

A Meeting of the Parish Council at The Parish Hall, Great Baddow on Monday 21st December 2015

The Council met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 21st December 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 Sadowsky, Mrs V Chiswell, J Fuller and K Liley

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

588/15 Public Announcements

The Chairman thanked Cllr J Fuller for providing refreshments for the meeting.

589/15 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

590/15 Declaration of Interests

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

591/15 Minutes of the Council Meeting – 16th November 2015

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 16th November 2015 were signed as a true statement. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.

Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky entered the meeting at 7.38pm.

Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson enquired whether a meeting of the Burgess Committee had been arranged, to consider the application referred from the Centenary Award Committee. The Clerk replied that a date would be fixed in the New Year.

592/15 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

593/15 Clerk's Report

1. Youth Shelter and Bringey Underpass Mural

Further to complaints received about the Youth shelter in the Recreation Ground and following discussions with the Grounds Committee Chairman, the grounds staff removed the graffiti during the week commencing 7th December 2015.

Following the defacement of the Bringey Underpass Mural, Chelmsford City Council cleaned it and sent information to the Parish Council, which is displayed on the website. If further defacement happens, the City Council should be contacted on nice@chelmsford.gov.uk or 01245 615800.

2. Working With Families Learning Opportunities

The Clerk contacted Essex County Council and it has been agreed to arrange an officer meeting in January 2016. Cllrs Mrs J Sosin and Mrs V Sadowsky will be informed of the date so they can attend if they are able.

3. Meadgate Community Café

Several councillors made a very successful visit to the Community Café on Tuesday 24th November 2015, and others were able to visit at a later date.

4. Baddow Hospital Directional Sign

Cllr Dick Madden has contacted the Clerk to say that the original request for directional signage to the hospital seems to have been mislaid but that Cllr Jenny Chandler has submitted a new one, which is due to be considered by the Local Highways Panel in January 2016.

594/15 Correspondence

1. Essex County Council Minerals and Waste Planning – letter informing the Council about a decision made regarding the Sandon Quarry (Noise Monitoring). Cllr Mrs J Sosin confirmed that there was no change to the existing arrangements and the letter was noted.
2. Essex Fire Service and Essex Police – email regarding the volunteering scheme for Essex Parishes (Parish Safety Volunteers). It was agreed that information should be placed on the website and the Parish Council noticeboards and in the next edition of the parish magazine. The Clerk will forward information to Cllr Mrs C Shaw for the website and will investigate whether the oversized poster can be reduced for the noticeboard. Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky suggested that a representative could be invited to speak at the Village Conference in April 2016.
3. Essex Pension Fund – to note information regarding the end of Contracting Out in April 2016. The new arrangements were noted.
4. Essex County Council – to note the meetings to be held in February 2016 of the Transport Representative Meetings. The dates were noted, and the Parish Council's representative, Cllr K Liley, will attend. The Clerk will forward the agenda when it becomes available.
5. Essex Association of Local Councils – notice of the EALC Affiliation fees. It was noted that the main change related to the NALC element of the fees, but due to the EALC Christmas closure, it had not been possible to obtain details of the actual fee for Great Baddow and further information will be sought in January.
6. Gill Mitcham – request to consider the allocation of an allotment plot to a non-parishioner. Cllr Mrs S Young confirmed that the allotment regulations currently state the Council's policy that plots can only be offered to parishioners of Great Baddow and Galleywood. It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the next meeting of the Allotments Sub Committee where a review can be carried out of the availability on the site and the recent levels of take up for vacant plots. The Clerk will inform the applicant.

Following an enquiry, the Clerk also confirmed that Sandon Parish Council do have eight allotments on a site in Hall Lane.

595/15 Reports of the Planning Committee 23rd November, 7th December and 14th December 2015

The reports of the Planning Committee of 23rd November, 7th December and 14th December 2015 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 of the current situation with regard to the redevelopment of Marrable House, and confirmed that the 'Sold' signs now displayed on the building reflected the sale by Murano/Rubicon West to Weston Homes Ltd.

Cllr Mrs M Miller enquired as to whether any further information was available regarding the cardboard parking notices attached to lampposts in the Vineyards car park last week. The Clerk will email the managing agents on this matter.

596/15 Report of the Allotments Sub Committee and Grounds Committee 7th December 2015

The reports of the Allotments Sub Committee and Grounds Committee of 7th December 2015 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 A Sosin (for Grounds Committee).

