

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

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

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

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

625/15 Public Announcements

The Chairman announced that a resident of Great Baddow, Mr Donald Thorogood, had been awarded the Legion d'Honneur by the French Government for his role as part of a 140-strong RAF Servicing Commando unit that followed troops from the first D-Day landings on June 6, 1944. The Clerk will write a letter of congratulation from the Parish Council.

626/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Fuller.

627/15 Declaration of Interests

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

628/15 Minutes of the Council Meeting – 21st December 2015

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st December 2015 were signed as a true statement. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson.

Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson reported that the kerbstones in Gilmore Way were currently being repaired and replaced.

629/15 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

630/15 Clerk's Report

1. Working With Families Learning Opportunities

The Clerk has contacted Essex County Council and a meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 20th January 2016 at the Parish Hall. Cllr Mrs J Sosin indicated that she will be able to attend and Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky gave her apologies due to work commitments. Any other councillor wishing to join the meeting should contact the Clerk.

2. EALC/NALC Subscription for 2016/2017

EALC has confirmed that the subscription for 2016/2017 will be £1325.74. This is a rise of £129.04 from last year's figure of £1196.70, giving an overall percentage increase of 10.8%. The increase of the EALC part of the fee is 2%, as agreed at the EALC AGM in September 2015. It was agreed that it was necessary to accept the increase in order to remain a member of the EALC.

3. Multi Agency Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 25th November 2015 were received and circulated to all councillors on 24th December 2015. The notes are available on the Parish Council's website.

With regard to the floral tributes, the Clerk has spoken to Chelmsford City Council, who will be responsible for clearing the tributes. It has been confirmed that the funeral took place on 8th January 2016. The Police Family Liaison Officer has spoken to the family and asked them to remove any items they require over the weekend so that the tributes can be cleared sometime during this week.

The Clerk also confirmed that at the current time Chelmsford City Council does not have a policy with regard to roadside tributes, as they do not normally encounter any problems with them.

Cllr Mrs C Shaw enquired whether any further information was available about the tree that had been planted in Noakes Place. The Clerk replied that she had emailed Glenn Parkington at the City Council and was awaiting a reply. It was also noted that a miniature Christmas tree had been planted in front of the new tree, and flowers had been left on the ground, but there was no memorial plaque to indicate the reason for the planting.

4. Chelmsford Local Plan Comments

The comments agreed on the Local Plan at the meeting on 21st December 2015 have been submitted to Chelmsford City Council and have been acknowledged.

5. Date for Burgess Committee meeting

The Clerk has emailed the committee and is trying to set a date for a meeting but this has yet to be confirmed. Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky gave her apologies to the Clerk and confirmed that she may not be able to attend a meeting in the next few weeks.

631/15Correspondence

1. Great Baddow Team Ministry – notification of the changes to the status of the Anglican churches in Great Baddow. This was noted.
2. Essex County Council – to note the Greater Essex Devolution Newsletter. Cllr Mrs C Shaw drew attention to the request for input from the parish sector and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the EALC to support parish consultation and to offer to take part in future discussions.

632/15Report of the Planning Committee 4th January 2016

The report of the Planning Committee of 4th January 2016 was presented to the Council by Cllr A Sosin and signed as a true statement by Cllr Mrs J Sosin.

Cllr K Ronaldson reported that he had forwarded photographs to the Clerk of the 'Welcome to Galleywood' gateway signs that had been erected on the Great Baddow side of the boundaries in Beehive Lane and Galleywood Road. These will be sent to Essex County Council.

Cllr K Ronaldson reported that a planning application had been submitted for the Gospel Hall in Molrams Lane, but no details were currently on the website. The office will contact the City Council for further information prior to the Planning Committee meeting on Monday 18th January 2016. Thanks were given to Cllrs Mrs D Ronaldson and K Ronaldson for finding out about the submission of the application.

633/15 Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee 4th January 2016

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 4th January 2016 was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs C Shaw, proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr A Sosin.

634/15 Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Committee

The Clerk presented the report of the Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Committee of 7th January 2016. It was noted that the draft of a revised Health and Safety Policy had now been received from Wirehouse and this will be circulated to all councillors. The Clerk will be attending a Fire Safety Training Course later this month and will assess its suitability for other members of staff to attend at a later date.

635/15 External Auditor

It was agreed to accept the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the Parish Council should not opt out of the appointment of an auditor by the Sector-Led Body. Proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Young. The new body (Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited) will appoint an auditor for a five year period from the financial year 2017/18.

