

REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO THE VILLAGE CONFERENCE
TO BE HELD AT THE BELL CENTRE, GREAT BADDOW ON
THURSDAY 10th APRIL 2014

This Council is pleased to make an Annual Report for the year 2013/2014. This is the 120th Anniversary of the formation of the Council.

GREAT BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

The last elections were held in May 2011 and the next elections will be in 2015. The present Council is constituted as follows:

Baddow Road Ward

Veronica Sadowsky
Tim Hatcher
Jonathan Fuller

Village Ward

Chris Shaw
Diana Ronaldson
Andrew Sosin
Keith Ronaldson
Keith Liley

Rothmans Ward

Jannetta Sosin
Maureen Miller
Trevor Miller
Sue Young
Gordon Jarvis

Thanks are given to Peter Charman, who resigned in September 2013. Jonathan Fuller was co-opted in January 2014 to fill the vacancy left by the resignation.

Despite another year of restricted budgets and falling income, the Parish Council has worked extremely hard to maintain its high standards across all its services.

MEETINGS – Full Council Meetings are held on the second Monday evening in the month (except August when it is the first Monday) at 7.30 pm in Committee Room 1 of the Parish Hall, Maldon Road, Great Baddow. Other Committee meetings also take place normally on Mondays at 7.30 pm. Any member of the public may attend Council and Committee meetings. Agendas for all meetings are posted on the notice boards in the parish on the Wednesday before the meeting and a list of dates can be found in the Great Baddow Times, on the website and on the noticeboards.

The Parish Council has always encouraged members of the public to attend the meetings and there is a time allocated to enable members of the public to address councillors and ask questions or make statements. Further details can be obtained from the Clerk of the Council or can be found on the website at www.greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL – Councillor Mrs J Sosin

VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL – Councillor Mrs C Shaw

COMMITTEES

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

Councillor Mrs C Shaw – Chairman

HIGHWAYS AND AMENITIES

Councillor A Sosin – Chairman

ORGANISATION, METHODS AND PERSONNEL

Councillor Mrs J Sosin – Chairman

GROUNDS AND ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Mrs. S. Young – Chairman

PLANNING

Councillor Mrs. D. Ronaldson - Chairman

PARISH HALL AND BELL CENTRE

Councillor Mrs. V. Sadowsky – Chairman

The Parish Council is also represented on The Great Baddow Parochial Charities.

ADMINISTRATION

The office is open from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm from Monday to Friday and on one Saturday morning a month, immediately prior to the monthly Council meeting day. The Clerk will be

pleased to talk to members of the public about parish matters during these times or at any time outside these hours, by appointment.

The office telephone number is 01245 472937 and the e.mail address for general enquiries is **info@greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk**.

Miss Ann Wood, the Clerk, Mrs Elaine Bryan, the Assistant Clerk and Mrs Michele Dixon, the Administrative Assistant currently staff the office.

Questions about the hire of the Parish Hall and Bell Centre and enquiries about the Lawn Cemetery and Old Burial Ground should be directed to Mrs Bryan on **bookings@greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk**

Questions and enquiries about Allotments and Planning should be directed to Mrs Dixon on **planning@greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk**.

The Council has had a website for over 13 years and it has recently undergone a review. The website will contain even more information than before and it is hoped that it will be easier to negotiate. All agendas and minutes of meetings and also dates of forthcoming meetings will be posted there. Details of all the Council's services can be found on the website at **www.greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk**

Members of the Council are still very closely involved with the police in the local Neighbourhood Action Panel and they attend regular meetings.

In September 2013, for the sixth year, the Council held a coffee morning at the Parish Hall for the Macmillan Cancer Charity. The Mayor and Mayoress of Chelmsford Cllr Trevor Miller and Mrs Maureen Miller attended the event. Thanks to residents' generosity, the total raised was £155.27.

Following its general policy of caring for the environment and trying to reduce its carbon footprint, the Council has continued to recycle paper and cardboard from the office, has installed low energy and LED lights where appropriate and has undertaken energy audits of its premises.

