

**Report of the Parish Council to the Village Conference
to be held at the Parish Hall, 19 Maldon Road, Great Baddow on
Thursday 25th April 2019**

This Council is pleased to make an Annual Report for the year 2018/2019. This is the 125th Anniversary of the formation of the Council.

GREAT BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

The last elections were held in May 2015; the next elections will be in May 2019. Cllr T Miller, Cllr Mrs M Miller and Cllr G Jarvis will be stepping down. The present Council is constituted as follows:

Baddow Road Ward

Veronica Sadowsky
Jonathan Fuller (stood down May '18)
Val Chiswell
Peter Sadowsky (co-opted August '18)

Village Ward

Chris Shaw
Diana Ronaldson
Andrew Sosin
Keith Ronaldson
Keith Liley

Rothmans Ward

Jannetta Sosin
Maureen Miller
Trevor Miller
Sue Young
Gordon Jarvis

Despite another year of staffing changes and restricted budgets, 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 in the month (except August when it is the first Monday) at 7.30pm in Committee Room 1 of the Parish Hall, 19 Maldon Road, Great Baddow. Other Committee meetings also take place normally on Mondays from 7.30pm. Any member of the public may attend Council and Committee meetings. Agendas for all meetings are posted on the website and on the notice boards in the parish on the Wednesday before the meeting and a list of future 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 office or can be found on the website at www.greatbaddowparishcouncil.gov.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 K Liley – Chairman

ORGANISATION, METHODS AND PERSONNEL

Councillor Mrs S Young – Chairman

GROUNDS AND ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Mrs S Young – Chairman

PLANNING

Councillor A Sosin - Chairman

PARISH HALL

Councillor Mrs V Chiswell – 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, 9:30am to 11:30am, immediately prior to the monthly Council meeting. 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 **planning@greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk**.

Mrs Clare Milligan, who joined the council in June 2018, is the Clerk, Mrs Elaine Bryan, the Deputy Clerk and Mr Roger Harman and Mrs Donna Tristram (Administrative Officers on job share) currently staff the office.

Questions about the hire of the Parish Hall should be directed to Mrs Tristram on **planning@greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk**.

Enquiries about the Lawn Cemetery and Old Burial Ground should be directed to Mrs Bryan on **bookings@greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk**

Questions and enquiries about Planning should be directed to Mr Harman on **planning@greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk**

Website

The website has this year been revamped by Mr Harman and the address has changed slightly to '.gov.uk' instead of '.co.uk'. It contains even more information than ever and is easy to navigate. 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.gov.uk**

Email

The administration officer Mr Harman is working very hard to change our email addresses so that in the future you are able to contact the staff directly and know which e-mail is for which member of staff just by looking at the email address; for instance, 'clerk@greatbaddowparishcouncil.gov.uk'.

Neighbourhood Action Panel

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

Community Celebration

The Council held its annual Community Celebration on Saturday 16th March 2019. This celebration is to say thank you to all the members of the local community who give their time on a voluntary basis to provide individual help and to run groups and services for the people of Great Baddow. This year the format was a two-course dinner with entertainment by The Voice, a local choir. The Deputy Mayor of Chelmsford, Cllr Christine Garrett, attended and made a presentation to Denise Whiffin, who has been made an Honorary Burgess of Great Baddow for volunteering at The J's Hospice for the last 15 years.

Defibrillator



As you may know, the Millennium Centre building in the Recreation Ground has a defibrillator on their outside wall.

This year the Parish Council has installed one on the side wall of William Hill betting shop in the Vineyards shopping area.

The council will be looking for other sites for possible defibrillators to be installed and will endeavor to do so.

GROUNDS

Michele Dixon is the Grounds Supervisor and Alan Coleman and Rob Brady are the Grounds Maintenance Operatives. All work hard to maintain the Recreation Ground, Noakes Place, the Old Burial Ground, Towerfield Allotments site and the Centenary Roundabout. Our Community Handyman Les Dixon undertakes the upkeep of our numerous bus shelters and other street furniture.

