

MINUTES OF THE EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD on 4th June 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk: E.Bird

ALSO PRESENT: 13 Residents
PC Dady
County Councillor B. Piggott

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. P. Gallagher; Cllr. D. Pearson

2. Specific declarations of interest:

None.

3. Public forum:

A number of residents gave accounts of their problems with recent flooding and appealed for the support of the Parish Council. Cllr. Windmill offered to chair a group of residents to present a united voice to make a claim for urgent action to be taken by the authorities responsible. Cllr Brand will also join the group.

The clerk will write to Anglian Water, Beds CC Highways, and the Internal Drainage Board.

Residents of Mill End Close expressed their concern regarding vandalism in the Conservation Area, and gave a letter with details of the damage to the council. The Chairman gave an assurance that this matter was being dealt with following a recent visit to the site by himself and the clerk.

7. Ian Robinson:

Mr. Robinson, Traffic & Highways Consultant from Amey (Beds.CC Highways), addressed the meeting. He has been asked to look at the issue of heavy freight vehicles using roads through the area.

The use of local roads by training vehicles has been identified as a key issue although it is accepted that these are not the only cause of concern.

Mr. Robinson's suggestion is to approach the Driving Standards Agency and request that three new approved test routes be added to the two existing, to spread the load.

The Chairman proposed that the council agrees to support this course of action, 2nd Cllr.Crace. Unan.

Mr. Robinson was asked to enquire about the procedure for introducing a Traffic Regulation Order to restrict use of local roads by vehicle weight and/or length, and report back to the council via Cllr Marriage.

Cllr Windmill
Cllr Brand

Clerk

Cllr Beal &
Clerk

Cllr Marriage

4. Chairman's comments & correspondence:

a.) A letter from Mr. Woolridge of Mill End Close, expressing concern regarding the Conservation Area.

b.) A letter from Eaton Bray Lower School asking the council to consider contributing financially to the proposed nursery building.

The council felt unable to make a commitment at this time but would be prepared to consider this again, in more detail, at a later date.

c.) A card from Cllr Pearson expressing thanks for the flowers and good wishes.

d.) A letter from Eaton Bray Lions football club giving a report of the club's activities and thanks for continued support.

e.) Notice from SBDC of training courses.

f.) Notice from SBDC of Special Planning Committee Meeting. Cllr Heyland to attend.

g.) A letter from a local resident asking the council to take action regarding trees adjacent to her property. GP committee to investigate.

h.) The Chairman proposed that a letter be sent to the Village hall Committee giving support to their proposal to update kitchen and toilet facilities at the hall. The council agreed unan. to send the letter.

i.) The Chairman read a letter he had sent to PC Dady and PC Tonkin regarding recent events in the village.

Mr. Roberts, a local resident, addressed the council and gave an account of his and his neighbours' experiences earlier in the day when they suffered verbal and physical intimidation from a group of men, on their own property. The council expressed its concern. Cllr Marriage proposed that the Chairman writes to the Chief Constable to ask what was being done regarding these serious matters.

2nd. Cllr Heyland. Unan.

Clerk

Clerk

Cllr Heyland

GP

Clerk

Cllr Beal

8. District & County Representatives:

County Cllr. Piggott reported that the Growth Area proposals for Leighton Buzzard would not affect the areas around Eaton Bray.

With reference to traffic management in the village, there is currently £4k available in the Highways budget. Cllr Piggott requested that the council contacts

Mr. Wootton of Beds. CC to investigate the possibility of obtaining an undertaking regarding further funding from next year's budget.

Cllr Marriage

Police representative:

PC Dady joined the meeting and gave recent crime figures. In May there were: 2 Burglaries to dwellings, 4 Burglaries to other buildings, 2 Criminal damage – other, 1 Criminal damage – motor vehicle, 1 theft from person, 2 theft – other, 2 theft of motor vehicle, 1 Other misc offence.

PC Dady explained that the council cannot be given details of what actions are taken or clear up rates.

Speed gun training has now been given and officers will be operating in the area.

PC Dady asked that the council help raise awareness of the problem of bogus callers and what it means to be a "No cold calling" area. All suspicious callers should be reported.