Clear recycling sacks and dog waste bags are available to residents free of charge from the Parish Council office. The Council is a member of the household battery recycling scheme and there is a recycling box in the foyer at the Parish Hall.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The Grounds staff are Peter Jeffrey, the Grounds Manager, Kevin Gentry, the Deputy Grounds Manager and Groundsmen Nigel Smith, Alan Coleman and John Scott. The Recreation Ground Staff work to maintain the sports facilities in the Recreation Ground, Noakes Place, the Lawn Cemetery, the Old Burial Ground, Vicarage Lane Allotment site, Towerfield Allotments site, the Centenary Roundabout and numerous bus shelters and other street furniture.

The Parish Council has continued its policy of maintaining and replacing equipment and the Grounds Staff have the use of up to date machinery.

The Grounds Staff undertake many tasks around the village and undertake minor maintenance jobs on Council property. They can be contacted direct on 01245 473538. All sports booking enquiries should be directed to this number.

RECREATION GROUND

The new play equipment for older children installed in 2010 has continued to be extremely popular. The outdoor gym equipment that was installed in May 2011 and was partly funded by a grant from the Big Lottery Awards for All and partly from S106 monies, also continues to be popular and very well used.

During the year, the lights in the access road to the Recreation Ground were repaired and upgraded. The lights were fitted with LED heads, which will help to reduce the energy used. Also, drainage work was undertaken in the car park area near the Groundsmen's Office and a new soak away was dug. This will stop the regular flooding that used to happen across the entrance to the car park.

NOAKES PLACE

During the term of the management agreement for Noakes Place from Chelmsford City Council, between June 2000 and April 2010, the Council worked on many projects, including the upgrading of access facilities and footways, the installation of lighting, the installation of the kicking wall, the resurfacing of the car park at the Buckleys entrance, the construction of a disabled access ramp at Foxholes Road and the establishment of a sensory garden.

The agreement came to an end in April 2010 and negotiations are still continuing with Chelmsford City Council to re-negotiate the agreement. This is taking some time, as the Council wishes to ensure that any necessary major work is undertaken by Chelmsford City Council and does not become a liability for the Parish. In the meantime the Parish Council is continuing with day-to-day maintenance, such as grass cutting and litter picking.

CHILDREN'S AND TODDLERS PLAY EQUIPMENT

This Council pursues a policy of ensuring a high standard of safety. All items of equipment are covered by insurance and a qualified engineer makes an annual check on all our equipment. All items are the subject of a visual daily inspection by the Grounds Staff and if any problems are found, the item is taken out of use until it can be repaired or if necessary replaced.

During the year, a grant was obtained to replace some of the equipment in the Toddlers Play Area. Together with some S106 monies, this means that the Parish Council will be able to complete its refurbishment of the area. Unfortunately, it has proved impossible to install the equipment before the end of the reporting year but it is hoped that this will be accomplished very shortly.

ALL WEATHER SPORTS COURTS

The Parish Council has four All Weather Sports Courts, including two built with the help of Sports Lottery funding. Three of the courts are currently in use and teams and clubs can either block book them in advance or use them on an ad hoc basis, when payment is made at the time of hire.

During the year, extensive work was undertaken on the maintenance and upgrading of the lights on the sports courts. It is hoped that this has improved the playing experience.

Negotiations were completed during the year 2012/2013 with the Great Baddow Cricket Club and a licence between the Council and the Club was signed. Work on the high quality cricket practice facilities took place in July 2013 and the facility was opened by the Mayor of Chelmsford Cllr Trevor Miller, accompanied by the Mayoress Mrs Maureen Miller in September 2013. It is hoped that this community facility will help to attract new young players to the club.

The courts are manned by the Games Attendant, Mr. Melvin Malins.

FOOTBALL

The football pitches are used by a number of local teams. There has been a vacancy this year due to one of the long standing teams disbanding. Unfortunately, not many football games took place between the middle of December and the end of February due to the appalling weather conditions that have been experienced. Despite the weather, the pitches are in quite a good condition and it is hoped that all the postponed games can be completed.

