



# Bray Parish Council

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## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF BRAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2008 AT 7.30PM IN THE BRAYWOOD MEMORIAL HALL, FIFIELD ROAD, FIFIELD, BERKS

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<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cllr D Coppinger (Chairman)
Alexander Ward:	Cllr Mrs H Howard
Bray Village Ward:	Cllrs Mrs M Pierce, K Elvin
Dedworth Ward:	Cllr D Moores
Holyport Ward:	Cllrs C Langridge, L Walters
Oakley Green and Fifield:	Cllr G Annetts, J Foulger
	Mrs C Woodley – The Clerk
	1 member of the press
	4 prospective candidates for the Bray Village ward Councillor vacancy

### 151/2008. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs C Aspey, N Basterfield, C Graham, P Janikoun and A Monks. There were no declarations of interest.

### 152/2008. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Clerk gave a short review of the current Playground Inspection Report and confirmed that there were no entries in the Parish Council Accident Book.

### 153/2008. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the General Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008 were signed as a true record.

### NO PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

### 154/2008. PARISH FINANCE

#### Requests for Funding

Cllr Mrs H Howard presented a Request for Funding for £170.00 from Berkshire County Blind Society and gave a report on the current membership of the Society, 16 of which live within the Parish and 5 are regular attendees of their meetings.

Cllr Walters proposed APPROVAL of this request, seconded by Cllr Mrs Pierce. AGREED.

A notice has been received from Braywood Hall Committee informing the Parish Council of an increase in fees for the

use of the Hall for Parish Meetings proposing an increase from £20 to £25 per meeting. Noted and AGREED.

The IT Working Group have proposed expenditure of £73.98 + VAT to improve the operational speed of the Clerk's laptop by increasing RAM memory in from 512MB to 2GB. Cllr Annetts proposed ACCEPTANCE of this expenditure, seconded by Cllr Mrs Howard. AGREED.

A Payments List for Parish accounts was tabled as at Appendix A. Cllr Langridge proposed APPROVAL and payment of accounts as listed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Pierce. AGREED.

#### FINANCE WORKING GROUP REPORT

A report was given by Cllr Langridge as at Appendix B and covering work carried out by the Group to date.

A report on the Parish Finances Year to Date. Cllr Annetts commented that this Working group should aim to achieve a close working relationship with the new Deputy as RFO, when in place. Cllr Walters enquired whether the Group would address S.106 payments and was informed that the Projects Working Group covers this subject.

The Parish Council's Actual and Forecast for 2008/09 was presented as at Appendix C and members were informed that it is the Group's intention to present this to full Council on a rough quarterly basis.

## **155/2008. REPORTS FROM OTHER WORKING GROUPS**

### **STRATEGY WORKING GROUP**

The Group met on 14 July 2008 and notes of the meeting had been circulated to Councillors. The Group next meet on 26 August 2008.

### **PROJECTS WORKING GROUP**

#### **Seat at Reeves Road Bus Stop**

The Clerk is ordering the seat and arranging for the installation of the concrete base.

#### **Planting and Path Project at Aysgarth Park**

A project for upgrade of the path and surrounding area is being prepared with a view to obtaining S.106 funding for this work.

### **OPERATIONS WORKING GROUP**

The Group next meet on 18 August 2008 when discussion will include the Parish Council's Policy on Employee Pensions.

### **IT WORKING GROUP**

No meeting to report.

### **NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION WORKING GROUP**

The Summer edition has been delivered. The Working Group is due to meet later this month to discuss content for an Autumn Newsletter.

## **156/2008. GENERAL MATTERS**

### **The Councillor vacancy in Bray village ward**

An advertisement for this vacancy has been posted and the deadline to apply to RBWM for an election expires on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008. The Parish Council is then able to co-opt into this vacancy. So far, a number of candidates have applied to the Clerk for consideration for co-option and they have been invited to attend a Parish meeting prior to interview. The Interview Panel will include Cllrs Walters, Graham, Mrs Pierce, Basterfield, Janikoun and the Clerk who have yet to set a date to conduct the interviews.

### **The Post of Deputy Clerk**

A significant number of applications have been received in response to the advertisement for the new Deputy Clerk post. Cllrs Basterfield, Coppinger, Graham, Mrs Howard and the Clerk are currently compiling a shortlist for first interviews which should take place during the next two weeks.

### **Youth Events during Summer 2008**

The Youth Days in Bray village and Fifield village were not entirely successful owing to both low turnouts and lack of equipment and staff. The Parish Tour is attending Holyport all this week. It was proposed that the Operations Working Group review these events and liaise with the Borough to improve matters for next year.

### **S.106 – Parish Projects**

A Parish "Wish List" was reviewed by the Projects Working Group and put forward to the Borough as follows:

Purchase of open space in Fifield for recreation

Provision of teenage facilities in various locations in the Parish excluding Holyport.

