

A Meeting of the Parish Council at The Parish Hall, Great Baddow on Monday 8th March 2010

The Council met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 8th March 2010** in The Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Councillor Mrs C Shaw chaired the meeting.

Present: Councillors Mrs C Shaw, 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

Prior to the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Gerry Richardson, Emergency Planning Officer, Chelmsford Borough Council, who gave a presentation on the local arrangements for emergency planning and the role of parish teams. Cllr Mrs C Shaw sought clarification of her role as parish co-ordinator and asked for any volunteers to assist in the parish team. Cllrs Mrs M Miller, T Miller, K Ronaldson, Mrs D Ronaldson, Mrs A Martin and B Heelis volunteered. Cllr Mrs C Shaw thanked Gerry Richardson and confirmed that he will also be speaking on another aspect of this subject at the Village Conference on 22nd April 2010.

699/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Martin, S Russell and Mrs J Sosin.

700/09 Declarations of Interests

Cllr T Miller declared a prejudicial interest in Item 710/09.

701/09 Minutes of the Council Meeting – 8th February 2010

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 8th February 2010 were signed as a true statement. Proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr A Sosin with the following amendment: Item 634/09, first bullet point, the word 'resources' to be deleted and replaced by 'resourced'.

702/09 Public Question Time

Cllr A Sosin reported that he had been approached by a parishioner concerning the nuisance being caused by children leaving the youth club at the Bell Centre.

703/09 Clerk's Report

1. BMX Facility

The Clerk has contacted Chelmsford Borough Council with regard to the use of the site, and a reply is awaited.

2. BT Phonebox

The Clerk has been unable to progress this matter and the item will be deleted from the Clerk's Report.

3. PROW at Rothmans Avenue entrance to the Recreation Ground

The Clerk has contacted Chelmsford Borough Council, who has reported that Affinity Sutton are progressing the matter relating to the adoption of the road/footway with Essex County Council Highways. Cllr A Sosin queried the length of the footway and asked to look at the Definitive Map.

The Clerk will contact Chelmsford Borough Council to ask for clarification on the nature of the order.

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

Enquires are being made into the cost of a replacement bin.

5. In-house Councillor training

Enquiries have been made with EALC but they are currently occupied with the NALC consultation. A date will be fixed as soon as possible.

6. Banking

The forms to change the signatories have been delivered to the bank and councillors may now take their identification in for checking. The relevant councillors were given contact details at the bank. The Business Manager has been away on leave but on his return has informed the Clerk that the papers relating to the SIBA account are to be forwarded to him. This will be done as soon as possible.

7. Honorary Burgess Award

Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson has made contact with a calligrapher and details have been passed to the office. This will be followed up.

8. Essex Book Festival

The event was held at the Parish Hall on Thursday 4th March 2010. The author Penelope Lively and her editor Juliet Annam spoke to a capacity audience. The event was well received and a vote of thanks was given to all those involved in organising it.

704/09 Correspondence

- NatWest – Notice of end of Treasury Reserve Account on 4th February 2010 and placing back on deposit at 0.11%.
- Chelmsford Borough Council – Notification of cessation of Saturday Standout collections. Cllr Mrs C Shaw noted that since the service had changed to a recycling collection, its cessation would be particularly inconvenient for those living in flats where it is not always practical to store recycling bags.
- Residents of Tabors Hill – Letters relating to the possible installation of a seat and litter bin near the bus stop, adjacent to the old police houses, in Tabors Hill. Essex County Council had proposed installation on land owned by the residents and, following consultation, objections to this have now been received. Cllr A Sosin proposed that the Highways Department should be informed of the objections and that the installation should not now go ahead. This was agreed. The Clerk will inform the residents of the decision and also confirm that the issue of nuisance youths, raised in their letter, will be followed up with the police.
- Essex County Council – Notification of a decision not to allocate funding following an application to the CIF fund to assist with the installation of an outdoor gym. Cllr A Sosin noted the comments of Glen Parkington from Chelmsford Borough Council with regard to the success of the outdoor gym in Chelmer Park. It was agreed that the Clerk would make further enquiries about the 'hard evidence of community need' that is required in support of an application, as the Parish Council had completed a survey by questionnaire, prior to the application.

