

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

The Committee met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 30th March 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, S Bass, Mrs M Miller, A Sosin and Mrs C Shaw

In attendance: Clerk of the Council and Assistant Clerk

656/08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Russell and Mrs A Martin

657/08 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

658/08 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

659/08 Minutes - The minutes from the last meeting held on 29th September 2008 were signed as a true record by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson. Proposed by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson and seconded by Cllr Mrs M Miller.

Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson enquired whether any progress had been made in establishing the ownership of the small piece of neighbouring land where a number of trees require some pruning. The Clerk replied that no further information had been received and the matter would be progressed.

660/08 Clerks Report

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

661/08 Maintenance Issues

- The Clerk reported that no further information had been received on the outcome of the work, completed in May 2008, to the boundary wall. Richard Wilson at Lambert Smith Hampton, who has been dealing with the matter, had now left and Elwell Taylor is still awaiting an update.
- Fire door notices have not yet been installed and it is proposed to attend to this matter when the fire extinguishers are serviced in the next month.
- The handyman has carried out the necessary repairs to the window blinds and they are all in working order.

662/08 Update report on the number of hires in the Hall

A report prepared by the Assistant Clerk had been circulated showing the current hall hirers. It was noted that the number of regular hirers has remained relatively stable and a new children's dancing class has now started. Individual bookings have improved, with five hires in the next two months, and an increased number of enquiries are being received. It was agreed to consider at a future meeting, the introduction of a function fee, similar to the one currently being used in the parish hall, where all individual party bookings must include hire of both the hall and the kitchen.

663/08 To review the Budget Spending for 2008/09 and the 2009/2010 Budget

Copies of the 2008/09 year to date budget and the proposed budget for 2009/2010 were circulated at the meeting and were noted. It was also noted that general maintenance was over budget due to the installation of new radiator valves and repair work to the roof. The heating budgets were under

spent and this may reflect changes made to the timers and the installation of the new valves.

664/08 Matters for Information

- Cllr A Sosin welcomed the installation of the new bus shelter on Baddow Road, near the Beehive PH, and asked the Clerk to ensure that any necessary changes were made to the insurance schedule. The Clerk replied that the insurance review would be on the next agenda for the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- Cllr A Sosin noted that the digital mapping system was soon to be installed on the computers in the parish office and asked to view the system at a convenient time.
- Cllr S Bass asked if there have been any further developments on the new allotments and the Clerk said she was still waiting to hear from Chelmsford Borough Council.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller informed the meeting that she had received the paperwork for the next Passenger Transport Representatives meeting and would be unable to attend. Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson was asked to pass the information on to Cllr K Ronaldson who is the Parish Council's representative.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller enquired whether the Parish Council was taking part in the Play in the Park scheme during the Easter holiday period. The Clerk replied that this was not scheduled for the Easter holiday, but a number of dates had been agreed for the parish sports programme from Easter onwards and they would be advertised in due course.

It was resolved under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to close the meeting to the public and press for the following item.

665/08 Update on the end of the lease at the Bell Centre in September 2007

The Clerk had circulated a letter from Elwell Taylor relating to the renewal of the lease. Cllr A Sosin noted that the lower external woodwork was rotting, and without further exploratory work, it was not known if this extended to the uprights in addition to the horizontal planks. It was agreed that Elwell Taylor should 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. In addition, enquiries will be made with Elwell Taylor as to whether an application to renew the lease can be made directly to Essex County Council without the use of a Section 26 Notice which could result in premature termination of the lease if negotiations are not progressed.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.35 pm.

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