

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

Minutes of the Eaton Bray Parish Council Held on 6th July 2009 at The Coffee Tavern

PRESENT	Cllr D. Marriage (<i>Chairman</i>) Cllr R. Brand Cllr J. Conner Cllr A. Garofall Cllr M. Hawkes	Cllr M. Heyland Cllr T. Moxey Cllr D. Pearson Cllr R. Windmill
IN ATTENDANCE	Heidi Head (Clerk)	
ALSO PRESENT	Inspector Steve Barrett Brendan Murray (<i>Homewatch</i>) PCSO Joanne Glenn Councillor Marion Mustoe Councillor Ken Janes General Public x12	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies of absence were received.

2. SPECIFIC DELARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

A resident enquired as to whether the Parish Council would look at introducing 'flower troughs etc' to the village to improve its look. The Parish Council asked if the resident write to the Parish Council with their suggestions for the Parish Council to look into further. Other residents in attendance at the meeting wished to express opinions to Inspector Barrett when appropriate during the meeting.

4. POLICE REPRESENTATIVE & NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Police Representative: Inspector Steve Barrett, from Leighton Buzzard Police, addressed the meeting. He wished to respond to residents' concerns to lack of police presence in the parish; believing that there are more police on the '*ground*' than as before, are in the process of improving this and in being more responsive. However wished to reiterate that the police, upon receiving a call, do have to prioritise the calls into those of high importance (which should have an immediate response) and other calls that will be responded to, albeit not as quickly.

Residents attending the meeting expressed their lack of confidence in the police and believe there is apathy by the police to the village; especially in situations where residents have contacted the police with an issue to have no response back. Many residents felt they did not feel safe in the village as they did not believe there to be enough police presence within the parish. Although it was noted that since the addition of PCSO Jo Glenn there have been more police presence than before, however it was felt not enough.

Inspector Barrett wished to reassure residents that the village is important to them. Inspector Barrett informed residents that Eaton Bray village has on average 10 (ten) incidents per month, calls are made to the police and are then graded as to importance. Each call to the police is taken on board and is dealt with accordingly.

The Parish Council expressed disappointment that, despite several calls/emails to contacts within the police, they have not heard from anyone with regards to the option of incorporating specials within the parish. Inspector Barrett said he would look into this further.

Police

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Neighbourhood Watch: Mr Brendan Murray, the neighbourhood watch officer for this area, addressed the meeting. He informed residents that this initiative is not run by the police but by the community – coming together to look at problems occurring within the area and try to resolve issues. Mr Murray reminded the Parish Council that all residents can join the Ringmaster service; a site which updates members on crimes within their area and by keeping everyone aware of what is happening in their area it helps people become more aware of issues and to keep an eye on where they live. This in turn supports the police as residents are more likely to contact the police if they then see anything suspicious.

It was recommended that a meeting be put together with neighbourhood watch and the police, to look at issues within the area and what residents would like to see. Inspector Barrett confirmed that the police are putting together a '*Community Safety Forum*' for parishes to which the issues of neighbourhood watch/policing could be discussed in more detail. It was agreed that the police would contact the Clerk within a month with regards to a date when the forum is being held.

