

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

The Committee met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014** in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall in Great Baddow. Councillor Mrs V Sadowsky chaired the meeting.

Present: Councillors Mrs V Sadowsky, Mrs D Ronaldson, K Liley, Mrs M Miller, Mrs C Shaw and Mrs J Sosin

In attendance: The Clerk of the Council and the Assistant Clerk  
One member of the public

### **638/13 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T Hatcher and J Fuller.

### **639/13 Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Pecuniary Interests or Registerable Non Pecuniary Interests.

### **640/13 Public Question Time**

The Chairman invited any comments from the visiting parishioner. A statement was made with regard to the problems that had occurred in October 2013 during Youth Club sessions held on a Tuesday evening in the Bell Centre. Trespass and damage had taken place on a property opposite the Centre, and this had resulted in the youth club being closed for a few weeks. Following the closure and discussions with the youth worker, the centre reopened and the situation was greatly improved, with no further problems occurring. Thanks were given to the Youth Worker for all his efforts to resolve the problems and prevent any further instances from taking place. The need for continued strong management was stressed, to avoid any future problems, and the suitability of the centre for additional youth work was also queried.

The member of the public left the meeting at 7.40pm.

Cllr Mrs C Shaw informed the meeting that she was meeting the youth worker, Mike Humphrey, later in the week and would enquire about the current situation.

### **641/13 Minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were signed as a true record by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky. Proposed by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky and seconded by Cllr K Liley.

### **642/13 Clerks Report**

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

#### **External Door on Bell Street**

The Clerk informed the meeting that the door handle on the external door had been repaired by the handyman this morning, when the caretaker had been unable to gain entrance to the building. It now appears to be working normally but the situation will be monitored as it may be necessary to fit a replacement.

### **643/13 Update Report on Hall Hire Numbers**

A report prepared by the Assistant Clerk had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that party bookings at the Bell Centre remain very low but there has been an increase in the number of enquiries received for

classes. The Chelmsford New City Girls WI Choir has booked the centre for rehearsals once a month and a Buddhist centre has booked a six week meditation course. The Dabbling Doodlers art class for toddlers has increased from one to two sessions per week.

**644/13 Matters for Information**

There were no matters for information.

*It was resolved that the meeting would be closed to the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted in the following item*

**645/13 Bell Centre Lease**

The Clerk reported that following the meeting she had attended with parish councillors and officers of Essex County Council, the County Council had agreed to draw up terms for a lease, and Lambert Smith Hampton had contacted the office to discuss the matter. One of the officers has also visited the Bell Centre.

The Clerk has contacted the Rural Community Council of Essex and confirmed that they no longer use the Grant Finder, preferring to give more tailored advice on each individual project. An officer from the Rural Community Council has offered to visit the Bell Centre and meet representatives from the Parish Council to give advice on how to proceed. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr K Ronaldson should attend the meeting which is scheduled for the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.02 pm.

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