

LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting of 12th June was led by the new Chair, Peter Willington with new Deputy Chair, Nic Cooper. Apologies were received from Bob Shepherd and Peter Irvine. Grave worries were expressed about our village's Holybred Wood. There has been extensive damage to trees, new paths created damaging bluebell areas and considerable theft of wood. There will be a rapid, full investigation.

There was also a lot of concern about various hedge growth which is now hazardous to traffic and pedestrians. A list will be created of those roadside hedges causing the greatest problem so that the owners can be asked to take required action. A check will be made to see if any refusal to cooperate can result in Highways sending the owners the bill for compulsory cutting back of the offending growth.

Highways will also be asked to clear and/or clean certain road signs and to provide a replacement village sign by Mill House - still awaited three years later! Current large pipeline works in the village will need road closures - to be advertised. Correspondence was received about the bad accident in Church Road when a speeding vehicle hit a girl in a Duke of Edinburgh award walking group and did not stop. Hopefully villagers will be willing to join a new group to do a feasibility study for requesting speed limits on Hammonds Road. The police will be asked to prevent parking on pavements. Parking in Spring Close is causing the regular bus service problems as it is apparently blocking its turning circle, public buses not being allowed to reverse with passengers on board. The bench at the entrance to Heather Hills on North Hill is to be replaced - sited with a nice view!

It was agreed to pay for a designated marketing website for the Village Memorial Hall which should help its hiring by those doing Google searches. Sponsored glossy leaflets were also approved. Metal cladding has strengthened the Hall's storage doors and flip down bolts now hold them open, although rather stiff at present. A user checklist has also been compiled to assist hirers. Council will continue to monitor the proposed very extensive housing development in Maldon most closely as it will affect us all.
Details of items in this independent report can be obtained from the Council. GH.