

A Meeting of the Parish Council at The Parish Hall, Great Baddow on Monday 14th April 2014

The Council met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 14th April 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
Two members of the public

21/14 Public Announcements

Cllr Mrs J Sosin reported that the Village Conference, held on 10th April 2014, had been a successful and enjoyable evening. The Clerk informed the meeting that a report had now been received from the fire service who had been unable to attend the evening due to an emergency call out.

Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky entered the meeting at 7.36pm.

22/14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr T Hatcher.

23/14 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mrs C Shaw declared that a number of the councillors were customers of Barclays Bank and would have an interest in the agenda item relating to the proposed bank closure. The Clerk confirmed that this general interest would not require any action. There were no other declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Pecuniary Interests or Registered Non Pecuniary Interests.

24/14 Minutes of the Council Meeting – 10th March 2014

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

25/14 Public Question Time

The Chairman invited the members of the public to speak.

Mr J Saunders updated the meeting on his correspondence with Barclays Bank and Simon Burns MP, concerning the proposed closure of the branch in The Vineyards. A reply had been received from Simon Burns MP, stating that he already had a meeting scheduled with Barclays Bank, but understood that they were determined to go ahead with the closure for commercial reasons. An acknowledgement had been received from the bank, stating that a written response would follow, but to date this had not been received.

Cllr A Sosin noted the continuing profits that are being made by the banking sector, and the current capacity of Barclays Bank to offer a financial donation to those customers aggrieved by the closure. Cllr Mrs C Shaw refuted the allegation by Barclays that the Post Office is now commonly being used as an alternative to a bank.

The Chairman agreed to bring forward the item of correspondence relating to the bank closure and Item 15 on the agenda proposing a motion on the closure, to follow the Public Question Time.

The delivery of the Great Baddow Times was raised by the second member of the public and assistance was offered with the distribution. Contact details will be forwarded to the Clerk.

Correspondence Item 9

E J Saunders – Letter about the proposed closure of the Barclays Bank branch in The Vineyards. The Clerk had circulated the letter prior to the meeting, and Mr Saunders had already updated the meeting on the response received to date. It was agreed that a copy of the Council's response to Item 26/14 should be sent to Mr Saunders.

26/14 Bank Closure in The Vineyards

Cllr K Ronaldson had drafted a motion relating to the proposed bank closure and he read this to the meeting. Following some discussion and small alterations, it was proposed by Cllr K Ronaldson and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Young that the motion calling on Barclays Bank to rescind the decision to close the Great Baddow branch should be sent to the bank, with a copy to Mr Saunders and Simon Burns MP. Cllr Mrs C Shaw proposed that a representative from the bank should be invited to address a public meeting to explain their decision. Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw. Cllr A Sosin noted that the Barclays Bank AGM was on 24th April 2014 and that any shareholder could attend and ask a question.

27/14 Clerk's Report

1. Exchange Visits

Cllr Mrs S Young had supplied a draft of a letter to go to the schools, the U3A and the French Circle, and a holding reply to the correspondents. All these letters have now been sent and replies are awaited.

2. Remembrance Day Service

The Clerk has replied to the Revd Ritchie and accepted the proposal that the Parish Council representative will lay a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service and carry out a reading. The matter will be on the September Council agenda to confirm the representative.

3. Chelmsford City Council – Control of Street Trading

Cllr A Sosin enquired whether the Parish Council's comments had been sent to the City Council with regard to the proposals to place controls on street trading. The Clerk confirmed these they had been sent and a reply was awaited from the author of the report.

28/14 Correspondence

1. David Woods – Request for additional dog waste bin. The Clerk informed the meeting that she is still awaiting a reply from the City Council with regard to the siting of 4 dog waste bins, and is aware of two further problems at Readers Court and St Marys Church. It was agreed that this request should be considered at the same time, but the City Council Enforcement Officer has already informed the office that Operations, who would collect from the bin, are unhappy with the location and other nearby sites may need to be considered. Proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr J Fuller.

