



The 125th Village Conference held at the
Parish Hall, 19 Maldon Road, Great Baddow, CM2 7DW on
Thursday 25th April 2019

Prior to the official meeting, a reception had been arranged from 7.00 p.m. for parishioners to meet with Parish Councillors for informal talks.

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Mrs Jannetta Sosin, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said that a precis of the report will be published in the Great Baddow Times.

The business meeting of the Village Conference then started at 7.30 pm.

1. **Present**

Councillor Mrs Jannetta Sosin (Chairman of the Parish Council) presided over the meeting, which numbered 9 members of the public, 10 parish councillors and a member of the local police. The members of the public included Glenn Finch (Clerk of the Great Baddow Parochial Charities), Dan Glading (Chairman and District Co-ordinator of the Great Baddow Neighbourhood Watch), Norman Taylor (Vice Chairman of NHW Essex) Lesley Graham (Chairperson of Great Baddow Community Association) and Inspector Steve Scott-Haynes (Head of the local policing). The parish councillors present were Cllrs A Sosin, Mrs C Shaw, Mrs S Young, K Liley, K Ronaldson, Mrs D Ronaldson, P Sadowsky, Mrs V Sadowsky and Mrs V Chiswell.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr T Miller, Cllr Mrs M Miller, Cllr G Jarvis, Cllr Mrs G Smith, Cllr Mrs J Chandler, Cllr R Villa and Mr D Saddington.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous Village Conference held on 26th April 2018, which had been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Jannetta Sosin and seconded by Cllr Keith Liley.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

5. **GREAT BADDOW PAROCHIAL CHARITIES**

The Clerk of the Parochial Charities Glenn Finch gave the report for the year ending 31st December 2018 on behalf of the Chairman.

The Trustees had met on 3 occasions during the year for the routine administration of the Charities' business, including the upkeep of ten almshouses. There were no vacancies at the almshouses of St Mary's Court and Kinghams during the year.

Charitable donations derived from interest on investments were made to the vicars of Great Baddow and Galleywood for the relief of the needy of the parishes and for the Sunday schools. Each resident; of the almshouses; had been presented with Christmas gifts.

In addition to the normal maintenance during the year, the external decorating of both almshouse locations was completed and at St Mary's Court the remedial work to protect from legionella was carried out.

In June, the Chairman and Clerk attended a national Almshouse Association course in Bristol, for updates in legislation and good practice.

A review of the investments took place in March and in addition to the regular meetings in November 2018 Trustees agreed an increase in maintenance contributions from almshouse residents. The intention is that reserves should aim over the short term to be at a level of £15000.00 per property in case of urgent or emergency repairs.

Mr Finch also mentioned that there had been a change of Chairman at the charity and thanked Mr John Shaw who was stepping down for all his hard work and contributions over the years.

6. **PRESENTATION AND REPORT FROM THE POLICE**

Inspector Steve Scott-Haynes; Head of Community Policing in Chelmsford; attended the meeting. He was happy to report that extra police personnel would be joining his team and this should be happening in July 2019. The priority is that the police become more visible on our streets targeting drug dealers, anti-social behaviour and making the streets safe. Inspector Scott-Haynes then invited questions.

A member of the public requested that the police work with everyone in Baddow and not just a few groups of people. Although Inspector Scott-Haynes could not guarantee that he would meet with everyone as this would not be physically possible, everything will be done to make sure everyone has a voice.

A councillor asked if anything could be done to help with the councils recruitment of special constables for Great Baddow. Inspector Scott-Haynes advised that he will contact the individual who heads this up to see what could be done.

A member of the public asked what Essex Police are doing to beat knife crime. Inspector Scott-Haynes advised that an operation was in progress and the police now had the right to stop and search individuals; so far this year there had been 600 searches. Essex Police are also actively seeking the people who carry and use knives by using intelligence. Inspector Scott-Haynes advised that the majority of the individuals that are found to be carrying knives are not actually from Chelmsford but from other areas such as London.

7. **REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Mr Dan Glading, the Chairman and District Co-ordinator for Great Baddow Neighbourhood Watch gave a report to the meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch is still active in Great Baddow, and there are signs of hope that the Watch is on course to be revived. Meetings of concerned people including the Police and the Chairman of the Chelmsford Group of Neighbourhood Watches have taken place. A number of people have offered to distribute Newsletters, which are still being distributed to some areas. As Mr Glading had said in previous years, there is a need to hand over to someone else to act as District Co-ordinator as Mr Glading is no longer able to do this satisfactorily. However no one has yet offered to do so!

