

MINUTES OF THE EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD on 8th January 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs. M. Beal (In the chair)
J. Conner
M. Crace
M. Heyland
D. Marriage
D. Pearson
R. Windmill

Clerk: E. Bird

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. P. Smith; Mr. A. Trantrum; PCSO Tonkin;

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. S. Willis; 4 other members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. R. Brand ; Cllr. P. Gallagher

2. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. D. Marriage declared an interest in the Sports & Social Club due to his position on the management committee, and also an interest as a member of the St. George's Day Society.

Cllr Beal declared his membership of the Sports & Social Club.

3. PUBLIC FORUM:

Mr. S. Willis addressed the council with reference to the planning application for land adjacent to 23-25 Bower Lane, and supplied a copy of a letter received from the Campaign to Protect Rural England outlining objections to the application. It was agreed by the council that Cllr Heyland as chairperson of the Planning committee attends a meeting with SBDC planning dept. along with Mr. Willis.

Cllr Heyland

The Clerk was asked to request an extension before this application goes to the District Planning Committee.

Clerk

PC. P. Smith of Beds. Police road traffic dept. presented a summary of the background to traffic speed checks in the area, and suggested that a road safety team visit the area later in the year. This suggestion was welcomed by the council which asked PC Smith to record two complaints of speeding traffic, in 1.) The Orchards area of Totternhoe Road, and 2.) Bower Lane.

Cllr Heyland asked that the problems of speeding traffic are raised at the GP committee meeting when traffic calming measures are considered.

GP

PCSO Josh Tonkin gave the crime figures for December 2006; 1 burglary, 2 violence against the person, 6 criminal damage, 2 other burglaries, and 3 thefts.

4. CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE & COMMENTS.

The following correspondence has been received:

A complaint that the new school sign obstructs the pavement. Clerk to contact highways.

Clerk

A letter from Mr. S. Roberts seeking information about leasing land adjacent to Bower Lane. GP committee asked to follow up.

GP

A letter from Mrs. S. Hounslow, Head of Eaton Bray Lower School in response to the council's enquiries concerning the granting of permission to use the School Lane car park and constructing a new path & gateway from the park to serve the proposed new nursery. The use of the car park is not expected to differ from the current situation as some parents already choose to use it, and the school car park would accommodate the expected maximum of 24 additional vehicles. The new path and gateway are required as the new nursery would be fenced off from the school, and the current gate is a long way from the proposed nursery site. Parents for the nursery would be arriving after the start of the main school day and it would be disruptive to have them walking across the playground or through the school, and unacceptable on health & safety grounds. Clerk asked to acknowledge reply.

Clerk

The Chairman had received a request for the parish council's contribution towards the cost of producing a village booklet. The council asked to see a proof copy before authorising payment of funds.

Cllr Beal

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETINGS:

After correcting the spelling of Mr. Lee's name on page 1145, it was proposed by Cllr. Marriage, seconded by Cllr Conner, and unanimously agreed to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 4th. December 2006 as a true and accurate record.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. DISTRICT & COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES:

None present.

7. G.P. REPORT

The minutes of the GP Committee meeting held on 14th. 2006 were agreed by those present and then signed by Cllr Marriage as a true record.

Skateboarding.

Agreed to form a joint team of parents, children, and councillors (Cllr. Gallagher & Cllr. Brand). Information is being collected to be progressed at next GP meeting.

Voluntary and Community Action questionnaire

This has been completed. To be returned.

Clerk

Hedge at Mill End Close

This has been looked at and needs action. Clerk asked to contact contractor .

Waste bin for School Lane Rec.

Cllr Marriage presented advised the council that it had a choice between a plastic and a more expensive metal bin, and showed catalogue samples of each.

The council voted 4 votes to 3 in favour of the plastic version Clerk was requested to order a green plastic bin from Glasdon UK Ltd.

Traffic management.

Mr. B Jackson of Beds CC. had attended the December GP meeting and discussed his role in traffic management. The GP committee presented Mr. Jackson with the results of the recent traffic survey for the use of his engineering staff.

Mr Jackson supported the methodical approach of the Parish Council, and will attend the January '07 GP meeting when PC Smith will also be in attendance.

Flagpole.

Mr. A Trantrum representing the local St. George’s Day Society gave the history and reasons for approaching the council with the proposal to donate a flagpole to the parish council to be sited in the village, to fly the St. George flag.

