

A Meeting of the Parish Council at The Parish Hall, Great Baddow on Monday 8th February 2016

The Council met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 8th February 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, K Liley and J Fuller

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

686/15 Public Announcements

There were no public announcements.

687/15 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

688/15 Declaration of Interests

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

689/15 Minutes of the Council Meeting – 11th January 2016

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th January 2016 were signed as a true statement. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.

690/15 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

691/15 Clerk's Report

1. Memorial Tree in Noakes Place

The Clerk has contacted Chelmsford City Council about the recently planted memorial tree in Noakes Place. The tree is a Liquidamber and has been donated by Mr Shilliam. It is understood to have been donated in memory of a family member but the details were misplaced by the City Council during a period of sickness absence by the officer dealing with the matter. It is not known whether a memorial plaque is going to be installed. The miniature Christmas tree planted in front of the Liquidamber should not be there and following instructions from the City Council, it has been removed by the Council's Grounds Staff.

2. Burgess Committee

The Burgess Award Committee met on 5th February 2016. It was agreed that the application that had originally been submitted to the Centenary Award Committee and then referred to the Burgess Award Committee, did merit the appointment of an Honorary Burgess award. The Clerk has contacted the nominated person and is awaiting a reply.

3. Fire Safety Training

The Clerk attended the Fire Safety training course on 26th January 2016. The course will only be suitable for some members of staff and their attendance on another course will be arranged later in the year. For more general training for all members of staff, the Clerk will be speaking to the company who maintains the fire extinguishers on Council premises.

4. Noakes Place Ponds

The Clerk can confirm that the lifebelt was in place until recently. However the housing has now been knocked over and broken, and the remains have been removed. The Clerk will investigate the cost of replacing it and will also contact the City Council as the damage occurred at a time when contractors were working in Noakes Place.

5. Parish Hall

The Handyman is currently on annual leave and will be asked to re-paint the front steps as a matter of priority on his return.

Cllr A Sosin enquired whether there had been any progress on the reinstatement of the light in the wall of the steps. The Clerk replied that this light would need rewiring, and to date a reply had not been received from either of two electrical companies that had been approached to carry out annual checks and other remedial works in the Parish Hall.

Cllr A Sosin also reported that a large number of street lights in the parish have been found to be faulty, following an inspection that was carried out earlier in the year. Some of these lights have been removed and the problem of when the lights will be replaced will be addressed to Essex County Council, although it was noted that some of them have already been marked up for attention.

692/15 Correspondence

1. Christine Goldstone – email regarding the parking problems at the Baddow Hall schools. Cllr A Sosin proposed that this matter, relating to the use of Baddow Hall Park, should be referred to Chelmsford City Council, with copies sent to the City Councillors representing Great Baddow. Cllr A Sosin also advised that a nationwide study is being undertaken on school parking and he will obtain further information.
2. Chelmsford City Council – invitation to host sessions for the Play In The Park playscheme. The Clerk outlined the usual arrangement to fund two sessions during the Easter school holidays and six during the summer holidays. It was agreed that the City Council should be asked to continue with the existing arrangement and to avoid any dates in the week of the Parish Council's own playscheme.
3. Chelmsford City Council – request for suggestions for a tidy up as part of the Parish Cleansing Days scheme. The following areas were suggested for the clearance of litter and overhanging branches:
 - (i) Footpath from Baddow Road (adjacent to newsagents) to Loftin Way/Gloucester Road
 - (ii) Loves Walk – from Baddow Road to Longmead Avenue
 - (iii) Purbeck Court to Noakes Avenue, alongside Readers CourtCllr J Fuller proposed that in future, the letter from the City Council requesting suggestions for the Cleansing Days, could be emailed to all councillors, to avoid any unnecessary delays and increase the likelihood of the schemes being accepted.

693/15 Reports of the Planning Committee 18th January 2016 and 1st February 2016

The reports of the Planning Committee of 18th January and 1st February 2016 were presented to the Council by Cllr A Sosin and signed as a true statement by Cllr Mrs J Sosin, with the following amendment to the minutes of 18th January: Item 648/15, item title 'Amended Planning Applications' to be deleted and replaced by 'City Council Planning Agenda'.

Cllr A Sosin reported that an email had been circulated by the Administrative Assistant, confirming that planning permission had been granted on the 29th

January 2016 for the demolition of Marrable House and the erection of two buildings on the site

Cllr A Sosin also confirmed that a non-material amendment had been made to the application for the development of land south of Newport House, Molrams Lane, and this type of amendment would not normally be reported to the Parish Council.

