

A Report of the Bell Centre Sub Committee to the Parish Council

The Committee met at 8.00 pm on **Monday 21st September 2009** in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall in Great Baddow. Councillor Mrs D Ronaldson chaired the meeting.

Present: Councillors Mrs D Ronaldson, Mrs V Sadowsky, Mrs M Miller, Mrs C Shaw, B Heelis and Mrs A Martin

In attendance: Cllr G Jarvis

Clerk of the Council and Assistant Clerk

339/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Russell and A Sosin

340/09 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

341/09 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

342/09 Minutes - The minutes from the last meeting held on 30th March 2009 were signed as a true record by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson.

343/09 Clerks Report

There was no written Clerks report as the matters for updating were on the agenda.

344/09 Maintenance Issues

- The Clerk reported that the fire door notices have now been installed.
- The plastic fencing remains in place in the car park, preventing any vehicles from parking next to the wall and this is proving to be a suitable deterrent. The limit of three cars remains in place and is being enforced.

345/09 Update report on the number of hires in the Hall

A report prepared by the Assistant Clerk was circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the number of regular hirers has remained stable, although the number of individual bookings has declined. Maldon PCT has now organised two 8-week Shape-Up courses and a 6-week bee keeping theory course has also been booked. The increase in hirers using the Centre for short courses is encouraging and may lead to repeat bookings.

346/09 To review the Budget Spending for 2009/10

The Clerk introduced the report detailing expenditure for the first five months of the year. A number of headings were showing very little or no expenditure, as inspections had not yet been carried out or items purchased. The report was noted.

347/09 To consider the draft Budget for 2010/11

The Clerk introduced the draft budget for 2010/2011 and drew attention to the following items:

- Salaries have not been increased, as the amount budgeted for the current year is expected to cover next year as well
- The pensions figure will need to be reviewed, as the employer's contributions are due to increase
- The figures for business rates and trade refuse will require a percentage rise once Chelmsford Borough Council have set the rates. Cllr A Sosin will

be asked to advise on possible levels of increase before the November budget meeting.

- The figure for the lease has been maintained at its current level pending the outcome of negotiations with Essex County Council.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that there are a number of outstanding issues relating to the Bell Centre that cannot be addressed until further information is available on the future of the lease. It was agreed that the budget should go forward to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, with any later alterations that may be required to update the information. Proposed by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson and seconded by Cllr Mrs M Miller.

348/09 Matters for Information

There were no Matters for Information

It was resolved under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) A1960 to close the meeting to the public and press for the following item.

349/09 Bell Centre Lease

The Clerk reported that following the enquiry from Essex County Council about the lease, no further correspondence had been received. Elwell Taylor have been instructed on this matter and will also be asked to update their original report on the condition of the building, written in October 2006, and include an estimate for the necessary work. They have advised that the use of a Section 26 Notice would not compromise the Parish Council's position under the Landlord and Tenant Act. This information will be referred to the next Council meeting if it is available in time.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed..... Chairman Date.....