CRICKET CLUB

The Great Baddow Cricket Club lease the wicket from the Council and games are played on Saturday and Sunday. The Colts also use the pitch for games and practice. Arrangements can be made with the Cricket Club for young people to have coaching lessons at the practice nets.

BOWLING GREEN

The Great Baddow Bowling Club leases five rinks of the Bowling Green and one is kept for use by the general public. Arrangements to use this one can be made with the Grounds Staff for a small charge. The Council has started negotiations with the Great Baddow Bowling Club to renew the lease on the land on which the clubhouse stands. The lease does not expire until 2015 but it was decided to start the negotiations as early as possible.

TENNIS

All courts, hard and grass were available last summer but due to the wet weather, use was lower than in previous years. Unfortunately, the Great Baddow Recreation Ground Tennis Club, which hired courts on a regular basis, disbanded. During the year, the Council continued to promote the Tennis for Free scheme for children under 16 on weekdays during the school holidays. Despite the general fall in usage of the courts, this scheme continued to be popular and will be running again in 2014.

SUMMER PLAYSCHMES

The Parish Council's Playscheme ran in August 2013 and was very well attended with over 100 children attending. It will be running again from 4th to 8th August 2014, headed by Tracey Peters. The Playscheme has always proved popular and parents can be reassured that their children are being taken care of by qualified personnel. There is no charge for the children to attend as the whole scheme is subsidised by the Parish Council.

In addition, and in conjunction with Chelmsford City Council, the Parish Council arranges Play in the Park sessions. This year the scheme provides the Play in the Park for ages 6–11. Each session offers two hours of sports, games, art, crafts and play during the Easter and summer school holidays. Dates for the Easter holiday are:

Monday 14th April 2014 – 1.30pm to 3.30pm
Thursday 17th April 2014 – 10.00am to 12.00 noon

The dates for the summer holiday are:

Monday 11th August 2014 – 1.30pm to 3.30pm
Friday 15th August 2014 – 1.30pm to 3.30pm
Monday 18th August 2014 – 10.00am – 12 noon
Friday 22nd August 2014 – 10.00am – 12 noon
Tuesday 26th August 2014 – 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Friday 29th August 2014 – 1.30pm to 3.30pm

These all take place in the Recreation Ground and are for ages 6-11. Because these sessions are sponsored by the Parish Council, they are completely free of charge to all children.

LAWN CEMETERY

The cemetery has been maintained to its usual high standards during the year. There is a continuing review of the cemetery to ensure that these high standards are maintained at all times.

Memorial trees and rose bushes and plaques can be purchased through the office.

OLD BURIAL GROUND

The Parish Council also maintains the burial ground behind St. Mary's Church and this has been maintained to the usual high standards.

ALLOTMENT SITES

The Council administers two allotment sites known as "Vicarage Lane" and "Towerfield". Representatives are appointed. Terry Hull represents the tenants at the Towerfield site and Clive Arben at the Vicarage Lane site. Both are thanked by the Council for their input to the management of the sites.

There is still a great deal of interest and demand for this facility but the waiting list is not as long as it used to be. Tenants on the sites are highly motivated and help each other with advice. Any resident interested in putting their name on the waiting list should contact the office for further information.

The Best Cultivated Allotments competition was held again in 2013 and the judges were John Parkinson and Eddie Cole, accompanied by Cllr Mrs Sue Young and Cllr Tim Hatcher. Trophies and prizes were won by the following:

Towerfield

1 st	Mr Kilvington
2 nd	Mr Middleton
3 rd	Mr Hull

Vicarage Lane

1 st	Mrs Bagshaw
1 st	Mrs Fernando
3 rd	Mr Hood

Half Plot at Vicarage Lane

Mr Rayner

Cllr Mrs Jannetta Sosin presented the trophies to the winners at the December 2013 meeting of the Horticultural Society. This social evening is sponsored by the Council, to recognise the achievements of the winners.

