

## **A Meeting of the Parish Council at The Parish Hall, Great Baddow on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

The Council met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 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, T Miller, Mrs M Miller, J Fuller and Mrs V Sadowsky.

In Attendance: The Clerk of the Council and the Assistant Clerk  
One member of the public entered at 7.35pm

### **287/14 Public Announcements**

Cllr Mrs J Sosin informed the meeting that an excellent photography exhibition had taken place in the parish hall two weeks ago, co-ordinated by two artists from Writtle College, and using funds made available by Chelmsford City Council for a Great Baddow Art Project.

Member of the public entered the meeting.

### **288/14 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T Hatcher and G Jarvis.

### **289/14 Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky declared a pecuniary interest in Item 302/14

### **290/14 Minutes of the joint Finance and General Purposes Committee and Council Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

The minutes of the joint Finance & General Purposes committee and Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014 were signed as a true statement. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw with the following amendment to Item 237/14, paragraph 2, fifth line, the word 'Paris' to be deleted and replaced by 'Parish'.

### **291/14 Public Question Time**

Cllr Mrs J Sosin invited the member of the public to address the meeting. He confirmed that he was attending to listen to the discussion on two items already on the agenda, which are the deterioration in service of the No.31 bus, on which matter he had already spoken to Cllr A Sosin, and the drain problems in Foxholes Road.

### **292/14 Clerk's Report**

#### **1. Barclays Bank Closure**

The Clerk has not been able to telephone Barclays Bank, about someone coming to attend a meeting, and it was agreed that as the bank closed three months ago, the matter would now be taken off the agenda.

#### **2. Dog Waste Bins**

The Clerk was unable to attend the site meeting about the proposed dog waste bin at Gardeners, and had been unable to clarify whether this meeting could be extended to discuss the other dog waste bins that the Parish Council wishes to install. The City Council Enforcement Officer has now suggested that it may not be possible to install any new

bins and Cllr A Sosin will seek clarification on this matter at the City Council Cabinet meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Cllr Mrs C Shaw proposed that, whilst it may not be possible to request any new bins, it would still be appropriate to consider the replacement of existing ones, such as the bin alongside St Mary's Church, which is no longer fit for purpose, and the bin that was never replaced in Bells Chase following highways works.

**3. Bringey Cottage**

Cllr A Sosin informed the meeting that the Bringey Cottage application had now been approved by Chelmsford City Council.

**4. Highways Queries**

Cllr A Sosin reported that he had met with Mr Madle, as requested at the Finance & General Purposes/Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and had sent an email to all councillors. The matter will be placed on the agenda for the Highways and Amenities Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

**5. Bell Centre**

Cllr A Sosin enquired about progress on the replacement of the guttering at the brick end of the Bell Centre. The Clerk has contacted the developer working on the neighbouring site, and it is hoped that the work can be carried out next week.

**6. Website**

Cllr Mrs C Shaw enquired about the timetable for staff training on the new website. It was agreed that as the office was particularly busy in September with budget preparation, the training should be scheduled for October. The training will be principally for the Administrative Assistant, but will also include the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk at a more routine level. It was also agreed to arrange the training for the Chairman and the Vice Chairman.

**293/14 Correspondence**

1. Mrs N King – letter about parking along Church Street. Cllr A Sosin reported that the South East Essex Parking Partnership was aware of this matter and had noted the request to extend the yellow lines. Cllr J Fuller proposed that the applicant should be informed of the benefits of obtaining additional support to reinforce the application. With regard to speeding on the road, a request could be made to the Neighbourhood Action Panel for speed checks. Any problems with obstruction should be reported directly to the police.
2. K Foreman – email about Footpath 106 between 53 and 54 Wallace Crescent. Cllr A Sosin noted that the footpath is not in Great Baddow, although would be used by Great Baddow residents. The City Council has recently, through the delegated authority of the Chief Executive, agreed to clear overgrown public rights of way, and it was agreed that this email should be forwarded to them with a request to attend to this particular area.
3. Mike Humphrey – report on the Youth Services for Summer 2014. This was noted.
4. Essex Highways – letter regarding the land outside the White Horse PH. The Clerk had circulated a letter from Essex Highways prior to the meeting. They will be investigating the ownership of the land once a reply has been received from Chelmsford City Council to the letter from the Parish Council which was forwarded to them.

5. Great Baddow Flower Club – letter of thanks for the donation towards the new drapes. This was noted.
6. Essex Association of Local Councils – notice of the Annual General Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at Foakes Hall, Great Dunmow. Cllr A Sosin and the Clerk will attend.
7. R Herriott – email about bus service 31. Following timetabling changes, the bus has been virtually withdrawn from the centre of Great Baddow during working hours. Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky outlined the changes to the service and some of the problems she had encountered with bus travel in the previous week and it was agreed that details should be forwarded to the Clerk, for inclusion in a letter to First Bus. The matter will be raised by the Parish Passenger Representative at the next meeting and it was agreed to check with the representative, Cllr T Hatcher, whether he will be able to attend or whether, due to sickness, a substitute should be appointed.
8. C Gooday – email regarding car sales on the corner of Bells Chase. Cllr A Sosin informed the meeting that the regulations concerning consent streets will be in force from 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014, after which time it will be illegal to trade in this way. The Clerk will forward this information to the correspondent.
9. Great Baddow Dog Training Club – request to use the Recreation Ground on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw that the request should be approved.
10. D Toole – letters about the bus shelter at Tabors Hill, the pavement from the bus shelter past Thomsons, and the drains in Foxholes Road. Cllr A Sosin informed the meeting that the drains at the end of Foxholes Road are often blocked with leaves as they can be difficult to access for cleaning due to the number of parked cars. The drain in the side of the kerb outside No.58 requires an additional bar across it to prevent a pedestrian trapping a foot when crossing the road. These matters will be reported to Chelmsford City Council.

