

A Meeting of the Parish Council at The Parish Hall, Great Baddow on Monday 13th June 2016

The Council met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 13th June 2016** in The Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Councillor Mrs J Sosin chaired the meeting.

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

In Attendance: The Clerk of the Council and the Deputy Clerk
One member of the Public – Mr Whalley, Environmental Group

Cllr Mrs J Sosin read out a statement with regard to the recording and filming of council meetings.

131/16Public Announcements

Cllr Mrs J Sosin informed the meeting that she has received a card from John Scott, who had recently retired, thanking the Council for his leaving gift.

132/16Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

133/16Declaration of Interests

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

134/16Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Council Meeting – 9th May 2016

1. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th May 2016 were signed as a true statement. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.
2. The minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th May 2016 were signed as a true statement. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky.

135/16Public Question Time

Mr Whalley thanked the councillors who had attended a recent site visit to Luxfield. This had been a useful visit that had raised various issues relating to the land available for disabled access and the parking difficulties for visitors arriving by car. It had been decided not to submit an application for a Tesco Community Grant due to the level of minimum spend required and the tight deadline for applications. It was suggested that a more gradual approach should be adopted with initial consideration given to work to the entrance area and the provision of seating.

With the approval of the meeting, Cllr Mrs J Sosin proposed that Agenda Item 13, relating to Luxfield, should be brought forward.

136/16Luxfield

Following some discussion, Cllr Mrs S Young proposed that the matter should be referred for further consideration at the Grounds Committee meeting on 27th June 2016 at 8pm. Cllr A Sosin asked Mr Whalley if he would be able to come to the meeting, and Mr Whalley replied that he, or a representative, would attend. Cllr Mrs C Shaw queried the estimate of £100

required for the provision of a seat and Mr Whalley explained that the Environmental Group would construct the seat to sit on recycled logs, and this would enable it to be made at a low cost.

137/16 **Clerk's Report**

1. Noakes Place Ponds

No reply has been received from Chelmsford City Council about the replacement life belt and the Clerk will follow this up at a meeting she will be attending with Paul Van Damme.

2. Bell Centre

The Clerk will speak to the Handyman about potential steps that can be taken to minimise the risk of asbestos dust.

3. Cycle Route

The Clerk has requested the information from Essex County Council about the proportion of money that is to be spent on signage. The officer dealing with the matter has now left the post and the enquiry has been forwarded to another officer. An acknowledgement has been received stating that a full reply will be sent in due course. The Clerk will follow this up.

4. Staffing

Due to the additional work that the office is handling, as a result of the recent loss of four members of staff, the interviews for the two posts that were advertised have not taken place. These will be arranged as a matter of priority. The Clerk confirmed that interviews at this level are normally carried out by the Clerk and one councillor. Cllr A Sosin offered to attend the interviews.

5. Inspired Facilities Grant

The Clerk spoke to Sport England about the grant application, and it was largely as had been thought, that there was only £10 million of funding, and the 624 applications that had been made had totaled £42 million. It was also mentioned that there was insufficient community consultation and that other local groups should have been consulted. The Clerk will be speaking to Essex FA about a grant that is being offered for football facilities, but the application seems to be far more complex than that completed for the Inspired Facilities grant.

6. Parish Hall Front Steps

The paint for the steps has been sourced and has been ordered. The Handyman will be asked to carry out the work as a matter of priority.

7. Police Representation

Cllr Mrs C Shaw reported that Sergeant Perry Land from Essex Police will be attending the next village market which takes place on Friday 24th June 2016 from 10.00am to 1.00pm in the URC hall.

8. Highways Issues

Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky enquired whether any follow up information had been received with regard to two items of correspondence considered at the last Council meeting. These concerned the noise from the new Chelmer Bridge and the access problems in Mercia Close. The Clerk confirmed that no further information had been received on either of these matters.

138/16 **Correspondence**

1. Claire Tomalin – email about ivy on the trees in the Recreation Ground. The Clerk confirmed that a tree survey had been carried out in 2012 and the presence of ivy on the trees had not been mentioned. Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson reported that she had also noticed some dead branches. It was agreed that cutting the ivy at the base of the trees was not a solution, and

- another survey should be carried out with particular attention paid to the amount of ivy and the dead branches.
2. Essex County Council – invitation to participate in the 2016/17 Winter Salt Bag Partnership scheme. It was agreed, as in previous years, that the Parish Council will not participate in this scheme as it would be very difficult to administer because of the size of the parish and the amount of salt offered.
 3. Les Broughton, Weston Homes – update report on the Marrable House site development. The report was noted. It has been noticed that the entrance to the car park has been obstructed on occasions by construction lorries attending the site. Cllr A Sosin requested that Weston Homes be asked to minimise any disruption.
 4. Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex – notice of a Public Engagement Event on Tuesday 12th July 2016. Cllrs A Sosin, Mrs J Sosin, Mrs C Shaw, Mrs D Ronaldson, K Ronaldson and Mrs S Young will be attending.
 5. A J Smith – email from resident regarding anti-social behaviour in the Recreation Ground. Cllr Mrs S Young reported that following the complaint, she had spoken to the young man riding a trials bike in the Recreation Ground. The matter had also been reported to the police both by the Clerk and the Parish Council's Games Attendant but has not resulted in an active response. The matter will be raised at the public meeting on 12th July 2016. Cllr A Sosin noted that the Public Protection Officer at Chelmsford City Council, Spencer Clark, has stated that anti-social behaviour is on his priority list.

