

## **A Report of the Bell Centre Sub Committee to the Parish Council**

The Committee met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017** in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall in Great Baddow.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, it was proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr Mrs M Miller, that Cllr Mrs J Sosin should chair the meeting. This was agreed.

Present: Councillors Mrs J Sosin, Mrs C Shaw, Mrs M Miller, K Liley, Mrs V Chiswell and T Miller

In attendance: The Clerk of the Council and the Deputy Clerk

### **702/16 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky, who had substituted Cllr T Miller, Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson and Cllr J Fuller.

### **703/16 Declarations of Interests**

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

### **704/16 Minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were signed as a true record by Cllr Mrs J Sosin, with the following amendments:

In the line headed 'In Attendance': the word 'Assistant' to be deleted and replaced by 'Deputy'; Item 345//16, the heading 'spending for 2015/2016' to be deleted and replaced by 'spending for 2016/2017' and the heading 'Draft budget for 2015/2016' to be deleted and replaced by 'Draft budget for 2017/2018'; Item 346/16 to be marked as 'Item inserted in error – to be deleted from record'.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs M Miller and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Chiswell.

### **705/16 Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present.

### **706/16 Clerks Report**

There was no written Clerks report as the matters for updating were on the agenda.

### **707/16 Update Report on Hall Hire Numbers**

A report prepared by the Deputy Clerk had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that party bookings at the Bell Centre remain low. The condition of the building is deteriorating and this is deterring potential hirers. The Do Re Minis musical class for toddlers has resumed its weekly classes in the Shaw Room following a break for personal reasons.

### **708/16 Bell Centre Maintenance**

Cllr Mrs C Shaw enquired whether arrangements had been made to carry out a survey on the condition of the Bell Centre roof. The Clerk replied that she had contacted Elwell Taylor and they would be providing a quotation for the work.

Cllr Mrs C Shaw provided an update on the Orchard Centre in Meadgate, following discussion at the previous meeting of this Committee concerning the possible use of the Orchards as an alternative venue. It is now understood that the lease will expire in July and there is uncertainty about its use after that time.

Cllr Mrs V Chiswell enquired about the situation with the Party Wall at the Bell Centre. The Clerk replied that this is being dealt with by the owners of the building, Essex County Council, who are requesting that some actions are taken with regard to the construction of the wall. It was noted that a Party Wall Notice cannot be applied retrospectively.

Cllr K Liley enquired whether there had been any flooding in the Bell Centre recently and the Clerk replied that there had not.

**709/16 Matters for Information**

There were no matters for information.

**710/16 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 item. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.

**711/16 Bell Centre Lease**

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council's solicitor had now been instructed to proceed with negotiations for an Agreement to Lease.

The Clerk also informed the meeting that she had received notification from Tees solicitors that the Parish Council's solicitor, Mr Graham Yeldham, would be retiring at the end of March 2017 and that Mr Graeme Atkinson would be taking over the account.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.55pm.

Signed.....*J E Sosin*..... Chairman

Date.....*13th March 2017*.....