636/15 Matters for Information

- Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson informed the meeting that an article had been placed in last week's Essex Chronicle to advertise the Essex Book Festival which will take place in March 2016. Cllr Mrs C Shaw reminded the Committee that the Parish Council had participated in the event for a number of years, but had recently not been selected to join the list of host venues. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that she had approached the organisers last year but had been told that as the number of speakers had been reduced, it would not be possible to use the Parish Hall as a venue this year. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the festival organisers to confirm the Parish Council's enthusiasm for the festival and to express concern about the reduction in use of smaller venues, such as parish halls and libraries, particularly in the Chelmsford area, for the festival. A copy of the letter will also be forwarded to Essex County Cllr Mrs J Chandler.
- Cllr K Ronaldson informed the meeting of information he had received from Sutherland Lodge Surgery concerning a significant reduction in funding. As a result, the four partners are proposing to leave the practice at the end of June and a new arrangement will need to be put in place to run the surgery. A petition is available for signature at the surgery. It was agreed that delegated authority should be given to Cllrs K Ronaldson and Mrs C Shaw, in conjunction with the Clerk, to draft two letters on this matter. One letter will be sent to the surgery offering help and support, and a second letter deploring the cut in funding will be sent to NHS England with copies to Sir Simon Burns MP, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt –Secretary of State for Health, Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group, Mid Essex NHS Group and City councillors. Proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky. Cllr Mrs C Shaw will email the Baddow Village Surgery on the matter.
- Cllr Mrs C Shaw informed the meeting that two local papers had contained reports of changes to the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service. The options for change are currently being shown on the Essex Fire Service website, and the consultation period is due to start on 1st February 2016.

The Clerk confirmed that she had not yet received a reply to her email sent on 9th January 2016 requesting clarification on the different crewing patterns.

- Cllr Mrs V Chiswell reported that she had observed a lady using a net to remove rubbish and duckweed from the ponds in Noakes Place. Cllr K Liley was also aware of this and will make further enquires as it is not safe for a member of the public to negotiate the banks of the pond in this way. The Clerk will also enquire as to whether the lifebelts are in position at the side of the pond.
- Cllr Mrs S Young reported that a street light had failed just after the turn into Dorset Avenue from Beehive Lane, immediately before Bramley Court. The Clerk reported that the light outside the Premier Stores, neighbouring the Parish Hall, had been removed due to corrosion in the base and this was reducing the light on the front steps of the Parish Hall. It was also noted that the light at the top of the slip road to Chelmsford (at the back of Lyster Avenue) was not working and Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson reported that on the opposite carriageway the illuminated directional bollard had been removed. These matters will be reported to Essex County Council. Cllr Mrs S Young also reported that a light in Noakes Place, on the left hand side of the path from Foxholes Road entrance, was intermittent and this will be reported to Chelmsford City Council.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller informed the meeting that a pedestrian had been hit by a car in The Causeway on Saturday morning.
- Cllr K Ronaldson noted that the white paint on the front of the Parish Hall steps had worn away and this should be repainted to improve visibility.

637/15 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 J Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.

638/15 Bell Centre Lease

The Clerk has contacted the Parish Council's solicitors on this matter and there is no further information available at this time.

639/15 Bowling Club Lease

The Clerk has also contacted the Parish Council's solicitors on this matter and is awaiting a reply.

640/15 Grounds Review and Staffing

The Clerk reported that she had met recently with Cllr Mrs S Young. Due to the current Grounds staffing situation and the continuation of the job evaluation process, the Clerk was under a great deal of pressure from the additional work. Therefore, it was being proposed that the Grounds Review should be postponed for a short while, until the situation is resolved. This was agreed.

The Clerk reported that the Deputy Grounds Manager will be retiring on ill health grounds on 31st January 2016 and his last day of work will be Friday 29th January 2016. Cllr Mrs S Young proposed that the Council should host an afternoon tea on that day for the Deputy Grounds Manager to which all staff and councillors would be invited. Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky gave her apologies for the tea as she will be unable to attend.

The Clerk reported that the Grounds Manager remains on sick leave and a referral has been made to Occupational Health at Essex City Council. The Games Attendant had been able to carry out additional daytime work in the three weeks prior to Christmas and it was agreed that he should be asked if this temporary arrangement could be continued. It was also agreed that the Administrative Assistant should be asked to provide details of an additional person that could be used to undertake ad hoc jobs, as required, whilst the current staffing issues are resolved.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.04 pm.

SignedChairman.....Date