2. David Tiney – Letter about road conditions in Deadmans Lane. Cllr A Sosin confirmed that Deadmans Lane forms the boundary between Great Baddow and Galleywood, and both the drainage ditch problems and the electricity apparatus are in Galleywood. It was agreed to refer these matters to Galleywood Parish Council and to contact the County Council Highways Department with regard to the condition of the highway.
3. Mrs L Bass – email requesting new school governors for Baddow Hall Infant School. Cllr K Liley expressed an interest in becoming a governor and this was welcomed by the committee. Cllr Mrs C Shaw proposed that the Parish Council should offer to display a notice on the Vineyards board and on the website.
4. Galloway Estates Ltd for CTIL – Proposal to install radio apparatus in the Recreation Ground. Cllr Mrs J Sosin introduced the proposal and confirmed that it was a pre-application consultation. Cllr K Ronaldson suggested that further information should be requested on the location of the mast, its size and appearance, and health implications. This was supported by Cllr J Fuller. Cllr A Sosin reminded the meeting that the Council has previously opposed the installation of masts, on the grounds of health and visual intrusiveness, and has instead encouraged mast sharing, and for this reason he would not support the application. Cllr Mrs C Shaw proposed that:
 - the applicant should be informed of the Council's preference for mast sharing and asked if this option had been considered.
 - further information should be requested on the specific location of the mast, as the siting may have safety implications for nearby homes and park users
 - the applicant should be invited to attend a meeting to provide further information and answer questions.Proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr K Liley. A vote was taken with 9 in favour and 3 against.
5. Phil Chittock – request for the reduction or removal of the hire fee for a charity football game. Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky reminded the meeting that the Parish Council does not reduce or waive the hall hire fees for a charity function and the Clerk confirmed that an individual cannot receive financial assistance. It was agreed that following the Council's principle, it would not be possible to reduce or waive the hire fee, but the Council will meet the additional staff costs associated with playing a match on an afternoon that would not normally be staffed.
6. Great Baddow FC – Request for a memorial bench in the Lawn Cemetery. The Clerk confirmed that there are currently 25 people on the waiting list for benches in the cemetery and due to the maintenance requirements of the large number of benches already in place, the list has not reduced in the past few years. It was agreed that the applicant could not be offered a bench ahead of those already on the waiting list, but could be added to it. In addition, it was suggested that a bench could be installed in the Recreation Ground as the deceased played for a local team.
7. Simon Hoad – Request to use the Recreation Ground to access a property in Rothmans Avenue for works purposes. It was agreed that access should be granted subject to a commitment from the applicant to repair any damage caused by the works. Cllr Mrs S Young proposed that a method statement, outlining safety processes, should be required from the contractor providing the equipment.

8. Chelmsford City Council – Invitation to the Mayor’s End of Term Service on 8th May 2014. The invitation was accepted by Cllr Mrs J Sosin, Cllr Mrs C Shaw and guest, Cllr K Liley and guest, Cllr K Ronaldson, Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson, Cllr G Jarvis and guest. Cllr A Sosin will be attending on behalf of the City Council. Cllr Mrs M Miller extended the invitation to all members of the Parish Council staff who would also be welcome to attend.

29/14 Reports of the Planning Committee 17th March 2014 and 7th April 2014

The reports of the Planning Committee of 17th March 2014 and 7th April 2014 were presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson and signed as a true statement by Cllr Mrs J Sosin.

29a/14 Report of the Allotments Sub Committee and Grounds Committee 24th March 2014

The reports of the Allotments Sub Committee and Grounds Committee of 24th March 2014 were presented to the Council by Cllr K Ronaldson, proposed by Cllr K Ronaldson and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky.

Cllr J Fuller enquired whether the letter had been sent to Mones Farah and was told that it had.

30/14 Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee 7th April 2014

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 7th April 2014 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 Item 15/14, third paragraph, second line, the word ‘Telegraph’ to be deleted and replaced by ‘Guardian’.

31/14 Lawn Cemetery – Plot Purchase Prior to Need

The recommendations of the Grounds Committee and the Finance and General Purposes Committee relating to the purchase of cemetery plots prior to need were accepted. The purchase price of a plot prior to need will be set at a premium fee of double the price of a plot for immediate use. Currently this will be £1460.00 for a full grave plot and £680.00 for a cremated remains plot. The person purchasing the plot must be a parishioner of Great Baddow or Galleywood, and the purchase will be limited to one plot per person. The fees will come into effect immediately, and will be reviewed in six months time. Proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr A Sosin.

32/14 Community Celebration

A report from the Administrative Assistant had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Mrs J Sosin confirmed that the numbers attending the celebration had declined in the past few years and the Working Group had considered a new format for the event. The proposal was to hold an afternoon tea, slightly later in the year, and to review the guest list to include a broader age range. Cllr Mrs M Miller mentioned the Dickens Group as a possible provider of the entertainment. Cllr Mrs C Shaw proposed the 28th February as a suitable date and the Clerk agreed to check this in the bookings diary. It was agreed that the proposed new format should be adopted for the Community Celebration in 2015.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.
The next meeting of the Working Group is on 17th April 2014.

33/14 Art Project

Cllr Mrs J Sosin provided an update on behalf of the Art Project Working Group who is now working with a group of artists to provide an art project for the village. The artists are involving a wide range of people in photographic work based on the theme 'A Sense of Place'. The completed project will take the form of a photography exhibition in the Parish Hall on the 22nd and 23rd August. The next meeting of the Working Group will be on the 16th May 2014.

34/14 Great Baddow Times

Cllr T Miller declared an interest in this item and stayed in the meeting.

Cllr Mrs J Sosin informed the meeting that J's Hospice, under the auspices of the St Helena Hospice, had asked to advertise their lottery in the Great Baddow Times. Both the Clerk and the editor of the Great Baddow Times had expressed unease about the inclusion of an advertisement for a form of gambling. It was agreed that a lottery advertisement would not be acceptable but the Hospice could provide a general article that included reference to their new lottery and provided their contact details. The article would be required by 23rd April 2014 for inclusion in the next issue.

Cllr Mrs J Sadowsky queried whether a new policy should be established stating that the Parish Council would not accept any advertisements for lotteries. It was agreed that this policy should be introduced.

35/14 Chelmsford City Council – Late Night Levy

Cllr A Sosin proposed that the levy should be supported provided that the funds are ring fenced and can only be used for the intended purposes.

36/14 Replacement Minerals Local Plan – Proposed Main Modifications consultation

Cllr A Sosin confirmed that the plan is not relevant to Great Baddow and it was agreed that no comment would be made.

37/14 Matters for Information

- Cllr A Sosin reported a change to the time of the next Council Pre-Meet, and this would be confirmed by Cllr Mrs J Sosin.
- Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky enquired about the arrangements for the water table at the Great Baddow Races, usually provided by Hargrave House, and it was agreed to discuss this after the meeting.
- Cllr Mrs J Sosin confirmed that the Council Pre-Meet, scheduled for Saturday 10th May would now be held at 7.30pm on the previous evening, May 9th, as she would be unable to attend a meeting on the 10th. Councillors were reminded that they should contact the Chairman as soon as possible to advise of any proposed changes to the committee membership for the next year. Cllr Mrs C Shaw stressed the importance of providing this information in time for a new list to be compiled prior to the Annual Meeting on 12th May 2014. Cllr Mrs J Sosin will send an email to all councillors as a reminder.
- Cllr Mrs J Sosin requested that the matter of the WI banner should be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had obtained some advice about preservation and

storage from the curator of the York Quilt Museum and this will be circulated to all councillors.

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

38/14 Bell Centre Lease

The Clerk reported that following the meeting with the Rural Community Council she had received the details of two architects. Cllr K Ronaldson had prepared draft proposals for a feasibility study and this had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk had not yet received draft Heads of Term for the lease from Essex County Council. The next meeting of the Working Party will be on 15th April at 7.30pm and it was agreed to confirm the proposals at the next Council meeting on 12th May 2014.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

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