

**LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**

The Annual Assembly of the Parish Council was held in The Memorial Hall on Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The following members of the Council were present:

Chairman: Mr J Robinson

Mrs M Buckley

Mr K Ferguson

Mrs C Hodgson

Mr S Johnson

Mr L Jones

Mr R Shepherd

Mr T Thorogood

Mr R Upward - Parish Clerk

The Chairman welcomed guests - Mr James Grinter from Reeman Dansie, Councillor David Potter (Woodham Walter PC), Councillor Colin Warner (Woodham Walter PC), Borough Councillor Ian Wright, County Councillor Peter Martin and 39 members of the Parish.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jo Roberts, Mrs Margaret Saunders (Parish Clerk Danbury Parish Council), Rev. Michael Powell, Sir Alistair and Lady Patricia Stewart, Mrs Doreen Shepherd, Mr Glen and Mrs Suzy Opie, Mr John and Mrs Brenda Hoosen.

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

It was proposed by Councillor Ferguson and seconded by Mrs Harriet Middelboe that the published minutes be accepted as true record of the meeting. The proposal was carried.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

*Extracts from the Annual Report and Newsletter 2008*

Parish Council – Councillors Laurence Jones and Councillor Robert Shepherd were co-opted to the Parish Council in May to fill the vacancies created by the resignations in 2007.

Parish Correspondent – Sadly, Mr Ken Stebbings died last year after many years of providing excellent independent reports of Parish Council Meetings for the local magazines and newspapers. Mrs Gill Houghton was welcomed as the new Parish Correspondent who had taken up the role in February.

Parish Surgery – A six month trial of scheduled councillor surgeries was held during the year. This has been discontinued due to limited demand from the public but residents are encouraged to request private meetings with councillors when required.

Footpath Maps – A footpath map was created last year showing all the footpaths in the village. This was distributed to every house in the village together with the Parish Newsletter. Councillors Johnson and Hodgson and Mr John McCrindle were thanked for their efforts in producing this map.

Village Website – A new village website has been introduced to communicate amenities and activities in the village as well as Council business.

Memorial Hall – New windows and a replacement plate warmer have been purchased.

Wickhay Green Play Area – Nearly £3000 has been raised by several local groups during the past year and grants are being actively pursued to enable this project to commence.

Holybred Wood – The new warden, Mr Peter Hodgson, was welcomed. He is developing a 15 year plan for the woods which will be reviewed by the Council later this year.

Litter Pick-up – Councillor Jo Roberts and Mrs Margaret Martin are organising a litter pick-up day on April 18 as preparation for the Best Kept Village.

Greening Little Baddow – Councillor Jo Roberts is setting up a local committee to coordinate “greening” Little Baddow.

## **PRESENTATION OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS**

The Parish Accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 had been circulated. Councillor Ferguson declared that the Parish Council Precept had increased by 4%, which was less than the rate of inflation at the time of submission. The withdrawal of the Revenue Support Grant by Chelmsford Borough Council caused a significantly higher percentage to be indicated in the Council Tax Notices.

## **COMMUNITY AWARDS**

Mrs Mary Klaber and Mrs Suzy Opie had received awards from the Mayor at the Community Awards evening following nominations from the Parish Council. Mrs Klaber for her outstanding effort in organising the Village Fete in 2008 and Mrs Opie for her long term commitment to helping people in the Almshouses and numerous charity events in the village

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

Highways – Road repairs to Colam Lane and The Ridge are scheduled to be undertaken in 2009/10. Preparatory work has commenced in Colam Lane. A budget of £10 million has been established to repair potholes throughout the County. Following the Commission on the A12, an additional £120 million has been centrally funded for improvements to this major trunk road. Overall, Essex roads are in the top quartile in the country.

Park-and-ride - the Sandon site will be extended to take another 300 vehicles.

ECC rates – The County Council rate increase is 1.9% which is the lowest in the country.

## **PRESENTATION OF CHARITY REPORTS.**

The present position of the Almshouses was noted.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Memorial Hall – Mrs Mary Klaber requested that the Council consider replacing the kitchen with one suitable for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Holybred Wood – Dr Brian Luscombe requested that the village be consulted on the long term plan for Holybred Wood prior to it being adopted by the Council.

Park-and-ride – Mrs Wendy Godden requested that spaces be reserved for “shoppers” as the current facility is fully utilised by commuters and that premium pricing should be considered for those parking prior to 8:30am.

Litter Pick-up – Mr Peter Willington encouraged residents to adopt an area and be responsible for keeping this area litter free throughout the year.

## **VOTE OF THANKS**

The Chairman thanked the ladies of the WI for providing the refreshments.

The Reverend Michael Poulard thanked the Councillors for their services during the past year.

The meeting was closed at 8:20pm.

## **PRESENTATION**

The meeting recommenced at 8:40pm. Mr James Grinter, Senior Partner of Reeman Dansie described and valued antiques brought by residents.

The meeting closed at 9:35pm.