

LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2010

The Annual Assembly of the Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday March 17, 2010 commencing at 7:30pm. The following members of the Council were present:-

Chairman: Mr J Robinson

Mrs M Buckley

Mr K Ferguson

Mrs C Hodgson

Mr L Jones

Mrs J Roberts

Mr R Shepherd

Mr T Thorogood

Mr R Upward – Parish Clerk

The Chairman welcomed guests – Mr Derek Stebbing, Planning Policy Manager, CBC, Borough Councillor Mr Ian Wright, Councillor Mr David Potter (Woodham Walter PC), Councillor Mr Colin Warner (Woodham Walter PC), the Reverend Chris Poulard, Reverend Clive Ashley and 21 members of the parish.

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Mr Peter Martin, Borough Councillor Mr Christopher Kingsley, Councillor Mr Simon Johnson and Mrs Linda Rowe (Parish Clerk Boreham Parish Council).

PRESENTATION

Mr Derek Stebbing made a presentation on the North Chelmsford Area Action Plan with particular emphasis on the planned expansion to the north-east area and its affect on the Boreham interchange.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm for refreshments and reconvened at 8:50pm.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Extracts from the 2010 Parish Newsletter

Parish Newsletter – A new format has been introduced this year to make the magazine more attractive and interesting to read. Residents were encouraged to send comments.

Speeding through the village – several complaints have been received following the resurfacing of The Ridge. Vehicle speeds have been monitored and this data will be reviewed at the April Council Meeting and actions agreed.

Wickhay Green Play Area – The fund raising team were thanked for their efforts during the past year. With the locally raised funds and the award of a major grant means that work on the new play area will commence this summer. An additional grant is being sought to complete the finances for this project. Mrs Margaret Jarvis was thanked for supervising the existing play area.

Kitchen Refurbishment – The Chairman thanked those who had made donations and the efforts of the fund raising team. He announced that two grants totaling £10,000 had been

received and that the fund now stood at nearly £13,700. Additional fund raising efforts have been arranged throughout the coming year.

Memorial Hall – Mrs Jackie Rymill was welcomed as the new caretaker for the Memorial Hall. It was noted that repairs to the main drain are needed which will cause traffic disruption on North Hill for a few days.

Community Awards – Mr John McCrindle and Mrs Elisabeth Bourn had received awards from Chelmsford Borough Council for their contributions to the village over many years.

The Chairman thanked the councillors for their support over the past year. Unfortunately Councillor Mr Simon Johnson has been ill for some considerable time and is now recuperating at Maldon Hospital. Councillor Mr Keith Ferguson is coordinating visits from friends and family.

PRESENTATION OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

Councillor Mr Keith Ferguson advised that the Newsletter now included a projection of current year accounts rather than the audited accounts for the previous financial year. He announced that Parish Precept had been increased by 3.9% as the increase in Council costs were increasing at a faster rate than CPI or RPI. Major expenditures in the past year included new electric shutters at the pavilion, new stairs in the Memorial Hall and the repairs to the drains. The Parish Website has been upgraded with the footpath map and also an availability calendar for the Memorial Hall.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Mr Bob Shepherd reported on the achievements of the Borough Council, particularly the free swimming for senior citizens, "fit for life" at Springfield, the re-opening of the museum and the extension of recycling to include plastics. The meeting was in favour of CBC pursuing city status for Chelmsford.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

On behalf of the County Councillor, Mrs Margaret Martin reported on the resurfacing of The Ridge and Colam Lane within the past year. Essex County Council has increased the rate demand by 1.9% which is one of the lowest in the country and is planning to achieve £300million savings by 2013.

CHARITY REPORT

Mrs Margaret Martin reported that a new heating system has been installed in the Almshouses during 2009 and that car parking facilities for residents are being sought. Mrs Felicity Coxhead and Mrs Suzy Opie were thanked for their wonderful efforts in supporting the residents of the Almshouses.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Holybred Wood – Mr Peter Willington requested information on the remaining capital from the purchase of the woods. Councillor Mr Keith Ferguson advised that around £8000 is held following the recent coppicing and that no significant expenditure was planned in the short term

Heather Hills – Mrs Margaret Martin asked if the Council continued to receive a grant from the Forestry Commission towards the cost of maintaining this area. The Parish Clerk advised that Essex Wildlife Trust claim this grant as they incur the maintenance costs.

Damaged road signs – Mrs Margaret Martin requested that the damaged road sign throughout the village could be repaired as soon as possible.

Outdoor exercise machines – Mr Peter Willington asked the Council to consider providing outdoor exercise machines at points around the village to create a “keep fit circuit”.

VOTE OF THANKS

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

The Reverend Chris Poulard thanked the councillors for their time and devotion over the past year in improving the village and the community.

The Meeting was closed at 9:30pm

Mr John Robinson
Chairman
March 16, 2011