

A Meeting of the Parish Council at The Parish Hall, Great Baddow on Monday 11th January 2010

The Council met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 11th January 2010** in The Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Councillor Mrs C Shaw chaired the meeting.

Present: Councillors Mrs C Shaw, Mrs J Sosin, A Sosin, Mrs M Miller, T Miller, Mrs V Sadowsky, G Jarvis, K Ronaldson, Mrs D Ronaldson, Mrs A Martin and B Heelis

In Attendance: The Clerk of the Council and the Assistant Clerk

569/09 Apologies for Absence

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

570/09 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

571/09 Minutes of the Council Meeting – 14th December 2009

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th December 2009 were signed as a true statement. Proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson with the following amendments: Item 533/09, Number 7, last line, the word 'night' to be deleted; and Item 540/09, third bullet point, the words 'concerning the proposed' to be deleted and replaced by 'to the Essex County Council Cabinet Member concerning the lack of a'.

572/09 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

573/09 Clerk's Report

1. BT Phonebox

The Clerk has been unable to follow up this item but will find out if the matter is still open.

2. CBC Allotments

A letter was sent before Christmas to Chelmer Housing Partnership concerning a right of access to the Towerfield site. A reply is awaited, but if nothing has been received by 18th January 2010, the matter will be followed up in case the letter went astray.

3. Annual Return

Enquiries have yet to be made at the bank concerning a change to the dates of the statements.

4. Bonus Saver Account

Enquiries have yet to be made at the branch about setting up this account

5. PROW at Rothmans Avenue entrance to the Recreation Ground

Enquiries have yet to be made about the current situation.

6. Parish Charter

A reply has been received from the Planning Department at Chelmsford Borough Council regarding the comments made during the consultation on the Parish Charter. The reply was noted by the Planning Committee meeting on 4th January 2010

7. Code of Conduct - Dispensations

The Chairman and the Clerk attended a meeting on 15th December 2009 and the results were reported to the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 4th January 2010

8. Bank Signatories

There are five councillors who still have to sign the mandate but an additional form will have to be obtained. It may also be necessary for two signatures to be repeated to enable the list to be fully updated, following the resignation of two councillors last year. The Clerk will contact the branch/business manager on this matter.

9. Bus Shelter in Beehive Lane

Cllr T Miller enquired whether the letter had been written to Ms Wasilewska about the bus shelter in Beehive Lane. The Clerk agreed to check that this had been done.

10. Dog Bin at Rothmans Avenue entrance to the Recreation Ground

Cllr T Miller enquired whether the dog bin had been reinstated at the Rothmans Avenue entrance to the Recreation Ground. The Clerk replied that due to the current inclement weather conditions, the ground would be too hard to enable the bin to be secured, but the Grounds Manager would be asked to undertake the installation as soon as possible.

11. Nomination for the Chelmsford Borough Council Community Evening

Cllr T Miller enquired whether the name of Yvonne Smith had been forwarded as the Parish Council's nominee for the Community Evening to recognise a contribution to sport. The Clerk replied that it had been sent before Christmas.

12. In-house Councillor training

Cllr T Miller enquired whether any further information was available about in-house Councillor training and the Clerk replied that this had not yet been arranged.

13. Emergency Planning

Cllr Mrs C Shaw informed the meeting that, as Emergency Planning Co-ordinator for Great Baddow, she would be e.mailing Chelmsford Borough Council requesting any information or guidance notes from the meeting on 21st September 2009, that she was unable to attend. Cllr A Sosin requested a copy of the e.mail. Cllr T Miller reported that following the meeting, all parishes should be receiving information for inclusion in their parish magazines. The Clerk will check if any email on this matter has been received from the Borough Council.