Police

5. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) Letter from Bedfordshire Police regarding funding towards the proposed Skate & Ride; read to all councillors.
- 2) Letter from WREN regarding the funding application towards the proposed Skate & Ride; to bring forward to Item 12, sub-section (1).
- 3) Letter from Waste Recycling regarding the application for the proposed Skate & Ride; to bring forward to Item 12, sub-section (1).
- 4) Email from Gordon Gray regarding road closure training for St. Mary's Carnival. It was agreed to move to the read file and for each Councillor to put their comments/views on this request; once completed to be returned to Clerk for next PC Meeting. All agreed.
- 5) Letter from resident regarding the issue with the allotment/gate. Forwarded to Cllr Garofall to look into/action. All agreed.
- 6) Email from resident regarding Eaton Bray improvements. Parish Council agreed to look into this at a future date. Clerk to bring forward.
- 7) Email from resident regarding waste collections within the parish. Recommended for Clerk to write to Central Bedfordshire Council to voice concerns. All agreed.
- 8) Email from resident regarding issues with the Chiltern View Site; read to Councillors, agreed an area to bring forward to the forum with the police.
- 9) Email from Mike Jarrett regarding changes to the terms of the Cricket Club lease; this is to include the extension of the ground lease and the sale of alcohol on the premises (the sale of alcohol is for club members/guests only, as a private club after matches, being available from 7:00pm to 10:00pm on Saturday nights with occasional Fridays/Sundays). A resolution was put to the Parish Council to support these changes, the Cricket Club need to ensure that noise/disturbance be monitored/controlled and if it becomes a problem to surrounding properties then when the cricket club renewed its licence the Parish Council would not give their support. All agreed. Clerk to contact Cricket Club with decision.
- 10) Letter from Curryhills Construction regarding the proposed piping of a ditch at the Conservation area (Mill End Close), to be looked at further within Conservation Working Group. All agreed.
- 11) Email from Grant Maxwell regarding Sports & Social Club; to bring forward to Item 11, sub-section (8).
- 12) Email from Ringmaster with a questionnaire to be completed; forwarded to GP Working Group for completion. All agreed.
- 13) Conference details from War Memorials Trust, being held on 15th July 2009; forward to Cllr Conner/Cllr Pearson to look into. All agreed.
- 14) Meeting being held regarding the Review of Electoral Arrangements, being held on 20th July 2009; No Parish Councillors are able to attend.
- 15) Training available on the CPRE Planning Training Day, 28th September 2009; forward to Cllr Moxey to look into. All agreed.

All Councillors

Cllr Garofall

Clerk

Clerk

Conservation WG

General Purpose WG

Cllr Conner/
Cllr Pearson

Cllr Moxey

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- 16) Letter/Questionnaire from the Voluntary & Community Action Group; forward to GP Working Group for completion. All agreed. General Purpose WG
- 17) Literature/Questionnaire for the Proposed Core Strategy – Local Development Framework; placed in read file.
- 18) Letter from G.J. Sladdin (Insurance Brokers) regarding insurance cover for the Sports & Social Club; to bring forward to Item 11, sub-section (8).
- 19) Letter/Questionnaire from Bucks River Ouzel; forwarded to GP Working Group for completion. All agreed. General Purpose WG
- 20) Letter confirming appointment of new Priest to St. Mary's Parish Church; read to all Councillors.
- 21) Report outlining the Dunstable Fire Station official opening; placed in read file.

6. CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE REPRESENTATIVES

Newly appointed Councillors for Central Bedfordshire Council, Councillor Ken Janes and Marion Mustoe, introduced themselves to the meeting. They informed the meeting that they are aware of the continuing issues with regards to grass cutting within the parish. Cllr Mustoe confirmed that she would look into who our contact is for this work and come back to the Clerk with more details. Cllr Mustoe

The Parish Council wished to express thanks to the members of the litter clearing team who work within the parish. They have had comments from residents and they themselves have noticed how clean the village looked. The Parish Council asked that their thanks could be passed on to the members of those teams for all their hard work. Cllr Janes and Cllr Mustoe thanked the Parish Council and assured them that their thanks would be forwarded on.

7. SIGNING OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, 1ST JUNE 2009

Amendments were made to: page 1284, 'also present', *Councillor Marion Mustowe* was amended to *Councillor Marion Mustoe*; page 1284, 'Appointment of chairman...', *precide* amended to *preside*; Page 1284, Item 4, sub-section 5, *of* is amended to *on* and *back the* amended to *back to the*; Page 1285, *PSCS* amended to *PCSO*. It was then agreed to accept the minutes of the meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council held on 1st June 2009. The Chairman signed the minutes.

8. SIGNING OF MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES WORKING GROUP, 13TH JUNE 2009

It was agreed to accept the minutes of the General Purposes Working Group held on the 13th June 2009. The Chairman signed the minutes.