694/15 Report of the Organisation Methods and Personnel Committee 25th January 2016

The report of the Organisation Methods and Personnel Committee of 25th January 2016 was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs S Young, proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson with the following amendments: Item 652/15, second paragraph, third line, the words 'that draft' to be deleted and replaced by 'the draft'; Item 660/15, seventh line, the time '10.30am' to be deleted and replaced by '10.00am'.

Cllr J Fuller enquired whether the interviews for a temporary Deputy Grounds Manager had taken place and Cllr Mrs S Young replied that there had been no applicants for the position.

695/15 Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee 1st February 2016

The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 1st February 2016 was presented to the Council by Cllr Mrs C Shaw, proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr A Sosin with the following amendment to Item 678/15, section 9, first line, the word 'bought' to be deleted and replaced by 'brought'.

696/15 Working With Families

The Clerk and Cllr Mrs J Sosin had met the representative from Essex County Council to discuss the type of family learning sessions that could be held in the Parish Hall. The Parish Council would provide the venue for the sessions, which would be organised and run by the Adult Community Learning team. Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky proposed that the Parish Council should agree in principle to undertake this method of partnership working with the Adult Community Learning Working With families (Essex County Council) to enable learning opportunities to be offered to residents. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Young. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the organisers to discuss possible dates for three of the sessions (K'nex workshop, Ready Steady Science and Jaspers Bean) listed in the schedule. The Clerk will also pass on details of the Meadgate Centre, as it may be able to act as an additional host venue for this work.

697/15 Sutherland Lodge Surgery

Cllr Mrs C Shaw confirmed that responses had now been received to all the letters sent out following the January Council meeting, concerning the proposed cut in funding for Sutherland Lodge Surgery. It is understood that Sir Simon Burns MP is meeting the Secretary of State for Health and a representative from NHS England, and the Clerk will follow this up if a response has not been received by the end of the week.

Cllr A Sosin informed the meeting of the replies that had been received, and they are: 15th January from Sir Simon Burns, 16th and 25th January from the Chelmsford City ward councillors, 22nd January from the Surgery, 29th January from NHS England Regional office, and 30th January and 8th February from the Department of Health.

698/15Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Cllr Mrs C Shaw outlined the changes proposed in the consultation document and in particular the move from 'day crew' to 'on call'. The Clerk confirmed that the office had not yet received any formal notification of the consultation documents. It was agreed that the Parish Council would wish to respond, and the matter will be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

699/15Lower Thames Crossing Route

It was agreed that there were no comments to be made on this consultation.

700/15Matters for Information

- Cllr K Liley informed the meeting that he would be attending the Passenger Transport meeting on 22nd February 2016.
- Cllr Mrs V Chiswell enquired whether any further information had been received about the lady she had observed removing rubbish and duckweed from the ponds in Noakes Place. Cllr K Liley replied that he had not been able to obtain any information as the individual he had been informed of, has moved away from the area.

701/15Private 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 V Sadowsky.

702/15Bowling Club Lease

The Clerk informed the meeting that she will be meeting with Cllrs Mrs S Young and K Ronaldson on Wednesday 10th February 2016 to discuss the comments received from the Parish Council's solicitor.

703/15Bell Centre Lease

A meeting of the Bell Centre Working Group had taken place on 3rd February 2016. The Clerk reported that she had informed the Working Group of advice received from the City Council planning officer, who had proposed that alternative options should be considered for the Bell Centre, including a reconsideration of an earlier survey of the building, and any options for refurbishment. The Parish Council's solicitor has confirmed that he will await further instructions before proceeding with the lease negotiations.

The Clerk reported that the YMCA are now using the Bell Centre on two evenings per week and some damage has occurred to the walls and ceiling. The YMCA will be reminded that the hall is not suitable for ball games, and the Clerk will contact the Parish Council's Health and Safety adviser to obtain advice about the constituents of the roof area and the options for repair. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky that the Working Group report should be accepted and actioned. This was agreed. A letter will be sent to Hurley Porte and Duell.

704/15Staffing

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Grounds Manager has not yet returned to work. The report from Occupational Health has just been received and has not yet been considered. The Clerk will be meeting with Cllrs Mrs C Shaw and Mrs S Young tomorrow and this matter will be discussed.

Another member of the Ground Staff is currently on sick leave due to an accident at work. This will be investigated when the member of staff returns to work. The Games Attendant has agreed to provide temporary cover from tomorrow.

The Clerk also informed the meeting that she had received notice from a further member of the Ground Staff that he would be retiring in May 2016. It was agreed that it would now be a relevant time to consider continuing the Grounds Review, and the Clerk will discuss this matter with Cllrs Mrs S Young, A Sosin and K Ronaldson.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8.48 pm.

SignedChairman.....Date