CENTENARY ROUNDABOUT

New planting was undertaken in two new beds on the roundabout and the displays have been enhanced, now that the new plants have become established.

GREAT BADDOW MILLENNIUM COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Centre continues to go from strength to strength under the stewardship of the Great Baddow Community Association. It provides numerous facilities and activities for members, and rooms are also available for hire.

PARISH HALL AND COMMITTEE ROOMS

The hiring and use of this complex has fallen in recent months but groups such as Keep-Fit Classes, Pilates Classes, the Great Baddow Flower Club, the Great Baddow Horticultural Society, Theatre at Baddow, a Theatre and Dance Group and a dancing school still regularly use the Parish Hall. It is also booked for weddings, private parties and charity events. There are some vacancies for daytime hires and for function hires and these can be arranged by contacting the office. The bar is well run by the manager, Gavin Edwards and the Designated Premises Supervisor is Miss Ann C. Wood.

Committee Rooms 1 and 2 continue to be very well used for meetings of all descriptions, both educational and social.

The Hall and associated rooms are maintained to a high standard. The flat roof at the hall was renewed during the year, following the ingress of rainwater to the hall. It seems that the problem with the leak has now been stopped. Also, the inner entrance door was fitted with an automatic mechanism, which it is hoped has been a help to everyone, particularly those with limited mobility. The handyman has continued to carry out minor repairs over the year.

A broadband Internet connection is available, at no extra cost, to hirers in the hall and committee rooms.

After 11 successful years as part of the Essex County Council Library Services, in 2011 the Essex Book Festival took a new direction. With support from the Arts Council England and local partners, the Festival became a registered charity. Unfortunately the event that was booked for 2013 had to be withdrawn due to the author that had been allotted to Great Baddow having to pull out due to late publication of their new book. This was just two days before the programme was due to be printed and an alternative speaker could not be found. Fortunately, this year the Council was asked to play host again and the event was a talk about the anniversary of the First World War with poetry readings. This was attended by over 70 people and was very well received.

During the year under report, 657 bookings have been taken for the Parish Hall. Thanks go to the caretaker, Lynn Alderson, and to the Parish Hall cleaner, Nicola Whipp. We would also like to thank our handyman, Michael Fisk, for his work on the premises and his role in providing cover for both the caretaker and cleaner.

BELL CENTRE

The Bell Centre has two main rooms for hire, the Zoete Room and the Shaw Room. Present regular bookings include Guides and two play groups. The Bell Centre is home to a Youth Café, which is staffed by the YMCA, with the Parish Council providing the accommodation. This is held on Tuesday evenings. In addition, the venue is available for children's parties.

During the year under report, 225 bookings have been taken for the Bell Centre. Thanks to caretaker/cleaner Lynn Alderson for her work. The Council is still in negotiation with Essex County Council concerning the lease of these premises, which expired in 2007 but progress now seems to be being made.

YOUTH FACILITY

The Parish Council has been a partner since 2002 in a project designed to establish a dedicated youth facility in the village. The Council works in partnership with the YMCA and is supported by the local police. The Youth Drop-In centre at The Vineyards Centre was opened in 2009 and continues to be very popular with the young people. The Parish Council continues to part fund the staffing here and fully fund the Youth Café at the Bell Centre.

READING ROOM

In 2002, the Parish Council was asked if it would be willing to nominate two people to be appointed as Trustees of the Reading Room. Councillor Chris Shaw and Jim Hurrell represent the Council.

HIGHWAYS AND AMENITIES

The Highways and Amenities Committee considered proposals from Essex County Council and Chelmsford City Council and made comments, proposals and representations as appropriate.

This year the village sign was renewed. The old Great Baddow Village Sign was installed in 1990, using monies donated by the May Fair. It stood on the small green at the junction of Church Street and Galleywood Road, opposite the White Horse PH and had been so much a part of the village. Unfortunately, when the sign was installed, it was not sleeved and so by June 2012 the post on which it stood had rotted through and the sign had fallen over.

