

MINUTES OF THE EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD on 6th. November 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs. M. Beal (In the chair)
R. Brand
J. Conner
P. Gallagher
M. Heyland
D. Marriage
D. Pearson

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk: E.Bird

ALSO PRESENT: PC K. Litchfield
PC J. Tonkin
Two members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. R. Windmill

2. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr. R. Brand declared an interest in planning application ref. SB-TP-06-11/5
Cllr. D. Marriage declared an interest in the Sports & Social Club due to his position on the management committee.

3. PUBLIC FORUM:

Mr. S. Willis addressed the council and expressed the concern and frustration he and some of his neighbours in Medley Close felt regarding the District Council Planning committee's response to their objections to a planning application for land adjacent to Bower Lane. Mr. Willis displayed a map showing the land to be green belt. He has received no explanation from District Council why a cartographical error omitting the land from the green belt has not been corrected. The Parish Council asked for a copy of the map, and requested the clerk to write to the District Council in support of Mr. Willis and his neighbours.

Clerk

PC Josh Tonkin advised the council that PC Viv Dade (5602) has been appointed as Beat Manager.

There were 16 offences reported in October; 6 criminal damage; 1 theft of a motor vehicle; 2 thefts from motor vehicles; 1 violence against the person; 1 other burglary; 3 thefts; and 2 cases of fraud.

Contact details were given for anyone interested in setting up Homewatch groups, they should contact Brendan Murray on 01582 473440.

4. CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE & COMMENTS.

The following correspondence has been received:

A letter from Chris Kimpton requesting support for his expedition venture, to be placed in circulation folder for Councillors consideration.

A letter from Mr. Hines asking what progress has been made concerning the condition of the road in Upper School Lane, and the management of Eaton Bray cemetery. The Clerk to write advising that these matters are being dealt with.

Clerk

A letter from Mr. Woodhams of School Lane, asking the council to consider leasing a part of School Lane recreation ground adjoining his property, to him. The Clerk was asked to respond by advising Mr. Woodhams that the Parish Council cannot do this.

Clerk

Notice received from Beds. C.C. regarding a meeting to be held at Eaton Bray Lower School to discuss Children's centre services in South Beds. Cllr. Beal hopes to attend.

A letter from County Cllr. Brian Piggott in response to Cllr Beal's report of the state of the Chiltern View site, stating that the necessary work is "in hand". It was felt that the situation hasn't improved, the Clerk will write to Cllr. Piggott to that effect.

Clerk

The Chairman proposed that £75 be donated to The Royal British Legion in respect of Wreaths for Remembrance Sunday. Seconded by Cllr. Heyland, unanimous.

Clerk

Cllr. Beal

The Chairman gave a report on the Parish Council meets the School Council meeting, held on 19th October 2006. The meeting was well attended with 12 children present. The Chairman thanked Cllrs. Heyland, Conner, and Brand for their support. One of the issues raised concerned the rubbish in the School Lane Rec., and the G.P. committee was asked to explore the suggestion of an additional litter bin for this location.

G.P.

G.P.

A letter from Chris North and friends, asking the Council to consider facilities for skateboarding. G.P. committee was asked to follow this up.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETINGS:

Page 1133 item 3, second sentence should read, "The Chairman reminded the Council that the youth club was open for an additional evening each week, but funds from the local network fund are now exhausted, consequently the club is now open for one evening per week."

With this correction made, and proposed by Cllr. Marriage, seconded by Cllr Brand, it was unanimously agreed to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 2nd. October 2006 as a true and accurate record.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. DISTRICT & COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES:

None present.

7. CO-OPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR:

The Chairman explained that advice had been sought from Mr. Brian Dunleavy of South Beds. Legal & Democratic department, and Louise Ashmore as advisor to Parish Councils, to ascertain the correct procedure for voting to co-opt to fill a casual vacancy on the Council.

Six written applications had been received, the councillors were asked to consider these and cast one vote, for their preferred candidate. It was explained that an overall majority of those present and voting was required for a candidate to be successful.

After some discussion about the candidates, ballot papers were distributed and councillors cast their vote. The votes were counted and it was reported that one applicant had received seven votes, a unanimous decision.

The clerk was asked to write to the successful applicant, Mrs. Maria Crace of Church Farm advising her of the decision and inviting her to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Clerk

8. G.P. REPORT

The following correction was made to the minutes of the GP committee meeting held on 12th. October 2006:

Item: 30 MPH signs, altered to read: "The Parish Council has resolved to investigate the purchase a quantity of large 30 MPH signs to put on wheely bins in the village." The minutes were then signed by Cllr Marriage as a true record. Agreed by Cllr Beal Cllr Brand and Cllr Pearson.

Bridge over R. Ouzel at Mill End Close.

Bridge & fencing: JGS Metalwork have been contacted to quote for repairs to metal panels to bridge, however, Cllr Beal has reported the matter to Beds. Highways department as it was thought to be their responsibility. Temporary panels are now in place. JGS to be contacted to cancel the quotation.

Cllr Marriage

Quotes are coming in for fencing work.

Vegetation: Cllr. Brand has agreed to manage this, the P3 team may become involved.

Cllr. Brand

Vermin: SBDC pest control department to be contacted.