However, there remain as many members of the Watch as there ever have been, even if they are not receiving up-to-date information. We are optimistic that many of them remember what they have been told in the past, e.g. regarding not believing every doorstep salesman, and securing their homes against intruders, and there is some evidence of this.

Mr Glading regularly attends meetings of the NAP (Neighbourhood Action Panel) to represent Neighbourhood Watch and contribute to its discussions.

8. **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

A detailed written report had been circulated to all those present providing details of the Council's activities during the 2018/2019 financial year. The Chairmen of the Committees then proceeded to expand verbally and answer questions on the report.

9. **GROUNDS AND ALLOTMENTS**

Cllr Mrs Sue Young addressed the meeting and reflected on a few key matters.

Another busy year for the grounds team led by Michele Dixon with a new member of staff, Mr Les Dixon, the Community Handyman. This is part funded by the Community Initiative Fund. Cllr Young would like to thank all the grounds staff for all their hard work.

6 New litter bins have been installed in the Recreation Ground and benches and bus shelters have been refurbished. The Toddler playground will be closed for approximately 3 weeks to allow for a new floor surfacing to be laid.

Cllr Young wished to thank Terry Hull and Mike Harris, the representatives from our allotments, who do an amazing job and keep us on our toes.

Over the past year we have had more flooding in the Cemetery and this year we are having new drainage installed to eradicate this.

New leases are being negotiated with the City Council for Noakes Place and the Bowling Club for the green and club house and we shall once again this year support the Baddow Races.

10. **HIGHWAYS AND AMENITIES**

Cllr Keith Liley addressed the meeting and reported a year that had been dominated by the busgate proposal. It had been a year of mixed fortunes.

The requests for additional dropped kerb improvements in Church Street, Galleywood Road and Vicarage Lane have been agreed and the work will soon be completed.

The bus shelter on the corner of Molrams Lane and Maldon Road has now been replaced and a new shelter will be installed at the top of Maldon Road and Longmead Avenue.

Cllr Liley thanked Joshua Stewart and Mike Passfield, the litter pickers, for their hard work in keeping the village litter free and Cllr Liley also thanked the Clerk, office staff and the members of the Highways & Amenities committee for their support this year.

11. **PLANNING**

Cllr Andrew Sosin addressed the meeting.

The Planning Committee meets every two weeks, generally. Planning applications can be viewed on the city council's website and are projected on a screen at the planning committee meetings. There were 126 applications discussed and commented on during the year. Most were for residential house extensions and tree works (to protected trees or trees in the conservation area). There were few new house applications and other types of applications. The comments are considered by the City Council who will make the final decision, subject to an appeal to the planning inspectorate.

Various meetings of the city council's Development Policy committee have been attended to observe the progress of the city council's local plan for the period up to 2036. The plan was examined by a member of the Government's planning Inspectorate. She has called for 6 changes, that the city council have agreed. These will be the subject of a further consultation over the summer. Then the plan would be adopted (or rejected) by the city council administration in about September.

Cllr Sosin propose thanks to Roger Harman, Donna Tristram and Clare Milligan for their assistance to the committee in preparing agendas, presenting the design drawings, and liaising with officers of the city council.

With regards to the new proposed housing areas a resident asked if there was any provision for NHS services within the new local plan? Cllr Sosin advised that there weren't any as doctor surgeries are a private entity and therefore GP's have to want to set up practices in the area. Cllr Shaw also advised that when the plan was set up the City council deemed there was no need for extra facilities.

A resident also asked if the councillors change after the City council elections how would this affect the plan. Cllr Sosin advised he was unable to answer this question.

12. **PARISH HALL AND BELL CENTRE**

Cllr Mrs Val Chiswell reported that the Parish Hall is still busy with regular hirers although long day use is still an issue, due to the fact that the parish hall has no parking of its own and the Vineyards car park has strictly enforced restrictions.

The parish hall has undergone a refurbishment in committee room 2, the offices, the toilets and back stage. Further works are planned including looking at the accessibility to Committee Room 1.

The Bell Centre sadly closed on the 30th September. This was a very hard decision to make especially as the YMCA used this on a regular basis.

Cllr Chiswell thanked the Clerk and her staff, Lynn Ion, Nicky Whipp, Donna Tristram, Roger Harman and Elaine Bryan for their hard work during the year.

Finally, a reminder that the councillors hold a surgery once a month in Committee Room 1 each Saturday before the Council meeting. Please come along and let the council know your issues as we can help.

13. **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Mrs Chris Shaw addressed the meeting.

There has been a change in the office staff this year with a new Clerk, Mrs Clare Milligan, joining the council in June 2018.