Three Corners Green has been identified as a possible site.

Cllr Marriage abstained from the otherwise unanimous vote to agree in principle to the erection of a flagpole in the village.

Cllr Windmill suggested an announcement should be placed in “Focus”, this was agreed unanimously. Cllr Crace & the clerk will arrange this.

The GP committee will canvas residents in the area of Three Corners Green, and research the feasibility of this site.

Cllr Crace & Clerk

GP

Coffee Tavern Cottage

Cllr Heyland in the role of trustee, requested permission to obtain quotations for flooring in the cottage. It was unanimously agreed by the council as trustees of the Coffee Tavern Charity that quotations should be obtained from Angliss Carpets of Dunstable, and Janes of Edlesborough. Keys to be made available.

Cllr Heyland

8. CEMETERY

Cllr Conner & the clerk have now gathered the current information and regulations and will present a draft proposal for updated regulations at the February meeting, together with a proposed layout for the new cemetery area.

Cllr Conner & Clerk

9. ALLOTMENTS

Ongoing.

Clerk

10. EATON BRAY SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Cllr Marriage explained that the Sports & Social Club have been negotiating with their gas supplier concerning the unexpectedly large gas bill as reported to the PC at the Oct. ’06 meeting. These negotiations have gone as far as possible, but still leave the club with a large debt. The club is now applying to the parish council for a loan of £2000 to be repaid over three years to resolve this problem in a manageable way. Cllr Windmill asked for an assurance of the affordability of the loan, as the council has received no accounts from the S&SC, Cllr Marriage is to request a letter giving that assurance.

Cllr Marriage

Cllr Pearson proposed that with the condition that adequate assurances are received concerning the affordability, the parish council makes a loan of two thousand pounds to the Eaton Bray Social Club for the sole purpose of paying the debt to their gas supplier. The loan to be repaid over a period of thirty six months.

Proposal seconded by Cllr Windmill, agreed. Cllr Beal & Cllr Marriage abstained.

11. SCHOOL LANE RECYCLING BINS.

The Chairman has received complaints about the new recycling bins in School Lane. The noise of the metal bins is causing a nuisance to local residents and people using the park. It was also noted that the bins had not been properly anchored as promised. It was generally agreed by the council that the School Lane site is probably the most convenient position for the bins. The Chairman will continue his conversations with SBDC to try and resolve this problem.

Cllr Beal

12. BUDGET & PRECEPT for 2007-2008

The Finance committee had met to discuss the budget for 2007/08 and a draft proposal, to include an increase to the precept of 3%, was put to the council. After some discussion and revisions to the draft it was proposed by Cllr Beal, seconded by Cllr Marriage, and agreed unanimously that subject to final endorsement by the Finance committee at a meeting on 15th Jan'07, the budget should be accepted.

Finance committee

13. TERMS & CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR COFFEE TAVERN CLEANER:

The council agreed that it is necessary to review the conditions of employment for the coffee tavern cleaner and to make regular appraisals.

Cllr Marriage & Clerk

14. PROVISION OF COMPUTING EQUIPMENT FOR CLERK:

The Chairman explained that the Clerk could not continue to use his own computer for council business as it is too old and unreliable. The council had a choice: to purchase a computer for the clerk to use, or to grant an ongoing allowance to the clerk for the use of his personal computer.

Cllr Windmill proposed, seconded by Cllr Crace, that the council should buy a computer for the clerk's use. Agreed unanimously. The clerk was asked to arrange this with a budget of £750 excluding carriage and VAT.

Clerk

15. CLERK:

No matters.

16. OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM DECEMBER MEETING:

None

17. AGENDA for FEBRUARY MEETING:

Coffee Tavern bank account & constitution
Moor End

18. PLANNING:

The following applications were considered:

SB-TP 06-1373 New Cloud Farm Objection to development of Green Belt.

SB-TP 06-1419 126 High St. No objections

SB-TP 06-1473 Harling House No objections-Cllr. Windmill abstained.

SB-ARM /6-1418 Land adj.25 Bower Lane Objections to development of Green Belt, overdevelopment, proximity to existing properties, inadequate parking provision, restricted access for service and emergency vehicles.

19. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

It was unanimously agreed to pay the December '06 accounts.

Clerk

The meeting closed at 22.55.

Next meeting to be held at the Coffee Tavern on 5th. February 2007 at 7.30pm.