

A Meeting of the Parish Council at The Parish Hall, Great Baddow on Monday 20TH July 2015

The Council met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 20th July 2015** 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 Chiswell, Mrs V Sadowsky and J Fuller.

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

217/15 Public Announcements

Cllr Mrs J Sosin read out a statement with regard to the recording and use of social media at council meetings.

Cllr Mrs J Sosin reported that the funeral of Frank Page, a former Parish and City Councillor, is being held tomorrow, 21st July 2015.

218/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr K Liley.

219/15 Declaration of Interests

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

220/15 Minutes of the Council Meeting – 15th June 2015

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 15th June 2015 were signed as a true statement. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.

221/15 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

222/15 Clerk's Report

1. Renewal of Corridor and Bar flooring

The new flooring will be laid between 15th and 24th August. At the moment it is not known when the office will have to close but councillors will be informed as soon as possible and notices will be displayed for the public.

2. Bollards in the Recreation Ground/Noakes Place

The fluorescent tape for the bollards in the Recreation Ground/Noakes Place has not yet been sourced. The Grounds Manager will be asked to progress this matter.

3. Noakes Place Ponds

Chelmsford City Council has treated the ponds with a growth inhibitor.

This will not stop the algae and weed from growing completely but should slow it down.

Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson noted that the fencing around the main ponds is of a very open construction and would allow a child to slip underneath and into the pond. The Clerk confirmed that the City Council had already responded to a previous enquiry regarding the fencing and had stated that it was the usual type of fencing used in these situations throughout the city parks.

Cllr Mrs S Young informed the meeting that she had spoken to a representative from the City Council and had been told that a small spring had been identified which was feeding some water into the middle pond. Over time, it is hoped that this may help to fill both ponds.

4. Accident at the Parish Hall

Further to the accident on 3rd June 2015, the class tutor has told the office that the gentleman who fell over in the corridor at the Parish Hall was well enough to attend the class the following week and seem to be fine.

5. Committee Positions

The letters to the non-council members of the committees will be sent out tomorrow, and an updated committee list will be sent out to councillors with the agenda for next week's Planning meeting.

6. Complaints and Compliments Procedure and Policy

The policy will be uploaded to the website very shortly and a copy sent to all councillors.

7. Burgess Award

A new certificate has been drawn up and framed and this will be delivered to Mr Withams.

223/15 Correspondence

1. Great Baddow WI – letter requesting the Council to reconsider its decision about the S137 grant. It was agreed that the WI should be asked to provide a more recent set of accounts which will be considered at the joint Finance and General Purposes and Council meeting on 3rd August 2015. It was also proposed that the Clerk should confirm the Parish Council's reluctance to fund hire fees for other venues.
2. Great Baddow Community Care Group – letter thanking the Council for the S137 grant. This was noted.
3. 1st Great Baddow Guides – letter thanking the Council for the S137 grant. This was noted.

224/15 Reports of the Planning Committee 22nd June and 13th July 2015

The reports of the Planning Committee of 22nd June and 13th July 2015 were presented to the Council by Cllr A Sosin and signed as a true statement by Cllr Mrs J Sosin.

225/15 Report of the Highways and Amenities Committee 22nd June 2015

The report of the Highways and Amenities Committee of 22nd June 2015 was presented to the Council by Cllr A Sosin, proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs M Miller.

226/15 Report of the Organisation Methods and Personnel Committee 23rd June 2015

The report of the Organisation Methods and Personnel Committee of 23rd June 2015 was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs S Young, proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.

227/15 Report of the Allotments Sub Committee and Grounds Committee 29th June 2015

The reports of the Allotments Sub Committee and Grounds Committee of 29th June 2015 were presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs S Young, proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky. Cllr J Fuller enquired whether any further information had been obtained with regard to the ownership of the front church wall. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council owns the land in front of the wall but the fences

alongside are maintained by the City Council and efforts are being made to ascertain whether they are also responsible for the wall.

228/15 Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee 13th July 2015

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 13th July 2015 was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs C Shaw, proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Young.

Cllr Mrs V Chiswell noted that it had been agreed to take action to recover a bad debt and reiterated the problems of obtaining a satisfactory outcome in these cases.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the replacement photocopier is due to be installed in the week commencing 10th August 2015.

229/15 Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Committee

The Clerk had circulated the report of the inaugural meeting of the committee, held on 15th June 2015, prior to the meeting. The report was accepted and no comments were made. Cllr K Ronaldson confirmed that the schedule of future meeting dates was satisfactory.

230/15 Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Cllr K Ronaldson had prepared a response to the consultation on the future redesign of the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service. Cllr Mrs J Sosin proposed that an additional point should be added to stress the importance of the Great Baddow Fire Station, particularly in view of its close proximity to the A12. Cllr A Sosin proposed that the issue of closer co-operation with the Ambulance Service should also be included. It was agreed that the draft should be submitted with the inclusion of the two additional points outlined above.