- Chelmsford Borough Council – Invitation to the Parishes Event on 12th April 2010 at the Civic Centre. The Clerk will inform the Borough Council that councillors Mrs C Shaw, Mrs M Miller, T Miller, K Ronaldson, Mrs D Ronaldson and B Heelis will be attending the 1.30 pm event.
- Essex County Council – Invitation to the Ecumenical Civic Service on 28th April 2010 at Brentwood Cathedral. There were no councillors available to attend this event.

705/09 Reports of the Planning Committee 15th February 2010 and 1st March 2010

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

706/09 Report of the Highways and Amenities Committee 15th February 2010

The report of the Highways and Amenities Committee was presented to the Council by Cllr A Sosin, proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr K Ronaldson with the following amendment: Item 648/09, first line, the numbers '7653/09' to be deleted and replaced by 653/09.

707/09 Reports of the Allotments Sub Committee and Grounds Committee 22nd February 2010

The report of the Allotments Sub Committee was presented to the Council by Cllr T Miller, proposed by Cllr T Miller and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky.

The report of the Grounds Committee was presented to the Council by Cllr T Miller, proposed by Cllr T Miller and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson.

708/09 Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee 1st March 2010

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 1st March 2010 was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs C Shaw, proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr A Sosin with the following amendment to the numbering: Item number 619/09 to be deleted and replaced by 697/09 and Item 620/09 to be deleted and replaced by 698/09.

709/09 Business and Financial Risk Management

The report from the Risk Assessment Working Party was introduced by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and recommended for acceptance. It was agreed that an annual review should be carried out as recommended by the auditor. Cllr T Miller enquired whether the amount of the fidelity guarantee had been reviewed and the Clerk replied that this would be carried out when the complete review of insurance is finalised.

710/09 Consultation on Affordable Housing Development

Cllr T Miller left the meeting at 8.33pm.

Cllr A Sosin queried whether the garages were in use for car parking by the residents of Mercia Close. It was agreed that if they were not, no objection would be made to the proposed development.

Cllr T Miller returned to the meeting at 8.36pm.

711/09 Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk informed the meeting that Dave Farrar of Chelmsford Borough Council had provided a cost of £252.37 plus VAT for the installation of a dog waste bin. It was proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson that this should be accepted and four bins should be installed in the Vicarage Lane/Maltings area.

712/09 Matters for Information

- Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky informed the meeting that the current issue of the Essex Playing Fields Association contained an article on BMX tracks, and the Clerk agreed to copy this to all councillors.
- Cllr A Sosin informed the meeting that he had reported a number of potholes to the Highways Department.
- Cllr B Heelis reported that he is communicating with Chelmsford Borough Council and the Police with regard to the kebab van parked at the junction of Sandford Mill Lane and Maldon Road. Cllr Mrs C Shaw informed the meeting that the Police are checking if it is licensed. The Clerk had driven past the van on Saturday evening and noted that customers' vehicles were blocking one lane of the entrance/exit to Sandford Mill Lane. This will be reported to Chris Fox at Essex County Council.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller provided details of the new cabinet members at the County Council, and their respective roles: Peter Martin, Leader; David Finch, Deputy Leader, Finance and Transformation Programme; Sarah Candy, Children's Services; Ann Naylor, Adult Social Care.
- Cllr T Miller enquired about a suitable committee to discuss the grant to the YMCA. The Clerk replied that this should be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and would be placed on the April agenda.
- Cllr Mrs C Shaw had received a copy of the 'Explore Culture' brochure for March – October 2010 and offered to circulate it to any interested councillors.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller gave a vote of thanks to Cllrs Mrs C Shaw and Mrs J Sosin for their work on the Essex on Tour production, which was a great success.

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

713/09 Bell Centre

A report from Elwell Taylor, on the priority work required to restore the building to usable condition, had been circulated prior to the meeting. A report on the boundary wall had not yet been received. Following a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr B Heelis that minimal essential repairs to the fabric and security of the building up to £1000 should be carried out whilst a report is awaited on the condition of the boundary wall and a firm action plan can be drawn up. The external repairs to include clearing gulleys, dispersing surface water, and filling cracks in the walls, as set out in Section 4 of the report. A vote was taken and the proposal was carried by seven votes to two, with one abstention.

714/09 Land outside St Mary's Church

Cllr A Sosin noted that the railings around this area had collapsed and the shrubs required pruning. It was agreed that the land should be retained by the Parish Council and that the Grounds Manager should be asked to attend to the area.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.17 pm.

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