

Little Baddow Parish Council

Annual Assembly 2021

The Annual Assembly of the Parish Council was held by remote link on Wednesday 28th April 2021 commencing at 7.30pm. The following members of the Council were present:

Current Chairman: Cllr P Irvine

Councillors: Mr. K Bonsor; Mrs. M Coates-Jones; Mr. S Scott; Mr. A Roche, Mr. K Sheldrake, and Ms. D Ginn

Chairman Councillor Irvine welcomed Essex County Councillor John Spence and Chelmsford City Councillor Ian Wright and thanked them both for their support over the past year.

Total attendance was approximately 20 people.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Parish Councillors approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 15th May 2019 as a true and fair record of the meeting.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman started his report by drawing residents attention to the recently distributed Village Newsletter that included many interesting articles on the village and the activities of the Council.

In particular the Chairman spoke to the following points that are of village interest and reflect issues raised by residents:

- **The Neighbourhood Plan** - A working draft of the plan and a Design Guide have been completed. These draft documents are currently with the Chelmsford City Council for comment and feedback before being professionally edited into a final document
- **Post Box on North Hill** - Council had chased Royal Mail for an early replacement of the vandalised box and was pleased to see the new box in place already
- **Dog fouling and more bins** - Council has approved the purchase of additional bins but Chelmsford City Council have advised that they do not have the resources to instal or empty and so the matter is on hold
- **Speeding** – a perennial issue in the village. Council would welcome more volunteers for the Speedwatch Group to assist in the gathering of evidence to support possible traffic calming measures
- **Parking** - especially at Paper Mill lock - Council worked hard with City, County and Maldon Councillors to get yellow lines painted and enforced on North Hill. In addition, Council is in regular contact with the owner of the car park to ensure it is opened as much as possible
- **Memorial Hall** - upgrades over the past year have included new heating controls, updated fire safety measures, replacement entry, fire and kitchen doors and roof repairs, an expense of over £15,000
- **Sports Pavilion** – following leaks a replacement roof and internal refurbishment is being completed at a cost of £12,000

- **Welcome Letter** – Council is open to suggestions on how best to deliver a welcome letter to new residents. Neighbours are best placed to provide Council with an early notification of new residents as Council only receives sporadic electoral list updates.
- **Cyclists & Mountain Bikers** - another ongoing issue, especially in Heather Hills. The Police have been on site to deter persistent offenders and Essex Wildlife Trust is looking to build more fences and hedges to protect the area
- **Litter Picking** - The Chairman specifically thanked a local youngster who undertook significant litter picking during winter as a credit for his Duke of Edinburgh award. Council is keen to maintain an annual litter pick tradition and volunteers are always welcome
- **History Centre** – the centre is a major asset for the village and management of the centre has expressed a need for new volunteers to help with the workload in maintaining the high standards of exhibits and research facilities.

The Chairman then advised the Assembly that there is the possibility for the village to purchase a piece of land adjoining Holybred Wood. Council have been offered the Mushroom Farm and so need to gauge resident interest and how to fund the acquisition. The funding would be through a Government loan (difficult in current economic situation) or, as in the past, obtain resident subscriptions. Interested parties are asked to contact the Clerk.

In closing the Chairman reiterated that as the Parish Council has limited powers residents were encouraged to report any issues to the appropriate authorities (typically Essex Highways, Essex Police and Chelmsford City Council via their websites) as this supplements action taken by the Council and helps the authorities in prioritising matters.

Reports (Inc Charities)

Written reports including the Financial overview were in the Spring Newsletter with copies having been distributed to all households in the village at the beginning of the month. The reports from Charities are available on the Little Baddow website when published each year.

Introduction to Parish Councillors

Chairman Cllr Peter Irvine introduced the Councillors and the Parish Clerk, thanking them for their work and support.

Public Question Time

As the assembly was held by remote link members of the public had been invited to send questions to the Clerk before the meeting and the matters were then addressed by the Chairman during his report. Specifically, residents had raised points covering the Village Welcome Letter, History Centre, and Parking at Paper Mill Lock.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Chairman

April 2022