

REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO THE VILLAGE CONFERENCE
TO BE HELD AT THE BELL CENTRE, GREAT BADDOW ON
THURSDAY 22nd APRIL 2010

This Council is pleased to make an Annual Report for the year 2009/2010. This is the 116th Anniversary of the formation of the Council.

GREAT BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

Elections were held in May 2007 and the next elections are in 2011. The present Council is constituted as follows:

Baddow Road Ward

Angela Martin
Veronica Sadowsky
Bryan Heelis

Village Ward

Chris Shaw
Diana Ronaldson
Andrew Sosin
Steve Martin
Keith Ronaldson

Rothmans Ward

Jannetta Sosin
Maureen Miller
Trevor Miller
Stephen Russell
Gordon Jarvis

Thanks are given to Sidney Bass, who retired from the Council in April 2009 and William Richardson who resigned due to work commitments in August 2009. Bryan Heelis was co-opted in June 2009 to fill the vacancy left by Sidney Bass and Gordon Jarvis was co-opted in September 2009 to fill the vacancy left by William Richardson.

MEETINGS – Full Council Meetings are held on the second Monday evening in the month (except August when it is the first Monday) at 7.30 pm in Committee Room 1 of the Parish Hall, Maldon Road, Great Baddow. Other Committee meetings also take place normally on Mondays. Any parishioner may attend Council and Committee meetings. Agendas for all meetings are posted on the notice boards in the parish on the Wednesday before the meeting and a list of dates can be found in the Great Baddow Times, on the website and on the noticeboards.

The Parish Council has always encouraged parishioners present to address the meetings and there is a time allocated to enable parishioners to address councillors and ask questions or make statements. Further details can be obtained from the Clerk of the Council or can be found on the website at www.greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL – Councillor Mrs. C. Shaw

VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL – Councillor A. Sosin

COMMITTEES

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

Councillor Mrs. C. Shaw – Chairman

HIGHWAYS AND AMENITIES

Councillor A. Sosin – Chairman

ORGANISATION, METHODS AND PERSONNEL

Councillor Mrs. C. Shaw – Chairman

GROUNDS AND ALLOTMENTS

Councillor S. Martin – Chairman

PLANNING

Councillor Mrs D Ronaldson - Chairman

PARISH HALL AND BELL CENTRE

Councillor Mrs. D. Ronaldson – Chairman

The Parish Council is also represented on The Great Baddow Parochial Charities.

ADMINISTRATION

The office is open from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm from Monday to Friday and on one Saturday morning a month, immediately prior to the monthly Council meeting day. The Clerk will be pleased to talk to parishioners about parish matters during these times or at a time outside these hours, by appointment.

The office telephone number is 01245 472937 and the e.mail address for general enquiries is **info@greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk**.

Miss Ann Wood, the Clerk, Mrs Elaine Bryan, the Assistant Clerk and Mrs Cheryl Cook, the Administrative Assistant currently staff the office.

Questions about the hire of the Parish Hall and Bell Centre and enquiries about the Lawn Cemetery and Old Burial Ground should be directed to Mrs Bryan on **bookings@greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk**

Questions and enquiries about Allotments and Planning should be directed to Mrs Cook on **planning@greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk**.

In December 2008, following the introduction of new criteria, Great Baddow Parish Council was re-accredited with Quality Council status. This status was originally awarded to the Parish Council in September 2003 and at that time, the Council was the 4th council in England to receive the status. There are still only 695 Quality Councils in the country, out of a potential 8500, so Great Baddow Parish Council remains part of a still select group of councils.

The Council has had a website for over 10 years and it is hoped that this is up to date and accessible. All minutes of meetings can now be found there and also dates of forthcoming meetings. Details of all the Council's services can be found on the website at **www.greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk**

As part of its commitment to local partnership working, the Council has again provided meeting space for partnership groups during the year.

Members of the Council have been very closely involved with the police in the local Neighbourhood Action Panel and the Great Baddow Community Action Group and they attend regular meetings.

For the second year (in September), the Council held a coffee morning at the Bell Centre for the Macmillan cancer charity. Thanks to resident's generosity, the total raised was up on the previous year at £134.70.

Following its general policy of caring for the environment and trying to reduce its carbon footprint, the Council has continued to recycle paper and cardboard from the office, has installed low energy light bubs where appropriate and has undertaken energy audits of its premises. A new boiler was installed in August 2008 and plans are underway to replace some of the windows in certain areas of the hall with double-glazing.

Clear recycling sacks and dog waste bags are available to residents from the Parish Council office. Recently, the Council has joined the household battery recycling scheme and there is a recycling box in the foyer at the Parish Hall.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The Grounds staff are Peter Jeffrey, the Grounds Manager, Kevin Gentry, the Deputy Grounds Manager and Groundsmen Nigel Smith, Alan Coleman and John Scott. The Recreation Ground Staff work to maintain the sports facilities in the Recreation Ground, Noakes Place, the Lawn Cemetery, the Old Burial Ground, Vicarage Lane Allotment site,

Towerfield Allotments site, the Centenary Roundabout and numerous bus shelters and other street furniture.

The Grounds Staff undertake many tasks around the village, from clearing troublesome weeds on footpaths to minor maintenance jobs on Council property. They can be contacted direct on 01245 473538. Any sports booking enquiries should also be directed to this number.

RECREATION GROUND

During the year, the installation of the new play equipment for the older children was completed and immediately became very popular. The money for the new equipment came mainly from S106 monies and the Council's precept but there were also grants from the Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund and the Fowler Smith and Jones Charitable Trusts. The Council's thanks go to these organisations.

NOAKES PLACE

Since taking over the management of Noakes Place from Chelmsford Borough Council in June 2000, the Council has worked on many projects, including the upgrading of access facilities and footways, the installation of lighting, the installation of the kicking wall, the resurfacing of the car park at the Buckleys entrance, the construction of a disabled access ramp at Foxholes Road and the establishment of a sensory garden.

The agreement comes to an end in April 2010 and negotiations were started at the end of 2009 with Chelmsford Borough Council to re-negotiate the agreement.

The Council granted a licence again to a children's fun fair that was held in August and this proved to be extremely popular with residents.

The ponds were successfully cleared of weed again. This is an annual summer problem that the Council has to deal with.

CHILDREN'S AND TODDLERS PLAY EQUIPMENT

In 1997, a play area was installed in grounds within Meadgate School, which was open to the public every day and had proved very popular. Unfortunately, the lease with Essex County Council expired in 2009 and they were unwilling to grant another and the Parish Council had to clear the land. The Council is still taking steps to try and find another site for a children's play area in the Meadgate Area.

This Council pursues a policy of ensuring a high standard of safety. All items of equipment are covered by special insurance and a qualified engineer, appointed by our insurance company, makes an annual check on all our equipment. All items are the subject of daily inspection by the Grounds Staff and if any problems are found, the item is taken out of use until it can be repaired or if necessary replaced.

ALL WEATHER SPORTS COURTS

The Parish Council has four All Weather Sports Courts, including two built in 2000 with the help of Sports Lottery funding. All four courts are currently in use and teams and clubs can either block book them in advance or use them on an ad hoc basis, when payment is made at the time of hire. During the year, negotiations continued with the Great Baddow Cricket Club relating to the establishment of high quality practice facilities to attract young players.

The courts are manned by the Games Attendant, Mr. Melvyn Malins.

FOOTBALL

The football pitches are in demand and are used by a number of local teams.

CRICKET CLUB

The Great Baddow Cricket Club lease the wicket from the Council and games are played on Saturday and Sunday. Arrangements can be made with the Cricket Club for young people to have coaching lessons at the practice nets.

BOWLING GREEN

The Great Baddow Bowling Club leases five rinks of our Bowling Green and one is kept for use by the general public. Arrangements to use this one can be made with the Grounds Staff for a small charge.

TENNIS

All courts, hard and grass were very well used last summer. The Great Baddow Recreation Ground Tennis Club hires courts on a regular basis throughout the year and welcomes new members.

SUMMER PLAYSCHMES

A Playscheme will be running as usual from 2nd to 6th August 2010, headed by Marianne Hamilton. This has always proved popular and parents can be reassured that their children are being taken care of by qualified personnel. This year's scheme was extremely well attended and capacity numbers were reported on most days. There is no charge for the children to attend as the whole scheme is subsidised by the Council.

In addition, and in conjunction with Chelmsford Borough Council, the Parish Council arranges Sports Days and Play Days. Dates for the Whitsun Half Term are:

Thursday 3rd June 2010 - 9.30am to 12 noon

Friday 4th June 2010 - 1.00pm to 3.30pm

The dates for the summer holiday are:

Tuesday 10th August – 1.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Thursday 12th August – 1.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Wednesday 18th August – 1.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Thursday 19th August – 9.30 am to 12.00 noon

These dates in the summer include both sports and the Play In The Park and because they are sponsored by the Parish Council, they are free of charge to all children.

LAWN CEMETERY

The cemetery has been maintained to its usual high standards during the year. The Council staff has carried out a planting scheme and replanted the main flower beds and part of the boundary hedging. There is a continuing review of the cemetery to ensure that high standards are maintained.

Memorial trees, rose bushes and plaques can be purchased through the office.

OLD BURIAL GROUND

The Parish Council also maintains part of the burial ground behind St. Mary's Church and this has been maintained to the usual high standards.

ALLOTMENT SITES

The Council administers two allotment sites known as "Vicarage Lane" and "Towerfield". Representatives are appointed and they are Anthea Reeve for Vicarage Lane and Terry Hull for Towerfield.

There is a great deal of interest and demand for this leisure facility. Tenants are highly motivated and help each other with advice. Some new half size allotments were created this year at the Vicarage Lane site by clearing part of the undergrowth at the top of the site.

The Best Cultivated Allotments competition was held again in 2010 and the judges were David Saddington and Eddie Cole. Trophies and prizes were won by the following:

Towerfield

1 st	Mr. T. Hull
2 nd	Mr Horton
3 rd	Mr O Buchholz

Vicarage Lane

1 st	Mrs A Reeve
2 nd	Mr Haldane
3 rd	Mr Robb

Cllr Mrs Chris Shaw presented the trophies to the winners at the December 2009 meeting of the Horticultural Society. This social evening is sponsored by the Council, to recognise the achievements of the winners.

GREAT BADDOW MILLENNIUM COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Centre continues to go from strength to strength under the stewardship of the Great Baddow Community Association. It provides numerous facilities and activities for members, and rooms are also available for hire.

PARISH HALL AND COMMITTEE ROOMS

The hiring and use of this complex remains high. Groups such as Keep-Fit Classes, Flower Arranging Classes, Theatre at Baddow, two WI Groups, Tai Chi Classes and a dancing school regularly use the Parish Hall. It is also booked for weddings and private parties. There are some vacancies for daytime hires and this can be arranged by contacting the office. The bar is well run by the manager, Mr. Ian Kerr and the Designated Premises Supervisor is Miss Ann C. Wood.

Committee Rooms 1 and 2 continue to be very well used for meetings of all descriptions, both educational and social.

The Hall and associated rooms are maintained to a high standard and a lot of work has been carried out during the last year. The flooring in the foyer, corridor and toilets was replaced and a new front door access was installed.

A broadband Internet connection is now available, at no extra cost, to hirers in the hall and committee rooms.

The Council undertook two productions of "Essex On Tour" this year and was well rewarded with successful performances of "The King's Got Donkey's Ears!" by Theatre of Widdershins in November 2009 and "A Life of Organised Croon" by Opera Dudes in February 2010. It is hoped to arrange more "Essex On Tour" performances during the next season.

The Council has also worked in partnership with Essex County Council again on the Essex Book Festival. The author Penelope Lively and her editor Juliet Annan spoke to a capacity audience of 145 people. It is hoped that this will continue to be a regular event.

During the year under report, 830 bookings have been taken for the Parish Hall. Thanks go to the caretaker, Lynn Alderson for her work. Special thanks go to Helen Bonner who left the Council's employment in December 2009 after 14 years service as the Parish Hall cleaner. The Council welcomes Nicola Whipp, who took up the position in February 2010.

It was with great sadness that the Council recently learnt of the death of Mick Pratt, who had worked at the Parish Hall as a handyman for 6 ½ years. He also provided cover for both the caretaker and cleaner as part of his duties and he will be greatly missed by his colleagues and the members of the Council. The Council's sympathies are with Mick's family at this very sad time.

BELL CENTRE

The Bell Centre has two main rooms for hire, the Zoete Room and the Shaw Room. Present regular bookings include Art Classes, Guides, Adult Education and Coffee Pot. The Bell Centre is once again home to a Youth Café, which was restarted in Autumn 2005. It is staffed by the YMCA on behalf of a joint working group, which includes the Parish Council. In addition, this is a popular venue for children's parties.

During the year under report, 351 bookings have been taken for the Bell Centre. Thanks to caretaker/cleaner Lynn Alderson for her work.

YOUTH FACILITY

The Parish Council has been a partner since 2002, with many other agencies, in a project designed to establish a dedicated youth facility in the village. Although finding a dedicated place has been difficult, work with the other partners continued throughout the year and came to fruition in March 2009. The Youth Drop-In centre at The Vineyards Centre continues to be very popular with the young people and it is well attended. The Parish Council is part funding the staffing here and at the Youth Café at the Bell Centre.

READING ROOM

In 2002, the Parish Council was asked if it would be willing to nominate two people to be appointed as Trustees of the Reading Room. Councillor Chris Shaw and Jim Hurrell represent the Council.

