

LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

At the meeting on 3rd December the Council was very pleased with the completion of the Village Memorial Hall roof project, both for its quality & being on time. In particular the atrium was looking “bright and smart”. Although a number of additional expenditures were necessary, such as replacement of roof timbers, the cost had remained manageable due to the use of reserve monies. This has avoided a loan. However, this has resulted in next year’s precept rising by 5% so that money can be raised to rebuild the necessary reserve. Council approved the proposed 2016-17 Budget and thanked the Clerk for his hard work on this and the roof project.

A proposal was made to repair the steps to the kitchen entrance as soon as possible as it was said that they are a potential hazard. However, it was pointed out that the lighting was good there, users had been warned and therefore the repair work should be left to the new financial year. Instead, redecoration of the atrium, bar & cloakroom will be done as soon as possible. The disabled parking bays will be improved to ensure permanence. The new insulation of the Hall has considerably improved heat retention so there will be an urgent review of the thermostat management to save money.

The Sports Pavilion will have an outside tap with a safety valve to prevent water wastage. There were two complaints about the bus service. One was about a missing bus and the other about the huge bus used regularly which has difficulty turning round and drives across the pavement. Regal will be asked to send a representative to the next passenger transport consultation meeting in the Spring.

In the development item there were objections to all applications for various reasons. A working party was set up to consider Chelmsford City Council’s local plan and report back to the next meeting. In this item it was noted that there would be a lot of local impact on the A414 and other roads due to the 100 extra houses between Danbury and Maldon, 700 extra houses in Sandon & 100 extra houses in Bicknacre. As a “small settlement” our village will not have houses imposed upon us, but Council has concerns for our area’s future. *Details of items in this independent report can be obtained from the Council. GH*