231/15 Great Baddow Times Distribution

Cllr A Sosin reported that the first delivery of the Great Baddow Times by the new distributor, Delivering Success, had been carried out successfully with only a few omissions of some minor roads and clarification will be sought on this matter before the next delivery. Distribution to the sheltered housing accommodation, and some rural areas, was continuing to be made by councillors. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the organisers who had confirmed that the first delivery in a new area is always the most difficult and that subsequent deliveries will be able to increase the coverage to any areas omitted in the first round. The editor has booked the next delivery for the week commencing 7th September 2015 and the Clerk will inform Delivering Success of any roads outlined by Cllr A Sosin that should be added to the next delivery. The original specification had stated that the contract will be reviewed after two deliveries.

232/15 Local Council Award Scheme

The Clerk had circulated a report prior to the meeting, from the Chairman and Vice Chairman, summarising the criteria required for the new award scheme. Cllr Mrs C Shaw outlined the framework of the new scheme and the three levels of award that can be made. It was agreed that a full report should be made to the September or October Council meeting, following further discussions by the Chairman and Vice Chairman with the Clerk. Councillors were invited to make any preliminary comments to the Clerk in the next two weeks for inclusion in the report.

233/15 **Essex County Council – Replacement Waste Local Plan**

Cllrs A Sosin and T Miller had attended a briefing at Chelmsford City Council, following which comments had been made on the Local Plan at the Planning Committee meeting on 13th July 2015. It was agreed that there were no additions to be made and these comments should be submitted.

234/15 **Matters for Information**

- Cllr Mrs C Shaw reported that she had attended the open evening at the Little Haven Hospice shop, held to celebrate their five years in Great Baddow and to thank the volunteers for all their hard work. Cllr Mrs C Shaw had said a few words about the shop and its volunteers on behalf of the Council.
- Cllr Mrs C Shaw reported that a group of councillors and the Clerk, had attended a meeting with Craig Gough and Andy Drake, the new Chief Executive Officer, from the YMCA, to discuss youth provision in the area and the related costs of providing the service. The Clerk had requested a breakdown of the costs between the Drop In Centre in Great Baddow and the Bell Centre Youth Group, which the YMCA will provide. Following a discussion at the Neighborhood Action Panel, Cllr Mrs V Chiswell queried whether the work of the YMCA had led to a decrease in the levels of youth anti-social behaviour in the area. Cllr Mrs C Shaw confirmed that this had been shown to be effective but due to the cut in Police levels in the area there were no figures available to endorse this.
- Cllr Mrs S Young informed the meeting that she had attended an event at St. Paul's Church to celebrate the repairs to the roof, and had been asked, on behalf of the Parish Council, to accept thanks for the grant awarded to assist with the repairs and the helpful information provided on the matter of financial assistance.
- Cllr Mrs S Young informed the meeting that she would not be able to attend the joint Finance and General Purposes Committee/Council meeting on 3rd August 2015.
- Cllr J Fuller reported that Baddow Hall Junior School are looking for new governors, and in particular anyone able to take the Chair. Any councillors interested in obtaining further information should contact the school directly.
- Cllr A Sosin informed the meeting that Cllr K Liley had intended to report back from the recent Passenger Transport meeting but this would now be deferred.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller informed the meeting that she and Cllr T Miller had attended the prize-giving ceremony for the Great Baddow Races and whilst the main charity chosen to receive funding this year was St. John's Ambulance, the charity nominated by the Parish Council, the Hargrave House League of Friends, had received a donation of £1000.
- Cllr Mrs M Miller informed the meeting that a new bus shelter had been installed in Dorset Avenue close to Purbeck Court. Cllr Mrs S Young noted that this was one of two shelters positioned opposite each other in that location and queried whether the existing Parish Council shelter had been replaced. The Clerk will ask the groundstaff to take pictures of the shelters to enable an identification to be made. Work has also started on the crossing in Duffield Road.
- Cllr Mrs V Chiswell reported that both the slip roads on to the A12 at Sandon had been restricted to one lane by a series of cones, which had been in position for some time with no obvious road works taking place.

The Clerk will write to the Highways Agency, with a copy to Simon Burns MP, to request information about the restrictions.

- Cllr Mrs J Sosin reported that she is currently obtaining quotations for the renovation and framing of the WI Banner.

235/15 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 item. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.

236/15 Bell Centre Lease

Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky reported that members of the Bell Centre Working Group and the Clerk had met with the Parish Council's solicitor on 17th June 2015 to review the draft lease and resolve any outstanding queries. The lease has now been forwarded to the Essex County Council legal department and a reply is awaited.

The Clerk and councillors, with a representative from Hurley Porte and Duell, had also attended a pre-application meeting with a Planning Officer from Chelmsford City Council on 7th July 2015. A letter from the Planning Authority is expected within two weeks.

The Clerk confirmed that Hurley Porte and Duell are now working towards an indicative cost and this should be available in the near future.

Cllr K Ronaldson reported that he had written an article for the next edition of the Great Baddow Times outlining the proposals for the Bell Centre. The Clerk confirmed that all future items concerning the rebuilding of the Centre will be in the main agenda and not listed as confidential items.

Cllr J Fuller raised the matter of funding. The Clerk will contact the Essex Association of Local Councils to obtain advice about the type of consultation with parishioners that is required prior to an application to the Public Works Loan Board.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.08 pm.

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