Alongside the Grounds Staff, there are contractors who look after the Lawn Cemetery and the Vicarage Lane Allotment site along with the cricket wicket.

The Parish Council has continued its policy of maintaining and replacing equipment and has set up a 3 year plan which we continue to update. The Community Handyman was also allocated £1,500 to purchase the necessary tools and equipment to maintain the street furniture.

RECREATION GROUND



New benches have been installed in the toddler playground and the Clerk has managed to secure £10,000 funding from 'Awards For All' to go towards the replacement of the toddler playground floor surface. This will be replaced with a new wetpour safety flooring. The council continues to seek funding and hope to replace the surfaces of all the play areas.

All items of play equipment are covered by insurance and a qualified engineer makes an annual check. All items are the subject of a visual daily inspection by the Grounds Staff and a monthly check by a qualified inspector, our Grounds Supervisor, Mrs M Dixon.

The council this year is also looking at the feasibility of refurbishing the changing rooms and the public toilets. The Clerk will continue to seek funding to support these projects so that we can provide the best amenities for the people of Great Baddow. A new CCTV system has been installed at the Grounds office for security and the safety of our staff that work in the evenings on their own.

The Parish Council continued to support the Great Baddow Charity Races with the use of the Recreation Ground for the event along with paying for the porta-loos.

NOAKES PLACE



The new lease is being drawn up and the Parish Council continues with day-to-day maintenance, such as grass cutting and litter picking. The council are also looking into the possibility of putting lighting in Buckleys carpark and additional lighting around the older children's play areas to improve security. This year saw the unveiling of the plaque in the sensory garden quoting Laurence Binyon's poem, 'For the Fallen' in memory of the 100th Anniversary of the ending of WWI

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.

The 3G court which was opened in April 2018 is proving to be very popular with our residents and is used on a regular basis. The council continues to look at the surfaces of the other courts and ways that improvements can be made and funding secured for this.

All sports booking enquiries should be made direct to the Ground Supervisor on 01245 473538 or grounds@greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk

FOOTBALL

The football pitches are used by several local teams. The pitches have been maintained in a good condition over the year and the council this financial year will undertake further maintenance to enhance the surface.

CRICKET CLUB

The Great Baddow Cricket Club leases the practice facility from the Council and this also allows them use of the wicket green for playing their games on Saturday and Sunday during the season. 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 now lease the whole area and if you wish to have a go the club are more than happy for you to contact them and arrange a visit. Contact details are Malcolm Field, Secretary, phone number 01245 473863

TENNIS

All courts, hard and grass, were available last Summer and the Council decided to allow the use of the hard courts free of charge at all times.

SUMMER PLAYScheme



This year the Parish Council's Summer Playscheme took place between 30th July and 3rd August 2018, and there were no worries about the weather!

The attendance was good, well over 100 children, particularly for the Reptile Day, where the children enjoyed holding and learning about the animals, and even watching them slither around the floor. There were lots of other fun activities such as parkour, and a large assault course inflatable where they were able to race against their friends, and even challenged some of the workers to a race.

At the end of the week we all enjoyed Mr Papalarny who brought along some magic tricks, games and a disco, and all the children were able to take home an animal balloon. There was also lots of room in the Recreation Ground for football, swing ball and cricket, as well as indoor craft activities for anyone who needed a rest!

Funding for the playscheme is provided by the Parish Council so that the children can attend free of charge. There is no need to pre-book – just register on the day. Details of how to register are on the Parish Council's website.

**The dates for the summer holiday 2019 are:
Monday 29th July 2019 to Friday 2nd August 2019
10.30am to 12:30pm and 2pm to 4pm**

LAWN CEMETERY

The cemetery has been maintained to its usual high standards during the year by the Council's contractors. There is a continuing review of the cemetery to ensure that these high standards are maintained at all times including the refurbishment of the benches.

