

## **LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL**

A number of Councillors were missing at the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February for very good reasons and there was also temporary qualified Clerk cover. However it was still a very efficient meeting.

Public questions were again concerned about plans for housing in our partially protected Holybread Lane. It was noted that the latest plan to develop the old mushroom farm was still being considered by City Planners. Also the Council agreed to object to the proposed residential conversion of the old stables on the corner of Rysley and Holybread Lane. There were no objections to the other planning applications. Contractors have not repaired Church Road which is now single track in two places due to dangerous potholes and water.

The Council would apologise to those who recently had poor heating in the Memorial Village Hall. A maximum amount was agreed for organising professional cleaning of the cooker and warming trolley and a new first aid box had been bought. A replacement furniture service was being organised too. Good progress is being made on the project to improve the Hall's roof, thanks to helpful professionals. It was agreed to extend the local rate of hiring the Hall for children's parties on Sunday afternoons to non-villagers to increase bookings. Council accepted the Essex Ambulance Service's superb offer of an automatic defibrillator to be wall mounted in the Hall. If necessary a helper can be supported in its use by NHS personnel on the phone.

The cost of laying a permanent "3 G" safe durable surface on Wickhay Green football pitch was just over £56,000, so sadly this idea has had to be abandoned. Chelmsford City Council Parks Department will be asked to advise on seed and turf laying, and the pitch area will also need to be cleared of most stones and levelled. The Village Litter Pick will be on 18<sup>th</sup> April. The vandalism of the Council's Board near Runsell Lane has been sorted. The Warden of Holybread Wood would be asked to investigate signs to stop cyclists who are mashing its footpaths. This is happening elsewhere too, causing walkers to widen our footpaths to avoid the churned mud. Pleasingly, there are several candidates for this Council's election!

*Details of items in this independent report can be obtained from the Council. GH.*