139/16 Reports of the Planning Committee 16th May and 6th June 2016

The reports of the Planning Committee of 16th May and 6th June 2016 were presented to the Council by Cllr A Sosin and signed as a true statement by Cllr Mrs J Sosin.

Cllr A Sosin informed the meeting that he had attended the Chelmsford City Council Development Policy Committee meeting which is now considering the development plan for the period up to 2036. The preferred options will be presented to a meeting in January 2017.

140/16 Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee 6th June 2016

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 6th June 2016 was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs C Shaw, proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr A Sosin. It was signed as a true statement by Cllr Mrs J Sosin.

It was agreed to ratify the additional sum of £500 for further investigations to be carried out on the Bell Centre refurbishment. Proposed by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky and seconded by Cllr A Sosin.

141/16 Working Groups

The reports from the Bell Centre Working Group and the Internal Grounds Review Working Group were noted. The Clerk confirmed that the report of the later meeting of the Bell Centre working Group, on 8th June 2016, would be circulated as soon as possible.

142/16 Centenary and Honorary Burgess Awards

The Clerk had circulated a summary of the terms of reference for these awards prior to the meeting. It was noted that a later closing date for the

centenary award nominations would result in additional work for the office, as it would not be possible to combine the distribution of the application forms with those being sent out for the annual grants. It would also be necessary to place a later advertisement in the Great Baddow Times. Cllr Mrs V Chiswell raised the matter of publicising information about the Burgess Award and was concerned that parishioners were not aware that independent nominations could be made for the award. The Clerk also raised concerns about introducing a closing date for the Burgess Award which is only given on an ad hoc basis. Cllr Mrs C Shaw agreed with this concern. Cllr J Fuller enquired whether the two award committees could be combined to improve efficiency and Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky agreed that this could be beneficial. This matter will be placed on the agenda for further consideration at the Council meeting on 11th July 2016.

143/16 Car Park adjacent to the Millennium Community Centre

It was agreed that a quotation of £780.00 from Ashe Green Civil Engineers Ltd for repairs to the car park adjacent to the Millennium Community Centre should be approved. Proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr J Fuller, with the funding to be taken from reserves.

144/16 Bell Centre Rebuilding/Refurbishment

The Clerk reported that Mark Potter from Hurley Porte & Duell had visited the Bell Centre and had indicated that he could not immediately identify any areas where significant savings could be made. However, he will consult Burr and Neave and a report will be forwarded as soon as possible. This matter will be placed on the agenda for the July Council meeting.

145/16 Matters for Information

- Cllr K Liley reported that he had attended the Annual Civic Service and it had been an enjoyable occasion.
- Cllr Mrs S Young reported that Barclays Bank will be closing their Danbury branch on 16th September 2016.
- Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky reported that a new provider, Virgin Health Care, has now been appointed for the Sutherland Lodge Surgery and they will be taking over from 1st July 2016. It was noted that the matter of the premises and whether the new provider will stay in the current building is still to be discussed.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller reported a pothole between 67 and 70 Foxholes Road, where a previous repair has sunk and has resulted in a gully that is particularly noisy when driven over by large vehicles and buses. This will be reported.
- Cllr A Sosin reported that a meeting concerning the sale of MASC will be held on Wednesday evening, 15th June 2016. Cllrs Mrs C Shaw and Mrs V Chiswell will be attending.

146/16 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 J Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Young.

147/16 Bowling Club Lease

The Clerk will report the Parish Council's comments to the solicitor and it is expected that the Heads of Term for the lease will then be received.

148/16 Bell Centre Lease

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received a letter from the Bell Centre landlord, Essex County Council, giving the Parish Council a deadline of 31st July 2016 for a decision to be made on the lease. It was agreed that the matter will be discussed at the July council meeting, by which time a report will have been received from Hurley Porte and Duell.

149/16 Staffing

The Clerk informed the meeting that a member of the grounds staff had been taken ill on Saturday 11th June 2016, with the result that there is now only one member of the team working in the grounds. Cllr Mrs S Young confirmed that the Clerk should follow the necessary procedures to deal with the sickness.

The Clerk will be considering the available options for short term assistance, to provide help in those areas not currently part of the contract being carried out by Mr S Denton. The proposals for the longer term with alternative options, currently being discussed by the Grounds Review Working Group, will be presented to the Grounds Committee meeting on 27th June 2016.

The Clerk reported that the contract with S D Grounds Care Ltd is working well and it was noted that this contract ends in October 2016. The work done by G Burley & Sons Ltd has improved the cemetery enormously and the Clerk is speaking to them about further short term assistance. Cllr Mrs J Sosin thanked Mr L Dixon who has been carrying out gardening work in the cemetery.

Cllr Mrs S Young also thanked the office staff for their work in supporting the staff and contractors in the grounds during this difficult period.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.

SignedChairman.....Date