The Council is looking into the refurbishment of the toilets and this year in May we will see the extension of the cemetery, new drainage and road being put in to allow the cemetery to continue to provide the tranquil and peaceful resting area for loved ones.

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

OLD BURIAL GROUND

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

ALLOTMENT SITES



The Council maintains two allotment sites known as “Vicarage Lane” and “Towerfield”.

Representatives from both sites are appointed:

Terry Hull represents the tenants at Towerfield
Mike Harris represents the tenants at Vicarage Lane.

Both are thanked for their input into the management of the sites.

There are still many plots vacant at the Towerfields site and those who are interested in becoming an allotment holder should contact the Grounds Supervisor, Mrs Michele Dixon, on 01245 473538.

The Best Cultivated Allotments competition was held again in 2018, judged by representatives from both the Horticultural Society and the Parish Council. Trophies and prizes were won by the following:

Towerfield

1 st	Mr A Hills
2 nd	Mr T Hull
3 rd	Mrs Y Bullock

Vicarage Lane

1 st	Mr E King
2 nd	Ms C Evans
3 rd	Mr S Verlinden

Half Plot at Vicarage Lane

Mr R Rayner

Cllr Mrs Sue Young presented the trophies to the winners at the December 2018 meeting of the Horticultural Society. This social evening is sponsored by the Council, to recognise the achievements of the winners.

PARISH HALL AND COMMITTEE ROOMS

The hiring and use of this complex has been maintained over the last year and 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 Mrs Tristram in the office. The bar is well run by the manager, Gavin Edwards, and the Designated Premises Supervisor is Mrs Clare Milligan.

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 and all areas apart from the main hall and committee room 1 were redecorated in January 2019.

During the year under report, 673 bookings have been taken for the Parish Hall. Thanks to the caretaker, Lynn Ion, and to the Parish Hall cleaner, Nicola Whipp for their hard work and for covering each other's roles when required.

BELL CENTRE

Over the last few years since the lease expired, the Parish Council undertook a feasibility study and survey for the Bell Centre. It was revealed that a complete rebuild was necessary, rather than undertaking repairs to continue use. The estimated cost of the rebuild was very high and so very reluctantly, the Parish Council had to withdraw from the lease. Therefore the keys were handed back to ECC on the 1st September 2018 and the council now no longer uses this facility.

YOUTH FACILITY

The Parish Council has been a partner since 2002 in a project designed to establish a dedicated youth facility in the village, working with the YMCA.

Following the giving up of the lease at the Bell Centre, the YMCA are now using the hall owned by the church in Bell Street. The Parish Council feels that this is an important service for the village and continues to support and help fund this group.

READING ROOM

The Parish Council's trustees for the Reading Room are Councillor Mrs Chris Shaw and Jim Hurrell.

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.

Essex Highways

This year has seen the start of safety issues with the Army and Navy flyover. The parish council has attended meetings with ECC and Essex Highways to discuss the problems and how these issues can be resolved as well as what can possibly be done to upgrade the road system.

This year also saw the council oppose Busgate and continues to do so.

Both these discussions are ongoing, and the council will continue to express the concerns of the residents of Great Baddow making sure that the Great Baddow voice is heard.

GRANTS

The following grants and payments were made by the Council under The Local Government Act 1972, section 137 for the year 2018/2019, in response to applications submitted by parish organisations.

Farleigh Hospice	£825.00
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1 st Great Baddow Guides	£150.00
Great Baddow WI	£100.00
Great Baddow Flower Club	£450.00
Meadgate Church Youth	£500.00
Helping Hands Essex	£500.00
TOTAL	£2,525.00

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 126 applications this year. The Council has worked hard to keep residents informed of any developments and represent their concerns to Chelmsford City Council along with opposing the new developments at Molrams Lane and Maldon Road proposed in the new Local Plan.