

LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held by remote link on July 2nd, 2020. The Meeting commenced at 7:30pm. In attendance: -

Cllr Mr P Irvine – Chairman
Cllr Mrs B Teal
Cllr Mr K Bonsor
Cllr M Coates-Jones

Cllr Mr J Scott
Cllr D Ginn
Cllr K Sheldrake
Cllr Mr A Roche

Mr I Wardle – Clerk

Members of the Public – 2

68/20 Apologies for Absence

None

69/20 Declarations of Interest

None declared

70/20 To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held 16th March, 24th March and 4th June

Council agreed and approved the minutes for the three meetings

71/20 Public Question Time

- County Councillor John Spence joined the meeting to participate in the discussion on the suggestions for the discretionary grant he has for distribution – see minute item 78/20. He also gave an update on the actions being taken to resolve the issues at Paper Mill Lock including recent site visits by himself and colleagues on the County Council. He personally supported the need for better car parking facilities and was pleased to report that County Councillor D. Evans, following a recent visit and meetings, was to talk with the current car park owner about how to develop long term car parking solutions in the area.
- A resident participated in the meeting to provide background on the footpaths in Holybread Wood following some concerns raised about the use of fallen branches as edging for the paths and the construction of 'dens'. He visits the wood daily and feels the demarcation of the footpaths protects the woodland; he had surveyed 40 people walking the woods and the majority were reported to be happy with the laying of the branches by the footpaths. He also requested that the vandalised information board be replaced.
- The resident raised a further issue regarding the drains in Holybread Lane and the need for them to be cleared. Cllr John Spence requested details and said he would take the matter up on behalf of the resident.

72/20 Payment of Accounts

Council reviewed the accounts payable and approved the expenditure items for June 2020

73/20 Receive Reports on Anti-Social Behaviour

- **Heather Hills** – further reports of issues with cyclists and damage being done to the area. Council agreed to raise the matter again with the Essex Wildlife Trust who manage the area for the Council and a meeting is to be arranged with Mr A. Impey, the CEO, EWT and the Chairman of LBPC to discuss possible measures that can be taken including more signage.
- **Holybread Wood** – the issue of the demarcation of the footpaths and building of small structures, raised by the resident earlier were discussed by Council. Councillor opinions varied from the need to preserve the wood as an 'Ancient Woodland' meaning no man-made interventions to be seen, to encouraging the use of the wood by families with children as a playground. Council resolved to leave the footpaths and structures as they are and for the Clerk to confirm with insurers whether there are any additional liabilities arising as a result.

- **Hurrells Lane** – anti-social behaviour at the ford in Hurrells Lane has been raised by a resident and the Chairman provided a brief overview of the matter and that options including: yellow lines to restrict vehicle access; a Public Space Protection Order and a footpath order were being considered. County Cllr John Spence also contributed to the discussion advising the matter had been raised with Chelmsford Police and that the Rt Hon John Whittingdale MP had also become involved and had written to all local agencies requesting details of actions taken to resolve. A meeting with the Operations Manager, Public Health & Protection Services, Chelmsford City Council has been arranged for the Chairman and the Clerk for 17th July 2020.

74/20 Footpaths – Resident Complaints

A councillor had received a complaint that a footpath near a farm had been blocked and 'No Entrance' signs had been put up to stop walkers using the path. The handyman had walked the path in question and reported no issues or signs in place. The matter will be monitored.

75/20 Review and Approve Annual Grant for Little Baddow Cricket Club

Council resolved to provide the annual grant of £1,000 to the Little Baddow Cricket Club in recognition of the excellent work they undertake in maintaining and improving the Little Baddow Sports Field.

76/20 Establish a Working Group to oversee the re-opening of the Memorial Hall for hirers

Council discussed the recent changes to the 'Lockdown' rules and the possibility to re-open the Memorial Hall for use by clubs and organisations again. It was agreed to establish a Working Group to review all aspects and determine a process for re-opening. The Working Group will be led by Cllr Keith Bonsor and include Cllrs Teal, Roche and Irvine with Cllr Ginn providing additional support on the required risk assessment.

77/20 Re-opening of Village Play Areas

Council discussed the recent changes to the 'Lockdown' rules and the possibility to re-open the children's play areas at Wickhay and the Sports Field. Council resolved to re-open the play areas subject to cleaning with a sanitiser and the placing of additional signage advising users that they use the equipment at their own risk and of the need to wash their hands after use. The Clerk was asked to check with insurers about any additional liabilities arising from the re-opening.

78/20 ECC Discretionary Grant

Council discussed suggestions to propose to County Cllr John Spence for consideration within the discretionary grant that is available. The consensus from the meeting was to look for support for repairing and refurbishing the Sports Pavilion. Cllr John Spence participated in the discussion and advised that he would consider applications for between £2,000 and £3,000 and asked for a written request with estimates for the work. Cllrs Teal and Coates-Jones agreed to prepare and submit the request by 13th July 2020.

79/20 Future Agenda Items

Councillors raised the following matters for discussion at future council meetings:

- Funds for plant borders at the Memorial Hall – Cllr Teal
- Recognition awards for individuals to be presented at the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting
- Heather Hills – signs and EWT feedback on cyclist issue – Cllr Roche
- Security cameras at the Memorial Hall - costed proposal to be presented – Cllr Bonsor
- Amend Financial regulations to require 3 quotes only for amounts above £300 and agree list of approved suppliers – Cllr Roche

80/20 Date of Next Meeting

The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 11th August 2020** commencing at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 9.02pm.

**Chairman
August 11th, 2020**