

A Meeting of the Parish Council at The Parish Hall, Great Baddow on Monday 10th March 2014

The Council met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 10th March 2014** in The Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Councillor Mrs J Sosin chaired the meeting.

Present: Councillors Mrs J Sosin, A Sosin, Mrs C Shaw, K Liley, Mrs S Young, K Ronaldson, Mrs D Ronaldson, J Fuller, T Miller, Mrs M Miller, G Jarvis and Mrs V Sadowsky.

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

678/13Public Announcements

There were no public announcements.

679/13Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr T Hatcher.

680/13Declaration of Interests

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

681/13Minutes of the Council Meeting – 10th February 2014

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 10th February 2014 were signed as a true statement. Proposed by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Young.

Cllr J Fuller entered the meeting at 7.33pm.

Cllr Mrs M Miller enquired whether the pages of the minutes could be numbered. The Clerk replied that this would only be possible if sequential numbering was to be applied across all Council committees.

682/13Public Question Time

No questions were raised.

683/13Clerk's Report

1. Exchange Visits

As a result of the article in the Great Baddow Times, the Clerk has had five replies from members of the public, and these have been forwarded to Cllr Mrs S Young, who has also provided a draft letter to go to the schools and the French Circle, and a holding reply for the five correspondents.

2. Remembrance Day Service

The Clerk has already circulated a reply, received from Revd Ritchie, suggesting that the Parish Council could lay a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service and that the Council's representative could carry out a reading. A number of councillors had already indicated their approval of this suggestion and it was agreed that the Clerk will contact Revd Ritchie to accept his proposal. The matter will be placed on the Council agenda for September to review the arrangements and select a councillor to attend the service.

3. Chelmsford City Council CCTV Control Room

Cllr A Sosin had received a reply to his email, sent to Spencer Clark at the City Council, which had been circulated on 14th January 2014. The Clerk has circulated this again for those who may not have seen it at the time.

4. Essex County Council Footpath 5 Sandon and Footpath 69 Great Baddow

Essex County Council has now undertaken an investigation and has sent a copy of the report to the Parish Council. It has been decided that drafting errors have occurred and in due course a Modification Order will be made. The Clerk will copy the covering letter to all councillors and the full report can be viewed in the office or copied if required.

5. Great Baddow Art Project

The Clerk reported that another meeting has been arranged between the Parish Council representatives, Chelmsford City Council and the artists for 14th March 2014. Cllr Mrs C Shaw informed the meeting that the artists have made arrangements with Mike Humphrey to visit the Youth Drop In Centre.

684/13Correspondence

1. Michael Silk – email about parking at the junction of Dorset Avenue and Beehive Lane. Cllr Mrs J Sosin noted that there is already junction protection in Dorset Avenue, and Cllr A Sosin proposed that this should be extended to 25m. Cllr A Sosin drew attention to the guidance in the Traffic Regulation Order amendments concerning supporting evidence, and proposed that the correspondent should be informed of the importance of obtaining additional support, such as letters or petitions, prior to presenting a case to the County Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should refer the matter to the Highways Department and pass on the Council's comments to the Mr Silk.
2. Great Baddow Flower Club – request for replacement drapes. Following the disposal of a trunk owned by the Flower Club and stored in the Parish Hall, it was agreed that storage by any group is at their own risk. It was also suggested that items should be labeled as to ownership. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Young that as a gesture of goodwill, the Council would make a contribution of £80 towards the cost of replacing the covers that had been stored in the trunk.

685/13Reports of the Planning Committee 17th February 2014 and 3rd March 2014

The reports of the Planning Committee of 17th February 2014 and 3rd March 2014 were presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson and signed as a true statement by Cllr Mrs J Sosin.

Cllr A Sosin informed the meeting that a site visit, by the Chelmsford City Council Planning Committee, to 8 Baddow Place Avenue, will take place on 18th March 2014 prior to the Planning Committee meeting that evening. Cllrs A Sosin and G Jarvis will attend.

686/13Report of the Highways and Amenities Committee 17th February 2014

The report of the Highways and Amenities Committee of 17th February 2014 was presented to the Council by Cllr A Sosin, proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw, with the following amendment to

Item 637/13, sixth bullet point: the word 'sate' to be removed and replaced by 'state'.

Cllr A Sosin informed the meeting of a reply he had received from Essex County Councillor Mrs Jenny Chandler, concerning a number of Highways issues:

1. Crescent Road/Jeffrey Road – resurfacing. Essex Highways are currently preparing the programme for highway works in 2014/15 and further details will be available once the draft programme has been agreed.
2. Loftin Way/Gloucester Avenue – grass verges. This work was not regarded as necessary as there is no safety issue.
3. Bus shelter – Duffield Road. Richard Cilvert from Essex County Council is progressing this work with Crest Nicholson and there are hopes that the work will take place at Easter.
4. Watchouse/Galleywood Road speed order. This is due to come into effect on 31st March 2014.

Cllr A Sosin informed the meeting that three highways schemes, referred for consideration by the Local Highways Panel and given high priority by the Parish Council, would not now be progressed. These are: Scheme IT121-Congestion management in Baddow Road; IT257-Crossing near New Road and IT258-Crossing in Maldon Road. The Clerk had attended a meeting at Chelmsford City Council and confirmed that whilst the Local Highways Panel had greatly reduced the number of schemes being considered for funding, it should still be possible to submit further schemes if sufficient support could be shown for them. It was agreed that any proposals should be referred to the next meeting of the Highways Committee.