9. MATTERS ARISING (for information): PARISH COUNCIL & GENERAL PURPOSES MINUTES

(1) Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 1st June 2009

- Mill End Close: The Clerk confirmed she is still in the process of organising Central Bedfordshire to tidy the visitors/parking area.
- Allotment Gate: The Clerk confirmed that she has now received the signed amended tenancy agreement for plot holders 21a.
- Byelaws: The Clerk informed the Parish Council that she is currently getting advice as to whether the Parish Council need to re-advertise the Byelaws changes due to the length of time elapsed since the initial notice.
- Carnival Stall: The Clerk wished to thank all those that helped on the day with regards to the setting up, running and putting away of the carnival stall. With special thanks to Cllr Hawkes, Rachel North and Alan Garofall who attended the Parish Council stall for the whole day.

(2) General Purposes Working Group, 13th June 2009

- Boundary Fence – St. Mary's Church/Resident: The Parish Council has met with all parties concerned who have agreed to the 'close board' style fencing for the boundary. The residents are to be invited to attend the General Purposes Working Group on the 23rd July next at 7:30pm in The Coffee Tavern (*ground floor*) to discuss the plans in more detail. Once quotes/details have been agreed they will be brought to the Parish Council in September for final decision.

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10. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Parish Council were updated on planning issues actioned prior to the meeting. In addition the following decisions were made by the Parish Council:

Application Nos.	Development Site	Decision	If Refusal: Grounds for
CB/09/05147/AG	The Bungalow, Tring Road	No Objection	
CB/09/05221/TP	Land at Wellhead Bungalows, Bottom Drive, Springfield Road	No Objection	
CB/09/05189/TP	Land opposite Old Comp Farm, The Comp	Recommended Refusal <i>(For 1, Abstain 2, Against 6)</i>	(1) Poor access (2) Increased traffic (3) Change of use
CB/09/05217/TP	Green Side Farm, Green Lane	No Objection	
CB/09/05232/FULL	Eaton Bray Lower School	No Objection*	*The Parish Council have no objection to an additional classroom, however believe the proposed design is architecturally inappropriate for current building style <i>(residential/country setting)</i>

The Clerk to report Parish Council's decision to the relevant authority. All agreed.

Clerk

11. BUSINESS MATTERS

(1) Cemetery Work: The Parish Council was informed that the back of the Cemetery is now in the process of being tidied up and that this will be ongoing work. It was put to the council that Cllr Conner and the Clerk put together a long term work/maintenance plan for this area of the cemetery (and other sections) not currently covered within the current Ground Maintenance contract. All agreed.

Cllr Conner/
Clerk

(2) Allotment Update/Inspection: It was put to the council that a skip is needed to clear the rubbish on the allotments; a quote for £160 (+vat) has been received for this work. It was recommended the Clerk order the skip, with Cllr Garofall as the point of contact using the company which supplied the quote. All agreed. Cllr Garofall confirmed that the equipment needed for the additional water butts has been purchased and is in the process of organising the fitting of it. The Clerk asked Cllr Garofall to complete a full allotment inspection (each individual plot) and come back with his findings at the PC Meeting in September when letters for allotment renewal reminders are sent out. Agreed. It was also put to the Council that Cllr Garofall keeps a check on the resident's allotment gate, that it is being used correctly and the previous gate is out of action and not being used. With a report back to the Parish Council in September. All agreed.

Clerk /
Cllr Garofall

Cllr Garofall

(3) Leasing of Land – School Land Rec Ground: It was put to the council that the Clerk now write to all relevant parties to attend the General Purposes Working Group on 23rd July next from 8:00pm at The Coffee Tavern (ground floor) to discuss reasons/opinions/ideas and concerns; regarding the approach made to the Parish Council from a resident of the parish. All agreed.

Clerk

(4) St. Mary's Church – planting/landscaping: It was recommended that this area would need further discussion and therefore needs to be brought to a General Purposes Working Group to look into and then report back to the Parish Council. All agreed.

General Purpose WG

(5) Wallace Drive – building of wall: A concern was brought to the attention of the

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Parish Council of residents building a wall in the front garden of their property in an open plan area. It was suggested the Clerk write to Central Bedfordshire council with their concerns. All agreed.

Clerk

(6) Councillor Inspection Reports: The Clerk reminded Councillors that she needs all completed Inspection Reports for their patch of the parish prior to the PC Meeting in September. The Clerk will send out black forms to those that require one for completion and return.