The Clerk reported that the wooden bus shelter at Tabors Hill was not of the type that contained seats, and if it were to be replaced with a standard shelter containing seats, it would reduce the size of it. There was some discussion of an enclosed shelter, to provide additional protection for shelter users.

The Chairman suspended the meeting to take comments from the floor. The member of the public commented that it may be difficult to see the bus arriving if the shelter was to be enclosed, and real time indicators would be helpful, particularly on the shelter across the road, where buses leave on various routes.

The Chairman reopened the meeting. It was agreed to place this matter on the agenda for the next meeting of the Highways and Amenities Committee to consider whether to allocate funds from this year's budget, or to add it to the proposals for next year.

The condition of the pavement outside Thomsons will be reported to Essex County Council and an email will also be sent to County Councillor Mrs Jenny Chandler.

**294/14 Reports of the Planning Committee 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014**

The reports of the Planning Committee of 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 were presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson and signed as a true statement by Cllr Mrs J Sosin. The decisions from the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014 were not available and these will be signed after the meeting.

**295/14 Report of the Organisation Methods and Personnel Committee 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

The report of the Organisation Methods and Personnel Committee of 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014 was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs J Sosin, proposed by Cllr Mrs J Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Young.

**296/14 Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014**

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs C Shaw, proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr A Sosin.

**297/14 Remembrance Sunday Service**

Cllr Mrs J Sosin informed the meeting that she would not be able to attend the Remembrance Day Service and Cllr K Liley agreed to represent the Parish Council. The Clerk will confirm attendance with the vicar at St. Mary's Church and will purchase a wreath.

**298/14 Meeting Dates**

The Clerk had circulated a list of dates for 2015 prior to the meeting, and had also prepared a further draft based on moving the meetings back by a week. This had been requested to enable the Finance and General Purposes Committee to meet later in the month and receive more complete information on the previous month's finances. The Clerk will consider the implications of the move for the various committee schedules and the matter will be placed on the agenda for decision at the October Council meeting.

**299/14 Allotments**

The Clerk explained the current regulations as they apply to the exchange of plots between existing tenants. Cllr Mrs S Young requested confirmation of the situation that had arisen with existing tenants wishing to exchange.

Cllr A Sosin left the meeting at 8.45 pm

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr K Ronaldson to accept the recommendation that the exchange of allotments, where one party has already made known their intention of giving up the plot, should not be allowed.

**300/14Essex County Council - Consultation on Commissioning Strategies 2014 - 2018**

Cllr Mrs C Shaw had reviewed the document and following some discussion it was agreed that there were no comments to be made.

Cllr A Sosin re-entered the meeting at 8.50pm.

**301/14NHS Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group. Immediate Care Services – Consultation on proposed service redesign**

Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and left the meeting for this item.

It was agreed that councillors could make individual comments using the online form. Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson had drafted a formal response setting out the problems that would be encountered as a result of the closure of the walk-in service provided at North Chelmsford Healthcare Centre, and it was proposed that this should be circulated to all councillors for comments prior to approval at the Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Cllr A Sosin informed the meeting that consultation meetings are being held in various venues in Chelmsford in the coming weeks.

Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky re-entered the meeting.

**302/14Matters for Information**

- Cllr Mrs M Miller noted that illuminated 30 mph speed activated signs had been installed adjacent to the new zebra crossing in Duffield Road.
- The Assistant Clerk invited all councillors to attend the fundraising event for Macmillan Cancer Relief on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014. This year the office will be hosting Breakfast for Macmillan, where breakfast baps and tea will be available from 9.00 – 11.00am.
- Cllr Mrs J Sosin reported that following the Photography Exhibition she had attended a meeting with the artists to discuss the legacy of the project and proposals for the utilization or storage of the photographs, and any ideas were welcomed. It is hoped that additional photographs taken at the launch event will also be accessible, and it may be possible to display some of these on the Parish Council's website.

*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*

**303/14Temporary Assistance**

The Clerk outlined the problems that have occurred in the office over the past few months due to leave and staff sickness. As a result it was necessary to employ temporary assistance whilst the office was operating at a reduced staffing level. It is proposed that the arrangement should continue for a further three weeks to enable the archive filing, which is normally carried out in August but had been postponed due to the staffing problems, to be completed. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr K Ronaldson that the extension should be approved.

**304/14 Bell Centre Lease**

1. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received a reply from Essex County Council regarding the rent cap for the Bell Centre lease. It was agreed that this was satisfactory and that it should be accepted provided that the Parish Council's solicitor was in agreement.
2. The Clerk had received four quotations for the feasibility study on the potential rebuilding/refurbishing of the Bell Centre, and these had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that a meeting of the Bell Centre Working Group should be arranged to consider these in more detail. Cllr K Ronaldson will email the group members with possible dates.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.18pm.

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