

Little Baddow Parish Council Meeting

7th September 2017

The September meeting of Little Baddow Parish Council was held on 7th September 2017. Seven Councillors were present.

Several members of the public were present.

The Chairman outlined the reasons for the planning application for a mobile phone antenna to be erected at the Sports Ground in Riffhams Lane.

For several years there have been complaints from village residents about the poor mobile phone reception in the village, sometimes described as "Third World" standard. This had always been a weak point in all emergency planning but had become more important as increasingly people were dependent on mobile phones.

A proposal from a communication company was first introduced at the May 2017 Parish Council Meeting. Other sites had been considered but the Sports Field was the more favourable option. A working party had been set up to liaise with the supplier. Following further discussions at the June & July meetings the Council decided at the August meeting to recommend the supplier to submit a formal planning application having agreed in principle.

Assurances, taken from the internet, that there was no threat to public health from mobile phone antenna were read out.

Members of the public were then invited to present their arguments against and this developed into a very heated discussion. The majority of objections came from parents of pupils at Elm Green School, some were also village residents. Objections were raised on the grounds of perceived possibility of brain damage that could be caused by exposure to radio waves.

Council Members were very split when it came to the vote but agreed to object on a majority vote.

7 more planning applications were considered and no objections were raised. Arrangements were agreed for the Neighbourhood Plan exhibition in October. More information was needed to complete the upgrade on the clubs/societies section on the website. Some training was also needed for those entering information on some sections of the website.

Plans were agreed for the 2018 Spring Newsletter.

There had been complaints that the rubbish bins at the Memorial Hall were sometimes very full with glass bottles and other items that should be recycled.

The Hall Committee will discuss this problem at their next meeting.

There is a lot of confusion about the changes to the bus services to Little Baddow. There is a new service being run by Arrow Taxis now numbered 99A but the timetable differs from the previous service. This is to be clarified.