HIGHWAYS AND AMENITIES

The Highways and Amenities Committee considered proposals from Central Government, the Essex County Council and Chelmsford Borough Council and made comments, proposals and representations as appropriate. Extra litterbins and dog waste bins have been installed at various locations. The Council has also installed a new and updated map in The Vineyards

CENTENARY AWARD

The Council's fifteenth Centenary Award was presented to Sheila Everitt and Sylvia Field by the Mayor of Chelmsford, Cllr Tony Sach at the Community Celebration in January 2010. This was in recognition of their voluntary contribution to the community, particularly their long service to local guiding.

HONORARY BURGESS

The Parish Council established this award to recognise contributions by parishioners to the world at large. The current recipients are Joan Beard, Eric Withams, David Watson and Eileen Hance MBE. Another award was made this year to Sidney Bass in recognition of his long service to the scouting movement and the community. There is a board recording the names of the Honorary Burgesses, which is displayed in the Parish Hall.

LITTER

The Council employs two Litter Collectors to clear up areas of the parish on a rota basis. Thanks to Don Hood and Mike Passfield for their work.

GRANTS

The following grants were made by the Council under The Local Government Act 1972, section 137 for the year 2009/2010, in response to applications submitted by parish organisations.

Baddow Spartak FC	1415.00
Chelmer Housing Partnership	200.00
Farleigh Hospice	1220.00
Great Baddow District Guides	190.00
1 st Great Baddow Guides	305.00
Great Baddow Community Care	250.00
Great Baddow Flower Club	400.00
(For provision of flowers in the Parish Hall Foyer)	
Great Baddow and Galleywood Environmental Group	65.00
Great Baddow Townswomens Guild	100.00
Great Baddow WI	210.00
Hargrave House League of Friends	200.00
1 st Great Baddow Rainbows	100.00
Great Baddow Community Care Luncheon Club	250.00
Meadgate Church Youth Group	728.00
Total	£5633.00

PLANNING

The Planning Committee sits fortnightly throughout the year to examine and discuss all applications for this area. If parishioners wish to offer comments to the Committee, they are welcome to attend and make their views known. The Planning Committee aims to ensure that the character of the Great Baddow village is preserved and if possible, enhanced. The impact of any planning application on the people who live in Great Baddow must be fully considered. The Planning Committee is determined that this will be the case. Written observations and recommendations are made for each application and whilst these do not carry the power of final decisions, Chelmsford Borough Council as the Planning Authority accord them due consideration.

The Planning Committee has considered 140 applications this year. The Council has worked hard to keep residents informed of any developments and represent their concerns to Chelmsford Borough Council.

The Council held a special meeting in order that residents could come along and put forward their views and comments to the Borough Council's Site Allocation Document. The meeting was extremely well attended and the comments were forwarded to Chelmsford Borough Council. Plans for The Vineyards site were also submitted during

the year and the planning meeting that discussed this application was also very well attended.

The Council is supporting a project to produce a Village Design Statement and is represented on the Steering Group. The group hopes that finally they are almost ready to go out for final public consultation. Should you require further information about the VDS, please contact the Chairman Brian Roscoe on 01245 353083 or the Secretary Keith Ronaldson on 01245 471568.

TREE WARDENS

Unfortunately, Chris Kavanagh our Tree Warden had to vacate his position during the year and the Parish Council would like to thank him for the work that he undertook during his tenure. He was writing a series of articles for the Great Baddow Times and these are still available on the website at www.greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk. A dedicated e.mail address is available for residents to contact the Council about issues concerning trees.

The e.mail address is treewardens@greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk

If you would like to speak to someone with a view to taking on the voluntary position as Tree Warden, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

LUXFIELD

The Parish Council created Bylaws to regulate the use of this field. The Bylaw prohibits motor vehicles from using this land, following complaints from parishioners regarding motorbikes.

The Council has been drawing up plans to take on more management of this area and has been searching for grant funding to help towards the cost.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr Dan Glading is the Village Co-ordinator for this busy organisation.

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

The Great Baddow Times was launched in 1996 and continues to be very popular. Over 7000 copies are published and distributed to houses in the parish, four times a year.

During the year, the Council decided that the best way to make certain that the magazine reaches every household was to have a Solus Delivery. This means that the magazine is no longer delivered with the Weekly News but separately. At the same time, councillors have undertaken to deliver to those roads where the Weekly News is not delivered at all and it is hoped that this new system has worked.

If for any reason you do not receive a copy of the magazine you should report the matter to the Parish Council office and you can also view the magazine on the website at www.greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk. Spare copies are available in the library and at the Parish Council office.

Contributions and advertisements are always welcome. John Emery is the Editor and the Council thanks him for his hard work on this publication.

April 2010