The new sign is a new departure. It features the Marconi tower which is a much loved feature in the Great Baddow landscape along with Baddow greenery. It was designed and built out of metal by local artist Dan Rawlings and its arrival was officially marked by the Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Trevor Miller at a small ceremony. It is hoped that it will become as much a local landmark as the Marconi tower it features.

CENTENARY AWARD

The Council's nineteenth Centenary Award was presented to Barbara Locker by the Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Trevor Miller at the Community Celebration in January 2014. This was in recognition of her outstanding voluntary contribution to the community in Great Baddow through her work with the Community Care Luncheon Club.

HONORARY BURGESS

The Parish Council established this award to recognise contributions by parishioners to the world at large. The current recipients are Joan Beard, Eric Withams, David Watson, Eileen Hance MBE and Sidney Bass. There is a board recording the names of the Honorary Burgesses, which is displayed in the Parish Hall.

It was with great regret that the Parish Council learnt of the death in December 2012, of the first recipient Joan Beard and in May 2013 of David Watson.

LITTER

The Council employs two Litter Collectors to clear up areas of the parish on a rota basis. Thanks to Don Hood and Mike Passfield for their work.

GRANTS

The following grants were made by the Council under The Local Government Act 1972, section 137 for the year 2013/2014, in response to applications submitted by parish organisations.

Baddow Hall WI	160.00
Farleigh Hospice	1550.00
District Guides	160.00
1 st Great Baddow Guides	200.00
1 st Great Baddow Scouts	320.00
Great Baddow Flower Club	360.00
Great Baddow Flower Club Anniversary Meeting	112.40
Great Baddow WI	100.00
Hargrave House League of Friends	200.00
Great Baddow Youth Drop-In	360.00
TOTAL	3522.40

PLANNING

The Planning Committee sits fortnightly throughout the year to examine and discuss all applications for this area. If parishioners wish to offer comments to the Committee, they are welcome to attend and make their views known. The Planning Committee aims to ensure that the character of the Great Baddow village is preserved and if possible, enhanced. The impact of any planning application on the people who live in Great Baddow must be fully considered. The Planning Committee is determined that this will be the case. Written observations and recommendations are made for each application and whilst these do not carry the power of final decisions, Chelmsford City Council as the Planning Authority accord them due consideration.

The Planning Committee has considered 135 applications this year. The Council has worked hard to keep residents informed of any developments and represent their concerns to Chelmsford City Council.

The Council supported a project to produce a Village Design Statement and was represented on the Steering Group. The Village Design Statement was adopted by Chelmsford City Council as a Supplementary Planning Document in March 2011 and the published document is available on the website.

LUXFIELD

The Parish Council created Bylaws to regulate the use of this field. The Bylaw prohibits motor vehicles from using this land, following complaints from parishioners regarding motorbikes.

The Council has been working with the Environmental Group to draw up a management plan, which has now been agreed. Work has recently been undertaken by the Environmental Group and the Council's Grounds Staff to prevent the paths from becoming overgrown.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr Dan Glading is the Village Co-ordinator for this busy organisation.

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

The Great Baddow Times was launched in 1996 and continues to be very popular. Over 7000 copies are published and distributed to houses in the parish, four times a year in March, June, September and December.

The Council pays for a Solus Delivery, to try and make certain that the magazine reaches every household. This means that the magazine is no longer delivered with the Weekly News but separately. At the same time, councillors and volunteers deliver to those roads where the Weekly News distribution network does not reach. Even with this system, there appear to be continuing difficulties in some roads and the Council is constantly in touch with the distributors to try and resolve these.

If for any reason you do not receive a copy of the magazine you should report the matter to the Parish Council office and you can also view the magazine on the website at **www.greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk**. Spare copies are available in the library and at the Parish Council office.

Contributions and advertisements are always welcome. John Emery is the Editor and the Council thanks him for his hard work on this publication.

April 2014