

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

The Committee met at 8.00 pm on **Monday 19th September 2016** 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, Mrs M Miller, Mrs V Chiswell, Mrs S Young (substituting for Mrs C Shaw) and T Miller (substituting for Mrs J Sosin).

In attendance: The Clerk of the Council and the ^{Deputy}~~Assistant~~ Clerk
Cllr K Ronaldson

338/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs J Sosin, Mrs C Shaw, J Fuller and K Liley

339/16 Declarations of Interests

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

340/16 Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting held on 22nd February 2016 were signed as a true record by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky. Proposed by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Chiswell.

341/16 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

342/16 Clerks Report

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

343/16 Update Report on Hall Hire Numbers

A report prepared by the ^{Deputy}~~Assistant~~ Clerk had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that party bookings at the Bell Centre remained low, and one regular hirer, the U3A Photographic Group, has moved to new premises. The condition of the building is deteriorating and this is deterring potential hirers. Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson enquired whether the handyman had been able to repair the holes in the Bell Centre ceiling and the Clerk replied that she would speak to him, now that he has finished deputising for the cleaner during her annual leave.

344/16 Bell Centre Rebuilding/Refurbishment

Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky reported that the Bell Centre Working Group had met to discuss a breakdown of possible savings that could be made to reduce the proposed rebuilding costs. Hurley Porte & Duell had provided information on the price difference between a raft and piling foundation for the proposed new building, and this was not as substantial as had been expected. An estimate is still awaited for the cost of a ground survey and advice from an engineer and the Clerk will chase Hurley Porte & Duell for this information. A meeting with Chelmsford City Council was not advised at this stage as further information is still required.

There was some discussion of possible alternative venues for the Bell Centre Youth Club and the Clerk informed the meeting of some of the organisations that had already been contacted and had not been able to provide any help with premises. Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson suggested that it may

be possible to use the Orchards in Meadgate as a short term solution but queries were raised with regard to the co-ordination with existing youth groups using that venue. It was also proposed that enquiries should be made with the 26th Great Baddow Scout Group concerning possible use of the Meadgate Scout Hut. Cllr Mrs S Young enquired about the availability of the empty retail unit in the Vineyards and Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky replied that shop premises are usually very expensive to rent. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Orchards and the Scout Group to enquire about use of their buildings by the Youth Club.

345/16 Budget

Review of budget spending for 2015/2016 2016-2017

The Clerk introduced a review of the budget spending to date for 2016/2017 and it was agreed that the expenditure was in line with the budget in most areas. The budget for electrical inspections has been overspent due to a change in electrical contractor and a number of unexpected problems being identified.

Draft budget for 2015/2016 2017-2018.

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget prior to the meeting, and noted the areas where the budget has been increased in line with inflation.

It was agreed that this budget should go forward to the Finance and General Purposes Committee as the recommendation of the Bell Centre Sub Committee. Proposed by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky and seconded by Cllr Mrs M Miller.

346/16 Bell Centre Rebuilding/Refurbishment

Item inserted in error - to be deleted from record.

The Clerk reported that following the previous meeting of this committee, Hurley Porte & Duell had been appointed to carry out a feasibility study for the rebuilding/refurbishment of the Bell Centre, and this had now been received. An additional meeting of the full Council has been scheduled for 13th October to discuss the report and the associated costs.

347/16 Matters for Information

There were no matters for information.

348/16 Private and Confidential

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. Proposed by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Young.

349/16 Bell Centre Lease

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had not received any further information from the Parish Council's solicitor concerning the lease. Following the decision taken at the Council meeting on 12th September 2016 the solicitor will be informed that due to the receipt of additional information, the Council will not now be in a position to sign the lease

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.42 pm.

Signed..... *J P Sullivan* Chairman

Date..... *10/12 October 2016*