There is one change in councillors. Jonathan Fuller who stood down in May 2018 was replaced with Cllr P Sadowsky was co-opted to replace him.

As the elections approach the Parish Council will not be contested this year and we will have 3 vacancies. A notice after the elections will be posted for anyone who would like to be considered for co-option.

Cllr Shaw thanked the staff and volunteers of the YMCA for all their hard work in providing youth groups for the youngsters of the village. The council

continues to support and help fund this as it feels the group contributes to supporting often vulnerable young people in Great Baddow. The group now use the Bell Street Hall which belongs to the church, for which the council is grateful, instead of the Bell Centre.

The magazine is thriving and thanks to Community Ad who have taken over the production and distribution. The next issue is due to go out in June; if anyone wishes to contribute please do let us know and we can give you the contact details.

The Neighbourhood Action Panel is still thriving and meetings are held regularly. At present we are trying to promote the Neighbourhood Watch and are working closely with the police and the NHW representatives to try and reinvigorate the association.

Finally, please do let us know your thoughts and ideas for Great Baddow. We always want to try to maintain and enhance local facilities and continue to make Great Baddow a place where people want to live.

14. **PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

The Clerk reported that the accounts close on 31st March; each year they are audited by an external auditor. The audited accounts are then made available for public inspection. These accounts are a record of the Receipts and Payments for the financial year 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 and have not been adjusted to Income and Expenditure accounts and are also unaudited.

The Annual Return has been received for completion from the External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP, and anyone who is interested has the right to inspect the accounts and make copies of the annual return and the relevant paperwork at the Parish Council office at 19 Maldon Road, Great Baddow. This will be between Monday 17th June 2019 and Friday 12th July 2019.

The date appointed for the audit is 23rd May 2019. This notice will be formally advertised on the notice boards and on the website from 8th May 2019.

It should be noted that the balances shown in the Current, Imprest and Deposit Accounts as at 31st March 2019, include ring fenced S106 and CIL monies (£63,186.00), earmarked Local Services Fund money to cover 2 years of a new position (£10,000.00), earmarked reserves for the creation for new roads in the Lawn Cemetery (£30,000.00) and ring fenced project monies.

15. **GREAT BADDOW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Lesley Graham, the Chairperson of Great Baddow Community Association, gave her report to the meeting.

She advised that the year had been a mixed one for the GBCA with a new manager taking on the helm.

The centre is thriving, providing a members' bar as well as great facilities to hire. Membership renewals have reached over 500 so far this year and the sports teams have all done well this year.

Last year the centre raised £2,000 for their chosen charity and they hope to exceed that this coming year.

The association is always looking for new members and new ideas.

Ms Graham also thanked the councillors for its continued partnership and support over the year.

Cllr K Liley asked Ms Graham if the GBCA would be able to have table tennis tables as he felt there was a lack of these in Great Baddow. Ms Graham and Cllr Mrs J Sosin said this is something that could be discussed and possibly looked into.

16. **GREAT BADDOW ARTS AND LEISURE CENTRE**

David Saddington had tendered his apologies to the meeting and had sent a report, which was read by the Clerk of the Council.

This year has been a successful one providing a useful service to the community. The hall has had a complete internal redecoration making it a brighter and more comfortable place to be. There have been a few losses of regular hirers but overall the centre has a high level of usage. Some of the activities that take place in the hall are painting groups, dance classes, a camera club, bridge and canasta clubs and a drama club. Theatre at Baddow put on a production of their tribute to the World War 1 armistice anniversary which raised £500 for charity.

17. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A request was made from a resident for the council to have something done about the signage at the Bringey as it was felt that the sign for the chicane for incoming traffic to Great Baddow was somewhat obstructed and could possibly cause accidents. The Council advised that they will have to refer this to ECC and the CCC as this was out of the council's jurisdiction.

A resident asked for the following signs to be looked into:

1. There is no sign on the fire station and never has been; could the council ask for one to be added.
2. The cycle route from Moulsham Lodge to Great Baddow was not on any cycle maps. Can the council have these added.
3. At the approach to the Army and Navy roundabout on Baddow Road the sign has been taken down to show you are entering Chelmsford.

4. The signs up Beehive Lane for Galleywood are in the wrong place as the area where they have been installed is still Great Baddow. Can anything be done to move these?

The council advised that they will look at all of these points and see what action, if any, can be taken.

Cllr Mrs Jannetta Sosin thanked the organisations for attending and giving their reports and the members of the public who had attended. She also told those present that everyone was most welcome to attend Parish Council meetings throughout the year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:25pm.

Signed:

Dated:.....

Chairman of the Parish Council

DRAFT