

A Meeting of the Parish Council at The Parish Hall, Great Baddow **on Monday 11th April 2016**

The Council met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 11th April 2016** in The Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Councillor Mrs C Shaw chaired the meeting.

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

In Attendance: The Clerk of the Council and the Deputy Clerk

19/16 Public Announcements

There were no public announcements.

20/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Sosin, Mrs J Sosin and Mrs V Chiswell.

21/16 Declaration of Interests

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

22/16 Minutes of the Council Meeting – 14th March 2016

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th March 2016 were signed as a true statement. Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr K Ronaldson with the following amendment to Item 773/15, first line, the name 'Cllr Mrs J Sosin' to be deleted and replaced by 'Cllr Mrs S Young'.

23/16 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

24/16 Clerk's Report

1. Burgess Award

Further to the report at last month's meeting, it was not possible to find an artist to undertake the painting requested by Mr Parris. The recipient has now chosen another gift which will be presented at the Community Celebration. The gift will be collected tomorrow.

2. Noakes Place Ponds

No reply has been received from Chelmsford City Council about the replacement life belt and this is being followed up.

3. Sutherland Lodge

Further to an item in the Essex Chronicle, it has been noted that the GP partners at Sutherland Lodge have put the doctor's surgery building up for sale. No further updates about the situation have been received from Sir Simon Burns MP. Cllr K Ronaldson reported that the surgery website is also advising that feedback from an NHS meeting held last week has not yet been received.

4. Marrable House

After the last meeting, the Clerk met on 15th March 2016 with the site manager and was told that the demolition company had reported the discovery of asbestos to the HSE. Therefore, no letter was sent from the Council as the matter was already in hand with the HSE. The Deputy Clerk made a site visit on 16th March 2016 and the site manager agreed to provide a monthly update. This had not yet been received but is being followed up.

5. Bell Centre

As no reply had been received from Hurley Porte and Duell, the Clerk telephoned them and was advised that although the risk from the damage to the ceiling in the Bell Centre is extremely small, it would be best to have the area tested again. The Clerk has made arrangements with Cavendish Laboratories for them to come out tomorrow to sample the area and test it.

6. Cycle Route

Information received from Essex County Council about the cycle route was circulated to all councilors at the end of last week and Cllr K Ronaldson had circulated written comments prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Parish Council strongly supports the change of designation proposed for the Army and Navy underpass, to allow bicycles to use the path underneath the roundabout. However, the Council is very disappointed that funds set aside for the cycle path are only being used to increase signage and are not being used to provide a dedicated path. The Clerk will enquire as to the proportion of the existing funds that it is proposed to use on the signage. It was agreed that these comments, and those expressed by Cllr K Ronaldson should be forwarded to the County Council.

7. Staffing

SD Groundscare Ltd started its contract with the Council on 1st April 2016 and the Clerk will be working with Mr Denton and the remaining members of staff to organise the work programme. A meeting has been arranged for 19th April 2016 to discuss the Internal Grounds Review.

Although received late, some further applications have been received for the two posts that were advertised and interviews will take place as soon as they can be arranged. The applicants will be contacted to apologise for the delay.

8. Inspired Facilities Grant

Information on the Sport England website states that the results of the grant applications will be sent to those who submitted them in early/mid May 2016. The application was made for funding to re-surface one of the All Weather Sports Courts.

9. Parish Hall Front Steps

Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky enquired whether the handyman had been asked to repaint the front steps. The Clerk replied that this was in hand and would be carried out once scheduled work to replace strip lights in the hall and committee room 1 had been completed.

10. Essex County Council Children's Centre Consultation

Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky confirmed that she had submitted comments on the consultation on 9th April 2016, as agreed at the previous Council meeting on 14th March 2016, but it had not been possible to circulate these prior to submission.

25/16 Correspondence

1. Great Baddow Community Association – email regarding the proposed Beer Festival event on the bank holiday weekend. Cllr Mrs S Young confirmed that it would not be possible for a cricket match to take place on the Sunday of the beer festival as the football season would only be finishing on the previous day. The Clerk had already explained to the Community Association that a large amount of work is required to changeover from football to cricket and that the ground could not be prepared in time. It was agreed that the Community Association should be given copies of the application form to be completed for outdoor hire in the Recreation Ground and should be asked to provide more notice of future events. It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to give permission for bouncy castles to be sited in the Recreation Ground

provided that the correct paperwork has been supplied. The Clerk will query the location of three bouncy castles, due to be set up in the Recreation Ground on the Saturday of the beer festival, as there are two football matches taking place on that day.

26/16 Report of the Planning Committee 4th April 2016

The report of the Planning Committee of 4th April 2016 was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson and signed as a true statement by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.