Clerk

Traffic Management.

Cllr Beal reported that an evaluation survey had been carried out by SBDC, this found there was no requirement for a school crossing patrol. This is to be investigated further.

Traffic speed monitoring has been completed at two locations, a third will follow. No feedback yet from Steve Welham.

Publicity: It has been agreed to keep the public involved by publishing a report to be displayed around the village and in Focus magazine.

Cllr Beal

Funding: A list of possible sources of funds has been produced, and has been circulated to the Council. One possible source is the County Partnership. Cllr Marriage presented a Traffic Calming Project Definition for the council's consideration and it was proposed by Cllr Beal, seconded by Cllr Conner that this definition should be adopted and an application for funding should be submitted without delay, agreed unanimously.

GP & Clerk

Cllr Marriage will investigate ways of working together with Edlesborough PC regarding traffic management.

Cllr Marriage

9. ALLOTMENTS:

Cllr Heyland explained the proposed changes to the allotment regulations. Cllr Brand proposed that the new regulations should be adopted, seconded by Cllr Marriage, agreed unanimously. The allotment holders are to be notified of the new regulations.

Clerk

It was recognised that the plots are not currently marked out. An effective way of doing this is to be found and implemented as soon as possible.

G.P.

10. CEMETERY:

Cllr Conner reported that 20 kg. of bulbs have now been planted, and that the site is now looking better.

The Clerk is to attend a burial ground management course, and will work with Cllr Conner to gather existing documentation with the intention of reviewing policy and regulations relating to the cemetery.

Cllr Conner &
Clerk

Cllr Conner expressed the need to establish a name for the cemetery as it is referred to by different titles. Cllr Beal proposed "Eaton Bray Cemetery", subject to no other title, seconded by Cllr Conner, unanimous. The Clerk will try to establish any "official" name previously given to the site.

Clerk

Cllr Conner proposed using separate areas of the new plot for interments, and the burial of cremated remains. This was seconded by Cllr Marriage and carried with one abstention, with the need for more research noted.

11. CONDITION OF ROADS:

Cllr Marriage commented that each Councillor had a responsibility to monitor an area of the village, including the condition of the roads. Any concerns should be reported through the Clerk to the relevant authority.

12. MONITORING CONTRACTORS:

Following on from the previous item, the Chairman stressed the need for Councillors to be aware of what was happening in the village, to note whether contractors were fulfilling their obligations and to report any shortcomings to the Clerk. Cllr Marriage produced a copy of the Ground Maintenance Checklist, and asked that it be copied to all Councillors.

Clerk

The Chairman reported that he had been informed that some contractors were being approached by Councillors and asked to do work in addition to that on their contracts. This must not happen as only the Clerk can request work to be carried out at public expense. The contractors have been advised of this and told that they may quite legitimately accept work from individuals but that this should be seen as a private arrangement, with charges made to the individual requesting the work.

13. PARISH COUNCIL WORKING AGREEMENT:

A copy of the present agreement dated November 2002, was given to the Clerk, who will review it for a report and proposals for the December meeting.

Clerk

14. COFFEE TAVERN ACCOUNTING:

The Clerk gave an account of the requirement to separate The Coffee Tavern and The Parish Council. This has been worked on for some time now, the accounts for both are recorded quite separately, and there is no confusion now between the two. The next step is to establish a separate bank account for the Coffee Tavern. It will be necessary to transfer funds relating to the Coffee Tavern from the PC current account to the new account. The present balance on the Coffee Tavern income & expenditure accounts is negative. In view of this and the work already being carried out on the Coffee Tavern and cottage, it was proposed to grant a loan to the Coffee Tavern of approximately £8,500, to be repaid from the beginning of the next financial year, i.e. April 2007.

Summaries of the income and expenditure for the Parish Council and for the Coffee Tavern will be copied to all councillors for discussion and resolution at the December meeting.

Clerk

15. CLERK:

It was agreed to add Cllr. P. Gallagher to the Lloyds bank account mandate and the necessary forms were completed.

16. OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM OCTOBER MEETING:

Repairs to Coffee Tavern chimney and flashing: The Clerk reported that Alan Barnard has now carried out his inspection and given a verbal report. It is necessary to repoint the chimney above the roofline and re-seat the chimney pots and seal them. Cllr Marriage proposed that the Clerk approve that the work proceed with a budget of £2,500. Cllr Pearson seconded, unanimous. Cllr Pearson will consult with Mr. Barnard on the detail of the work.

Cllr Pearson &
Clerk

17. NEXT AGENDA:

? Village Hall presentation.

18. PLANNING:

Cllr Brand left the room for the first item, for which he had declared an interest.

SB-TP-06 11/5: 19A Mill End Close. Erection of an amateur radio mast and aerials. No material objection. With the comment that the District Council considers the lowest maximum operating height.

SB-TP-06-1169: 4 The Chequers. Single storey conservatory to rear. No material objection to this application.

SB-TP-06-1110: Harling House, Harling Road. The Parish Council objects to this due to overdevelopment.

19. PAYMENT OF OCTOBER ACCOUNTS:

It was unanimously agreed to pay the October accounts as attached.

The meeting closed at 22.32.

Next meeting to be held at the Coffee Tavern on 4th December 2006 at 7.30pm.