Cllr Mrs C Shaw informed the meeting that she had received a reply from Essex County Councillor Mrs Jenny Chandler regarding the pothole at the entrance to The Causeway, and this should now have been repaired. Cllr Mrs C Shaw will chase this up.

Cllr Mrs C Shaw reported that the matter of parking at Baddow Hall Crescent/Leach Close had been raised at the NAP meeting and the police will be visiting the site to view the problem.

Cllr K Ronaldson reported that the number 40 bus is now running to Broomfield Hospital, via Melbourne, with a journey time of approximately 40 minutes. It was noted that the reference to this bus in the minutes of the Highways and Amenities of 17th February 2014, was incorrectly recorded as No. 42.

687/13 Report of the Bell Centre Sub Committee and Parish Hall Committee 24th February 2014

The reports of the Bell Centre Sub Committee and Parish Hall Committee of 24th February 2014 were presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky, proposed by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky and seconded by Cllr K Liley.

Cllr Mrs C Shaw reported that she had recently received an update from the Youth worker, Mike Humphrey. Attendance at the Bell Centre Youth Club has risen to 30-40 at each session, with the sessions now having returned to their usual timetable following some problems before Christmas. Strong management is being maintained. Attendance at the

Drop-In Centre has risen to approximately 30 young people per session which is a large number for the building to accommodate. The owners have received a complaint, via a Security Guard, concerning the use of scooters and ramps outside the centre. Use of the ramps has been suspended.

688/13 Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee 3rd March 2014

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 3rd March 2014 was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs C Shaw, proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson.

689/13 Chelmsford City Council – Control of Street Trading

Cllr Mrs J Sosin outlined the proposals from Chelmsford City Council to place controls on street trading, and the problems that would arise from the inclusion of such areas as the Recreation Ground within the definition of a 'street'. This would result in permission being required to set up stalls for charity events such as the Baddow Races, and a fee would then be payable to obtain consent. It is understood that City Council grounds will be regarded as exempt from the controls, which would result in Noakes Place being exempt but not the adjoining Recreation Ground, causing some confusion as these areas are often viewed as one park.

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had spoken to the City Council and it may be possible for Parish Councils to obtain rolling permissions to cover their land.

Cllr Mrs S Young enquired whether the Horticultural Society trading hut would require consent, and queries were also raised about other events such as table top sales on driveways and school fetes.

It was agreed to recommend that the Parish Council grounds should be exempt from this Order in line with the exemption proposed for the City Council, and this should apply to all Parish Councils. A query will also be raised about the status of stalls in school playgrounds, churches, driveways or on the land of social housing landlords.

690/13 Code of Conduct – Local Protocol

Cllr A Sosin left the meeting at 8.48pm

Cllr Mrs C Shaw outlined the discussions that had taken place at the Finance and General Purposes Committee concerning the Local Protocol for dealing with action to be taken on a notified breach of the Code of Conduct. It was agreed that the recommendations should be confirmed. Proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Young.

Cllr A Sosin returned to the meeting at 8.51pm

691/13 NALC

It was agreed to ratify comments prepared by Cllr K Ronaldson, and circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting, concerning the Local Audit and Accountability Act – Openness of Local Government Bodies Draft Regulations. The comments, with requested amendments and additions, had been sent to NALC prior to the meeting to meet the required deadline. Proposed by Cllr K Ronaldson and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.

692/13 **Community Celebration**

It was agreed to set up an ad hoc working group to discuss the future arrangements for the Community Celebration. Cllrs K Liley, Mrs D Ronaldson, Mrs J Sosin, and Mrs C Shaw agreed to form the working group along with the administrative assistant, who will arrange the first meeting.

693/13 **Matters for Information**

- Cllr Mrs C Shaw enquired about the role of a 'village agent', following a reference made in a planning enforcement case. The Clerk will make enquiries.
- Cllr Mrs S Young informed the meeting that she had, once again, not received a copy of the Great Baddow Times. Cllr J Fuller also reported that he had not received a copy. The Clerk explained that Newsquest will not add new properties to the distribution list and these are covered as fully as possible by the councillors themselves. A complaint will be made to Newsquest particularly with regard to Dorset Avenue.
- Cllr A Sosin informed the meeting that Chelmsford City Council will no longer be cutting footpaths for Essex County Council. The service is being withdrawn due to a reduction of 50% in the funding, and will revert to the County Council. This matter will be placed on the agenda for the next Highways Committee meeting.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller informed the meeting that Chinese lanterns had been released on the Recreation Ground last Saturday evening in tribute to a young person who had recently died in a road traffic accident. No problems had been reported.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller reported that the badly repaired trench across the road on the Bypass has now been repaired.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller noted that work is now taking place to clear the Jewsons site at the Army and Navy roundabout.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller enquired whether any information had been received about the Baddow Races due to take place in May. The Clerk replied that she had received an application to hire the Recreation Ground but had no further information regarding the nomination of a charity.
- The Clerk informed the meeting that she would be on annual leave next week, 17th – 21st March 2014, and any urgent enquires should be made directly to the Assistant Clerk or the Administrative Assistant.

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

694/13 **Bell Centre Lease**

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had not yet received draft Heads of Term for the lease from Essex County Council. A meeting is being held tomorrow, 11th March 2014, with the Rural Community Council to discuss how to proceed and any possible sources of funding. Cllr K Ronaldson and the Clerk will attend.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.26pm.

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