

LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Annual Assembly of the Parish Council was held in The Memorial Hall on Wednesday 19th March 2008. The following members of the Council were present:

Chairman: Mr J Robinson
Mrs M Buckley Mr K Ferguson
Mrs C Hodgson Mr S Johnson
Mrs J Roberts Mr. T. J. Thorogood

In Attendance: Mr R Shepherd MBE Parish Clerk

The Chairman welcomed the guests.

Apologies for absence were received from: -

Mrs Margaret Saunders (Parish Clerk Danbury Parish Council). Councillors Ian Wright (CBC), Councillor C Kingsley (CBC), Mr. & Mrs Coxhead, Mr. & Mrs Klaber and Rev. Michael Powell.

Present.

Councillor David Potter (Woodham Walter PC), Councillor Mary Brown (Boreham Parish Council) Mrs Linda Rowe (Parish Clerk Boreham Parish Council) County Councillor P Martin, and 43 members of the Parish.

Presentation

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm with a presentation by Miss Leanne Sargeant Essex Wildlife Trust on 'Essex Wildlife Trust in and around Little Baddow'

Heather Hills – the Trust will explore signage to prevent the use of the footpaths by cyclists.

The meeting re - commenced at 8.15pm

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

These had been published and were accepted by the meeting.

Extracts from the Annual Report and Newsletter 2007

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Parish Council – at the elections held in May 2007 two new Councillors, Councillors Claire Hodgson and Jo Roberts joined the Council. The Chairman welcomed them to their first Parish Assembly.

Resignations - sadly Councillor Clayton and Rigler resigned from the Council.

Tennis Courts

The Planning Application for the Tennis Courts was refused by the Borough Council and the appeal was also unsuccessful.

Village Green – this application by Dr. Tubbs had created a lot of bad feeling in the village and meetings to discuss the matter had shown overwhelming objections to the proposal.

Vote of Thanks – The Chairman thanked the Parish Clerk Mr. R. Shepherd MBE for all the work that he put in to ensure the smooth running of the Council. He also thanked Mr. Sheriff, Mrs. Jarvis and Mrs Bourn for looking after the Memorial Hall, the Wickhay Green Play Area, and the garden tubs at the Memorial Hall respectively. A special vote of thanks went to the Women’s Institute for providing the refreshments.

Best Kept Village – Mrs Martin was thanked for taking on the organising of this event.

Parish Correspondent-the Chairman also thanked Mr Kenneth Stebbings for producing excellent articles for the various publications.

Parish Clerk – the Clerk was now retiring after some 10 years service and all those present wished him a long and successful retirement. Mr Roger Upward, who was also present, will take over the role on 1st April

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Amenities – new waste bins had been provided at Paper Mill Lock.

Wickhay Green Play Area – originally known as Spring Close Play Area the Council is hoping to completely renovate the area. A fund raising Committee has now been formed to raise the necessary money needed. A flyer was circulated at the meeting should parishioners wished to donate money towards the fund which currently stands at £15000.

Planning –the Borough Council generally was taking into account the Village Design Statement when considering planning applications.

Memorial Hall – new windows and new radiators had been fitted. It was pleasing to note that the Hall was being extensively used.

Public Rights of Way – a Little Baddow Footpath Map was currently in the process of being printed. It is hoped that the map will be available when a walk takes place along the Admiral McHardy Way on 5th May.

Neighbourhood Watch – very active and works closely with the police.

PRESENTATION OF CHARITY REPORTS.

Almshouses: The present position was noted.

PRESENTATION OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The Parish Accounts for the period 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007 had been circulated and were presented.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

The report had been published in the newsletter and there was little to add. The following matters had arisen:

Core Strategy – this had now been adopted and the Borough Council was one of a few Councils who had been successful in their new planning proposals

COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Park and Ride – the Sandon site will be extended to take another 400 vehicles. Provision will be made so that all the spaces are not taken up by Commuters. Further sites are in the planning stages.

Danbury Gap – it is hoped that direct access can be obtained from the library to the Co-Operative Store.

The Ridge – the resurfacing of the roadway will be carried out during this year.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Mr John Hooson, the Warden, Holybred Wood had received an award from the Mayor at the Community evening. He had been nominated by the Parish Council and was accompanied by Councillor Johnson.

Mr. Keith Atkinson had received an award for 'Achievement over Adversity' at the same Community evening. He had been nominated, and accompanied to the awards ceremony, by Borough Councillor Bob Shepherd MBE.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. *Village Fete* – Mr Peter Willington outlined to the meeting the arrangements in hand for the Village Fete on 6th July. He additionally thanked the Council for their kind donation of £500 towards the activities.
2. *Colam Lane* – concern was expressed at the state of the roadway at Colam Lane. Councillor Martin will take the matter up with the Highways Department.
3. *Tennis Courts* – a somewhat acrimonious discussion took place on the decision taken by the Parish Council at their last meeting not to proceed with an application for 'Permitted Development Rights'. The Chairman explained at length that the Council had always supported the application for the installation of tennis courts at the Sports Field, and had additionally supported the tennis club in their appeal. He felt that it was now time to move on and the Council had agreed. This had been a difficult decision but one which had to be taken.
4. *Closure of Tennis Club* – a decision had now been taken to close the Tennis Club that had operated in the Village for nearly 100 years in view of the lack of Courts within the Parish.
5. *Village Green* – enquiry was made as to the present position on this application. The Clerk explained to the meeting that the matter was now in the hands of the Essex County Council who may in due course convene a public enquiry. The Clerk had suggested, that if convened, that the meeting should be held in the Memorial Hall. The regulations prescribed that 'a significant number of the inhabitants' should support the application and in this case just over 1% of the population supported the proposal of Dr. Tubbs.
6. *Parking in Chelmsford* – there had been a shortfall in the income received from the use of the Car Parks in Chelmsford and this matter was being addressed. New monitoring equipment was being purchased in order that the Council could forecast the projected and best use of their facilities.

VOTE OF THANKS

The Parish Clerk thanked the Councillors for their services during the past year and all the efforts that they had put in to ensure that the Village had been well maintained.

This vote of thanks was endorsed by all those present. The meeting was closed at 9.10pm