The public are asked to be vigilant at all times and to report anything that causes concern, to help the police tackle anti-social and criminal behaviour.

5. Signing of Minutes:

It was agreed unanimously to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th May 007, with the following corrections:

Page 1166 Item 9. para 3. to read, "Cllr Brand commented on policing levels and the trend away from "Full PC's", without questioning funding levels."

Page 1168 Item 20. to read, "It was proposed and agreed that up to £100 could be spent to produce a re-usable banner for the stall.

Prop. Cllr Marriage: 2nd Cllr Crace: unan."

With the corrections noted, the Chairman signed the minutes.

6. Approval of minutes of Annual Parish Meeting:

The council voted unan. to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 8th May 2007.

9. GP Committee Report:

Cllr Crace distributed the minutes of the GP meeting held on 22nd May 2007.

With the approval of those councillors present at the GP meeting, Cllr Crace signed the minutes as an accurate record.

a.) Police Contact Details Flyer.

Suggestions for the design of the flyer were shown, it was agreed to add the advice to request a Unique Reference Number (URN) when reporting an incident.

Cllr Crace proposed spending £45 to print 1500 flyers, to be distributed with the Focus newsletter and on the council's carnival stall. 2nd. Cllr Marriage, Unan.

b.) Skateboarding.

An area thought suitable for the skateboarding facilities has been identified in the School Lane rec.

c.) Traffic calming. Dealt with elsewhere on agenda.

GP

10. Cemetery path:

The clerk presented three tenders for the work of laying a new cemetery path and resurfacing an existing path.

Cllr Crace proposed to accept the tender from G & J Groundwork of Dunstable, 2nd Cllr Conner, carried.

Cllr. Marriage abstained as G&J had recently done some work for him.

Clerk

11. Code of Conduct:

Cllr. Windmill proposed that the council adopts the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 No. 1159. Model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils and to include paragraph 12(2). 2nd Cllr Heyland. Unan.

12. Ground maintenance contract:

The existing contract was distributed for information. The GP Committee will consider and make proposals for a new contract.

GP

13. Carnival stall:

Arrangements are ongoing.

Cllr Crace

14. Finance Committee report – Annual accounts:

Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of the 14th May were distributed together with accounts for the year to 31st March 2007.

The Chairman explained the proposal to grant an interest free loan of £6000 to the Coffee Tavern Trust, to be repaid at a rate of £200 per month over 30 months commencing September 2007. 2nd Cllr Marriage. Unan.

The clerk advised the council that arrangements had been made for the internal auditor to examine the accounts in preparation for the completion of the Annual Return, which will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Clerk

15. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS):

Cllr Marriage explained that the type of equipment had been chosen and details of installation largely agreed. The received advice is that these systems could be operational in the autumn.

Cllr Marriage proposed that Eaton Bray Parish Council purchases two VAS systems, one to be sited on Bower Lane at Three Corners, and one to be sited on Totternhoe Road opposite the Methodist Chapel in the Orchards area, to be ordered subject to funding being available. 2nd Cllr Brand. Carried with two abstentions.

16. Clerk’s appraisal:

The Chairman read a statement explaining that although he would normally conduct the clerk’s appraisal he felt the council should be asked for its approval of this as he and the clerk are acquaintances outside the council. The Chairman proposed that he and Cllr Heyland together conduct the appraisal. Agreed unan.

Cllr Beal
Cllr Heyland
Clerk

17. Planning:

The following applications were considered:

SB-TP-07-0538 6 The Gables, Green Lane
Two storey rear extension & garage first floor extension.

SB-TP-07-0468 8 The Nurseries
Single storey side extension.

SB-TP-07-0527 Havington House, 2 Richmond Court.
Ground floor side extension & garden wall

SB-TP-07-0618 43 Church Lane
Ground floor extension

There were no objections to these applications.

Clerk

22. Payment of May 07 accounts:

It was agreed unan. to pay the May accounts.

Clerk

23. Next agenda:

Councillor’s “Read File”

Items for the July agenda to be requested no later than Mon 25th June 2007

The meeting closed at 22.25

Next meeting to be held at 7.30 at the Coffee Tavern on 2nd. July 2007.