27/16 Report of the Allotments Sub Committee and Grounds Committee 29th March 2016

The reports of the Allotments Sub Committee and Grounds Committee of 29th March 2016 were presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs S Young, proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr K Ronaldson (for Allotments Sub Committee) and Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson (for Grounds Committee). They were signed as true statements by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.

Cllr K Liley reported that he had visited Luxfield to view the condition of the dog waste bin and had found that the bin itself was in good condition but the lid had split. The Council has not been contacted by the City Council about this and so the bin will not be replaced at the current time.

Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson told the meeting that many members of staff and councillors had attended Peter Jeffrey's funeral on 7th April 2016.

28/16 Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee 4th April 2016

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 4th April 2016 was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs C Shaw, proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky. It was signed as a true statement by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.

Cllr J Fuller enquired about the amount of earmarked reserves held by the Council and the Clerk replied that a final figure was not yet available as the accounts had not yet been completed.

29/16 Grounds Staffing

It was agreed to confirm the decision of the Grounds Committee of 29th March 2016, to accept a quotation from SD Groundscare Ltd to carry out groundwork and management from 1st April 2016 for a period of six months. This decision was taken at the Grounds Committee as a matter of urgency due to the current staffing difficulties and was ratified for immediate implementation by exchange of emails between the Chairman of the Council and the Clerk. Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr J Fuller.

30/16 Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

As requested at the previous Council meeting on 14th March 2016, Cllr Mrs C Shaw had drafted a response to the consultation, and this was read out to the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would forward these comments as the Parish Council's reply to the consultation.

31/16 Essex County Council – Replacement Waste Local Plan Pre-submission Draft engagement

It was agreed that there were no comments to be made at this stage.

32/16 Essex County Council – Consultation on Parking Standards, Design and Good Practice

It was agreed that Cllr A Sosin would draft a reply to the consultation and circulate it to all councillors for comment prior to the next Council meeting on 9th May 2016.

33/16 Matters for Information

- Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson reported that large potholes were causing problems in the first entrance to Baddow Hall Crescent.
- Cllr K Ronaldson reported that potholes were also a problem on the roundabout at the fire station. These will be reported.
- Cllr Mrs S Young raised the matter of a memorial for the late Grounds Manager, Mr Peter Jeffrey, whose funeral took place last week. It was agreed that the matter should be placed on the agenda for the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 3rd May 2016 and that all staff and councillors would be asked for any suggestions as to the type of memorial, prior to the meeting. The Clerk and Cllr Mrs S Young will contact staff and councillors.
- Cllr Mrs C Shaw reminded the meeting of the Annual Village Conference taking place on Thursday 14th April at 7.30pm in the Bell Centre. She asked that councillors should attend from 7.00pm and reminded the chairmen of the committees to submit their reports. She confirmed that the Great Baddow Parochial Charities have compiled a report and that this will be e.mailed to the Clerk
- Cllr Mrs C Shaw reported that whilst the Police were no longer able to attend ordinary Parish Council meetings, an email had been sent to Pc Craig Barnard, requesting the attendance of a Police representative at the Village Conference, as questions may be raised following the recent instances of crime and antisocial behaviour in the area.
- Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson raised the matter of parking in Brookbank, following the problems outlined at the Parish Council Surgery last Saturday, by a representative from the Meadgate scout group. Entrance to the scout hut is being restricted by a number of cars that are parking against the wall in the access road. This will cause particular problems to the roofing contractors that are scheduled to carry out repairs to the scout hut. The matter has been raised with the owners of the land, Chelmer Housing Partnership, but has not been resolved. The Parish Council does have a right of way over the land for access to the allotments at Towerfield and the Clerk will make further enquiries. Cllr K Ronaldson will forward further information and photographs, obtained on Saturday morning, to the Clerk.

34/16 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 items. Proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Young.

35/16 Bowling Club Lease

The Clerk reported that she has prepared the Parish Council's comments to go to the solicitor and these will now be sent.

36/16 Bell Centre Lease

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had spoken to the Parish Council's solicitor regarding the delay with lease negotiations and had forwarded an e.mail from Lambert Smith Hampton on this matter.

The Clerk also confirmed that she had informed the solicitor of the Parish Council's decision not to accept responsibility for the triangle of land at the side of the Bell Centre, and had asked for this to be conveyed to Essex County Council.

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Hurley Porte and Duell and they had proposed that a meeting should be arranged with themselves, the Quantity Surveyor and parish councillors, to discuss the alternative types of structure that could be erected in a conservation area. They had also asked for an indication of the level of funding that the Parish Council is prepared to allocate to the project.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.00 pm.

SignedChairman.....Date