574/09 Correspondence

- Essex County Council – Reply to application to the CIF Highways Fund for a pedestrian refuge in The Causeway. Cllr A Sosin read his proposed response for submission to Essex County Council. This was discussed and some changes were made. It was agreed that the letter should be sent with the amendments.
- Mr and Mrs B Clarke – Email regarding the cycle track from Great Baddow and reply from the Highways Agency. Cllr A Sosin outlined the discussions that have taken place to date on the cycle track following the meeting held on 6th August 2009. Cllr T Miller reported the discussions that had taken place at the Mid Essex Area Forum concerning the impracticability of a cycleway under the Chelmer Valley viaduct, and the possibility of a path along the south side of the Chelmer to join a route through Baddow Meads. It was agreed that the Clerk should reply to Mr and Mrs Clarke

confirming that the Parish Council, the Borough Council members and the County Councillor are pursuing the matter. It was also agreed to include a copy of the question raised by Cllr Mrs M Miller to the Essex County Council Cabinet Member and the reply.

575/09 Reports of the Planning Committee 21st December 2009 and 4th January 2010

These were presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson and signed as a true statement by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.

576/09 Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee 4th January 2010

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 4th January 2010 was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs C Shaw, proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr A Sosin. Item 568/09, second bullet point: It was noted that the meeting arranged for 7th January 2010 to discuss the Bell Centre had not taken place due to the bad weather.

577/09 Cricket Club Practice Facility

Following a meeting held with the Cricket Club and Tim Nicholls from the England and Wales Cricket Board on 21st December 2009, it was agreed that the Cricket Club would work on the production of a draft licence. Due to the large amount of work required on this matter it was proposed by Cllr K Ronaldson and seconded by Cllr B Heelis, that the installation of a cricket practice facility should be confirmed as a project.

578/09 Matters for Information

- Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson enquired whether a temporary cleaner had been employed for the Parish Hall and the Clerk replied that the matter was being progressed.
- Cllr K Ronaldson reported that the pavements were still very icy, particularly around Hatleys. The Clerk agreed to notify Essex County Council and also to propose that a further consultation should take place before next winter on the priorities for clearing the highways and pavements.
- Cllr Mr B Heelis reported on the dangerous traffic problems being encountered in Sandford Mill Lane due to the number of large lorries entering and leaving Manor Farm without paying sufficient attention. In addition, cyclists using the cycle path at speed are causing a further danger. It was proposed that the matter should be reported by Cllr B Heelis to the Essex County Council Highways Department, who would be able to make a referral to the Parish Council under the Localism Scheme, if it is appropriate. Safety issues will be referred to the next Neighbourhood Action Panel meeting.
- Cllr B Heelis reported the increasing amount of debris and rubbish being brought down the river and being deposited on the riverbanks in the Sandford Mill area, close to the former waterworks. It was unclear whether this was a conservation area and Cllr A Sosin suggested that the degree of designation would need to be investigated. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Environment Agency and NEAT for advice.
- Cllr Mrs A Martin reported that she would be able to attend the launch of the Essex Book Festival on 4th March 2010 and would escort Penelope

Lively on to the Parish Hall for her talk at 2.00pm. A total of 42 tickets have been sold to date for the event.

- Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky reported that the Burgess Award Committee had agreed a nomination and the name had been forwarded to the Clerk.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller distributed information cards prepared by the Essex Resilience Forum providing guidelines on how to prepare for an emergency. It was proposed that an exhibition and talk on this subject should be requested for the Village Conference.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller informed that meeting that Julie Martyn, the Mid Essex Highways manager, had been seconded for six months. Cllr Mrs M Miller will inform the Clerk of the name of the temporary replacement.
- Cllrs Mrs C Shaw reported that the matter of vandalism in New Road would be discussed at the Neighbourhood Action Panel on 20th January 2010. The Clerk will reply to an email received in the office on this matter.

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

579/09 Bell Centre

The meeting arranged for 7th January 2010 had been cancelled due to the bad weather conditions. It was agreed that Elwell Taylor should be asked to provide a report detailing the priority work required at the Bell Centre, and showing indicative prices for the internal and external work required to restore the building to an acceptable condition. Proposed by Cllr T Miller and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Sosin.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed.....Chairman.....Dated