597/15 Reports of the Finance and General Purposes Committee 30th November and 14th December 2015

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 30th November was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs C Shaw, proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr K Ronaldson.

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 14th December was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs C Shaw, proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson.

598/15 Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Committee

The minutes and the report of the Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Committee from 1st October 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.

599/15 Bell Centre Working Group

The Clerk had circulated notes of the Working Group meeting held on 4th December 2015 and a report on bookings in the Bell Centre prior to the meeting. Cllr Mrs C Shaw enquired whether any progress had been made on arranging a meeting with the Planning Department at Chelmsford City Council to discuss alternative development proposals for the Bell Centre. The Clerk replied that she had contacted the Planning Department but the officer had not returned her call. This matter will be chased.

There was some discussion of the availability of the Bell Centre for a youth drop in session, and the Clerk confirmed that the only evening with some availability was Thursday. The group using the centre on a Wednesday evening had already confirmed that they would not be able to change their evening. The Clerk will forward this information to the YMCA.

Cllr Mrs C Shaw enquired whether any feedback had been received from the multi-agency meeting held on 25th November 2015 to discuss recent crime events in Great Baddow. The Clerk replied that she had not received any follow up or notes from the meeting and had sent an e.mail on 16th December 2015 asking for an update. It was agreed that a further e.mail should be sent to the co-ordinator, Spencer Clark, requesting further information.

600/15 Precept

It was agreed that the Precept for 2016/2017 should be set at £377,000.00, as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. This represents an increase of 6% on 2015/2016. In actual terms on the Band D charge, the charge will rise from £62.61 per annum to £66.76 per annum. The Council drew attention to the fact that the rise in the precept had been agreed with reluctance.

Proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw. Cllr Mrs J Sosin and the Clerk/RFO signed the precept form.

601/15Chelmsford City Plan 2021 - 2036

Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson informed the meeting that a number of councillors had attended the exhibition of the City Plan at the Millennium Centre. Cllrs A Sosin and K Ronaldson had prepared a response to the Plan and this was discussed and amended. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Sosin and seconded by Cllr K Liley that the amended document should be submitted by the Clerk as the response of the Parish Council. This was agreed.

602/15Crime Events in Great Baddow

Cllr Mrs J Sosin confirmed that a number of councillors had attended the multi-agency meeting and no report had yet been received. Cllr Mrs S Young expressed the Council's disappointment that the minutes, expected to include items for action, had not been distributed, and the Clerk reiterated that she would chase this up. Replies to the letters sent out by the Clerk following the Motion agreed at the last Council meeting, had been received from Simon Burns MP, the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Divisional Inspector for Chelmsford. The Police had referred to the multi-agency meeting, but had not responded to the Parish Council's request for them to address a Council meeting to allay parishioners concerns about safety. A query was also raised about the length of time that floral tributes should remain on the side of the road and who is responsible for clearing them.

603/15Flooding

Cllr K Ronaldson reported that the drainage ditch running at the back of Tabors Avenue (Baddow Brook) contained a lot of debris which could lead to flooding problems during times of heavy rainfall. It was agreed that the Clerk would make some enquiries as to the ownership of the ditch, and who is responsible for checking and clearing it.

604/15Matters for Information

- Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson reported that the loose kerbstones in Gilmore Way had been restored to their positions and that a resident had received a letter stating that work to the pavements and kerbs in Gilmore Way would be started in January 2016. The Clerk was asked to contact Essex County Council Highways about this.
- Cllr K Liley informed the meeting that kerbstones had been replaced in Tyrells Way and that work to the pavements is expected to start in the New Year.
- Cllr A Sosin reported the following roads where attention is required to loose or missing kerbstones: Springpond Close, Bramwoods Road, Mascalls Way and Whitehouse Crescent. These will be reported.
- Cllr Mrs S Young enquired whether the Parish Council, as the owners of a large hall centrally located in Great Baddow, had been invited to host any of the meetings held recently on parish related issues such as the multi-agency meeting on crime in the area, or the consultation on the Chelmsford City Plan. The Clerk replied that it had not and that this may be due to parking problems which are a major concern for hall hirers with only two hours parking being available in the Vineyards car park. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Chief Executive at the City Council to stress the prominent position of the Parish Hall in the centre of the village and its suitability for information events.

605/15 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 S Young.

606/15 Bowling Club Lease

The Clerk is currently trying to contact the Parish Council's solicitors on this matter and there is no further information available at this time.

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

SignedChairman.....Date