All Councillors

(7) Replacement Springs – School Lane Rec Ground: The Clerk informed the council that both the 'springy animals' have now been fitted with new 'springs' and they are both back in place.

(8) Sports & Social Club: The Parish Council was informed that the Clerk is in the process of obtaining quotes for insurance cover on the Sports & Social Club. One quote has been received for £336 per annum and the Clerk is awaiting another quote from the current Parish Council insurers. The cover is to be for a Changing Room facility, third party, fire and theft. It was recommended that the Clerk keep to a maximum quote of £350 for this cover and once all quotes received to organise the insurance cover for this building as soon as possible. All agreed.

Clerk

The Parish Council is looking into the best use of this facility and until this has been agreed the building will be mothballed. The Parish Council will respond to an enquiry by a third party saying this and no further action will be taken at this stage.

12. REPORTS

(1) Conservation Area/P3: The newly cleared area cannot be cut by the Ground Maintenance Contractor until all stones/stumps are removed. It was suggested that Cllr Moxey/Cllr Brand look into this further to decide best course of action. All agreed. The Parish Council was informed that the River Ouzel authorities have completed their work. In addition Cllr Marriage confirmed that he is now looking through the application to Chalk Arc and once the final sections have been completed will forward to the Clerk to send off. All agreed.

Cllr Moxey/
Cllr Brand

Cllr Marriage

(2) Recreation Ground Improvements – Skate & Ride: The Parish Council were informed that funding from WREN has been approved. As the agreed third party funders for this project, the Parish Council will pay £3,410 (from their money for this project) to finalise the application. It was proposed, seconded, carried unanimously; all agreed. In addition, the Parish Council was asked to confirm which Parish Councillors would be the agreed signatories for this project: It was recommended that it be Cllr Hawkes, Cllr Windmill and Cllr Marriage, with the Parish Clerk as the point of contact. All agreed. The Parish Council also confirmed that they had received additional funding from Central Bedfordshire Council of £8,000 towards this project.

(3) Coffee Tavern: The Parish Council was informed that the new management company from the rental of the cottage has identified £2,722.97 that is owed to the Coffee Tavern Trust from the previous management company. It was proposed that the Coffee Tavern Trust take this matter to court to retrieve this outstanding money. All agreed. The Parish Council was informed that the Coffee Tavern Trust is now in the process of redecorating the upstairs floor, then hall of the Coffee Tavern.

13. PARISH CLERK

1) Damaged Village Gateway: The Clerk confirmed that she has finally heard from the Insurance Company who have accepted liability and will be forwarding a cheque to pay for the damage to the gateway. Once the cheque has been received, the Clerk will then contact the contractor to commence the work.

2) The Clerk reported to the Parish Council that a resident in Mill End Close has had a tree fall behind their property and has broken the fence. It was recommended that Cllr Brand look into this matter and to confirm his findings to the Clerk. All agreed.

Cllr Brand

3) The Clerk informed the Parish Council that she has heard from the representative of the owner to the land behind Mill End Close; the Clerk was informed that the land owner has 'passed away' and that she is responsible for the land. The Clerk told the

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council that she asked the representative for paperwork to confirm that they are now responsible for this land, once received it would be put on record that they are responsible for this land and all paperwork to go through them.

- 4) The Clerk reported that she has received a number of complaints from residents about cars being parked on the 'triangle' at Bower Lane/Moor End. The Parish Council recommended the clerk to check the council's Byelaws and then talk to PC Dady about the best way forward. All agreed.
- 5) A letter inviting members of the Parish Council to an informal meeting of local Parish Councils was handed to Cllr Marriage for his attention.

Clerk

14. TO RESOLVE TO PAY JUNE 2009 ACCOUNTS

It was unanimously agreed to pay the June 2009 accounts.

15. NEXT AGENDA

- Items for the Parish Council Meeting Agenda to be submitted to the Clerk **NO LATER THAN** Tuesday 25th August 2009.

All Councillors

The meeting closed at 10:50pm.

Next meeting/s to be held:

- (1) Monday 7th September 2009, 7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern
- (2) Monday 5th October 2009, 7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern