attend the Chelmsford Vision Zero Day, to see the fantastic work of the SERP. Road safety is high on my agenda, and I am actively talking to Essex residents about their concerns.

There were six deaths on Chelmsford roads alone last year- which is six too many. It's vital that we all get on board with Vision Zero and all play our part in making our wonderful county safer for all.

The SERP will continue to patrol communities across Essex, bringing together education and enforcement to change behaviours, start conversations, and help people make better choices on our roads, with the objective of encouraging consistent, responsible driving, not just when enforcement is expected. By operating flexibly countywide, the team aims to support a culture of everyday road safety, where good decisions are made to protect everyone on the roads

Clerk's Report—Lucy White



Understanding the AGAR

In the Spring newsletter, I mentioned that I was preparing this year's AGAR – and now it's complete.

So, what is the AGAR?

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is a legal requirement for all parish councils. It's a short, formal document that shows how the council has managed its finances and responsibilities over the last financial year.

The AGAR is made up of several parts, but two key sections are always included:
Section 1: The Annual Governance Statement. This confirms that the Council has followed proper practices – like budgeting carefully, managing risks, and keeping internal checks in place.

Section 2: The Accounting Statements. This provides a summary of the Council's income, expenditure, and balances. It's a simple but important record of how public money has been used.

While it may look technical, the purpose of the AGAR is straightforward: it ensures that your Parish Council is acting responsibly, transparently, and in line with the law. The completed AGAR is reviewed by an auditor, and residents have the right to request access to the accounts.

Although we're a small council, we still have to follow strict rules when handling public funds. The AGAR shows that we've taken care in our financial decisions and planned ahead responsibly.

If you look at Section 2, you'll see clear figures: what we started the year with, what we received, what we spent, and what we had left. Even modest sums help fund the things that keep our village running smoothly – from defibrillators and noticeboards to public benches, bins, and community events.

Please see the AGAR Sections 1 and 2 pictured below. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me: clerk@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

We acknowledge as the members of:

GOOD EASTER PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, that:

	Agreed		Yes' means that the authority:
	Yes	No	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✔		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✔		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✔		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✔		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✔		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✔		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✔		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✔		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A — has met all of its responsibilities where as a body corporate it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.
			✔

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 for

GOOD EASTER PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending: 31 March 2024 £	Year ending: 31 March 2025 £	Notes and guidance
			Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.
1. Balances brought forward	25,631	28,490	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	10,710	10,710	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	6,395	770	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	4,057	4,268	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	10,187	11,224	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	28,490	24,478	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	28,490	24,478	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – **To agree with bank reconciliation.**
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	385,956	2,476	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		✔		The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			✔	The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions.

New Community Building



In the Spring edition of the Good Easter Parish Council newsletter , the Parish Council outlined its aspirations to build a New Community Centre on the sports field.

The Parish Council has recognised the massive challenge of raising funds for such a significant undertaking and will be researching opportunities for grants from a number of sources. One potential avenue of funding might be the development of the existing village hall, but only after the New Community Building is completed and available for use.



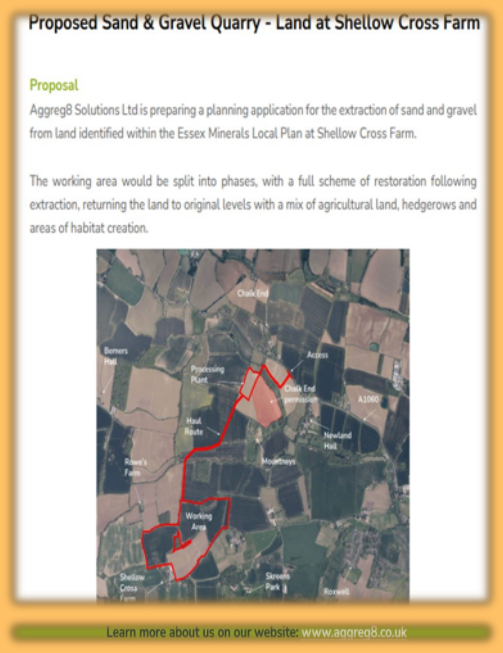
A consultation will be held in the village hall later in the summer where these options will be tabled, including the potential development of the village hall and will be available for review and discussion. Notice of this consultation will be posted to all residents of Good Easter and you are all encouraged to attend and have your say.

Gravel Extraction South of A1060 near Chalk End

Approximately, 5 years ago Essex City Council proposed a site for the first phase of gravel extraction south of the A1060, near Chalk End which, despite a significant amount of objection and comment from both Roxwell and Good Easter Parish Councils was approved on 1st March 2022 (shown as Chalk End Permission on the plan below).

The commencement of works expiry date was confirmed as 1st March 2025.

Essex County Council confirmed that they had seen a small amount of excavation for architectural survey which constituted commencement of the Works on 22nd January 2025. Our concerns raised at that time (traffic access and egress, mud on road, noise and dust impact on Chalk End etc) were partially addressed, in the conditions applied to the planning approval. None of these have yet been actioned. Under the planning conditions the excavation of materials needs to be completed by 1st March 2031 and the land reinstated two years after that.



A public consultation was held at Roxwell Memorial Hall to discuss the much larger gravel extraction site near Shellow Cross Farm which will use the same access as the initial site. A forecast 50 lorry loads per day entering and leaving the site has been proposed and this second phase of the development is scheduled for 15 years. The contractors who gave the presentation, Aggreg8 , could not provide a significant amount of detail and said they were still in the planning process. Good Easter Parish Council will continue to monitor this project and will respond to the second phase planning application in due course.

Cllr Paul West—Planning Lead

Community Speed Watch



We need your help! We have a small group of Speed Watch volunteers but we need more support if we want to keep the group going.
Volunteering involves going out in groups of 3 with a speed gun and recording details of any speeding vehicles. We have three approved sites in the village and want to increase our presence, particularly at high peak times. Volunteers would need to be able to commit one hour a month and some initial training.

If this is something you might be willing to get involved in then please get in touch with Leila Balin at leila.balin@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Good Easter Village Hall



The Village Hall is maintained by the Parish Council and is available for hire for wedding / funeral receptions, birthday parties, and a number of social clubs. It's a well-loved space at the heart of village life. Contact Allison Ward on 07960 796346 for availability and hire rates.

A Successful Litter Pick

On a pretty nippy Sunday in May, 11 residents of the village gave up their time to litter pick the roads in and around the village. This year we were surprised to only collect 6 bags of rubbish where, in the past, the tally has been 10-12. Whether this is due to better behaviour by the general public or us being unable to see the litter in the dense foliage, who can tell. Suffice to say that we will try for a date in April next year before the verges have a growth spurt and, finger crossed, the weather might be OK!

A big thank you to the residents who took part. Your assistance in keeping Good Easter tidy is much appreciated by the Parish Councillors and, hopefully, by all who live or visit our village.
Cllr Malcolm Johnston



What is Devolution – and What Does it Mean for Essex?

Devolution means more powers and funding being passed from the Government to local areas like Essex, so decisions are made closer to the communities they affect.
Essex County Council, along with Southend and Thurrock, is working on a Devolution Deal that could bring extra funding for transport, housing, skills, and jobs.
This won't change how parish councils operate, but it may affect who makes decisions on major local services.

To find out more, visit: www.essex.gov.uk/devolution

We'll keep you updated as things develop.

Good Easter Sports Field Association



The Parish Council has recently applied for a £10,000 grant from Chelmsford City Council to undertake essential maintenance works to the sports pavilion, including support to the sagging roof and front wall , recovering the roof and re-cladding the exterior walls.

If the grant application is successful , the Parish Council and Good Easter Sports Field Association will provide additional funds to complete these works

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
Sports Field Association	Ian Watkins (Chair)	07841 749015
Sports Field 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

The Good Easter Book Exchange – Take a Book, Leave a Book!

The Good Easter bus shelter was transformed into a book swap and information point around three years ago and has become a well-used and valued community facility. It offers a great selection of books for all ages — including many children's books — and has encouraged sharing, reading, and reuse across the village.

However, recently it has become a little overwhelmed. Items such as unwanted magazines, toys, household goods — and even a teapot — have been left, despite clear signs asking for books only.

The shelves are now full, and unfortunately, books are still being dropped off even though there is a large sign requesting "No More Books Please". For example, five boxes were left on Thursday 3rd July, which had to be taken straight to the council recycling centre (vehicle details have been noted).

We kindly ask residents to help us keep the shelter tidy and respectful for everyone's use. Please don't leave any further books or items, and leave the space as you found it. If the area continues to be misused, we may sadly have to consider removing the facility.

Let's work together to preserve this lovely community resource — your cooperation is really appreciated.