Upgrading of existing play and reaction facilities.

Provision of Multi Use Games Facility.

Adoption of Stewart Close, Fifield.

Creation of new footways along Old Mill Lane, Bray, Fifield Road, Field and along Oakley Green Road from Dedworth Road to the A308.

Extending public right of way FP40 from its junction with FP2 to gain access to play area on the land to the rear of the Whichford Housing Development.

### Bray Parish Cemetery – Chapel Roof

The Clerk wrote to the Parish Council's Insurers to argue with their decision not to settle a claim. The Insurers responded by agreeing to settle a claim but wish to see two tenders for the replacement lead work, prior to settlement.

### Bray Parish Cemetery – Hedge cutting

Weirbank has carried out a very acceptable summer cut of the hedge. They have also confirmed that they are willing to do the autumn cut at the same price and have also been asked to quote to cut back the Gallifords Hedge at the same time.

A recent rat infestation along the boundary hedge has been dealt with by a local pest control company.

### Bray Parish Cemetery – request for a new seat

A new Cremation Area has been established by the Laurel hedge at the back of the Cemetery and the Clerk has been approached by a Mr Brangwin who has recently buried his wife's ashes here, with a request to install a memorial seat near the plot, at his own cost. The Clerk provided photos of the area in order to assist with a decision on this and it was AGREED that this was acceptable provided the seat was fixed securely into the ground.

## **157/2008. BRAY**

### Britain in Bloom

Judging of the competition took place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and the occasion gave an opportunity to present Mr Jack Hopkins with a bench from the allotment holders in Bray, in recognition of all his hard work and assistance given to allotment holders over the years. Jack surrendered his allotments in May owing to ill health. The results of the Competition will be released in September.

### Bray Allotments

The Parish Council's Mowing Contractors, P Taylor and Son have agreed to weld up the gate to the allotment site in an attempt to mend it.

### Bray Sports Club Lease

After signature of the new Lease by both parties, the Parish Council's solicitor sent the document to RBWM who have now raised a concern relating to the boundary of the land in question. Proper plans establishing the correct boundary have been traced and forwarded onto our solicitor and the Borough.

## **158/2008. HOLYPORT**

### Police Surgery at Holyport War Memorial Hall

Dates for forthcoming Police Surgeries are:

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2008

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008

### The service road at Holyport Green

A site meeting was held today with Tony Carr, RBWM with Cllr Coppinger, Cllr Walters and the Clerk in when the following was agreed upon:

In order to discourage motorists to use the service road as a cut through to the Ascot Road, Tony Carr agreed to look into narrowing the access point at the Memorial end of the service road, so that it did not appear such a main access route through to the Ascot Road and would also increase the area of the Green at this point.

Tony Carr would also investigate the appropriate and legal wording that could be painted on the road at this same access point (possibly No Through Road).

The Clerk will write to Holyport Lodge to request that they display No Parking signs either side of their entrance into the Lodge, in order to stop larger vehicles overtaking parked cars at this point and eroding edges of the Green itself.

### Holyport Green Reinstatement

Clancy Docwra is due to return to reinstate the area by the George Pub and along the green towards Bourne Bridge.

### Cllr Robinson's Memorial Tree, Aysgarth Park

The memorial tree has unfortunately failed and the Parish Council's Contractors have removed it together with the stone plaque. They have promised to provide a replacement tree in the Autumn at their own cost.

### **159/2008. OAKLEY GREEN, FIFIELD, ALEXANDER AND DEDWORTH**

#### The Community Plan for Fifield and Oakley Green

Cllr Annetts reported that there is to be a fifth Community Plan meeting this Thursday when a discussion will include another draft questionnaire and whether one per household is delivered or one for all over 11s to gauge the views of the youth of the area. Plan funds will be used to purchase some Village Appraisal software which is generally used nationwide and will assist in progressing the Plan.

#### Open Space next to Hare and Hounds site, Fifield Road

Requisitions in Title have been received from the developer's solicitor who have now agreed to carry out the Transfer of Title and have sent this document to their clients for signature. It will then be returned to the Parish's solicitor who will forward the same on to the Parish Council for signature and completion. Proceedings have been held up of late, owing to a claimed requirement in the Landscape Plan approved by the Borough that apparently requires the frontage of the site to be fenced. Neither solicitor can provide a copy of this Plan so the Clerk is seeking clarification of it from the Borough and pointing out that as an area intended for public enjoyment, the provision of a fence will not be appropriate. Cllr Mrs Howard proposed that authorisation be given to the Chairman to sign documentation rather than wait to present it to the next meeting, in order that the land can be cleared as soon as possible, seconded by Cllr Annetts. Agreed, provided members are informed when this happens.

#### The Memorial in Braywood Hall, Fifield

The Clerk is arranging a visit from the contractor to clean the Memorial.

#### Sightlines from Longlea Nursing Home, along the Fifield Road

After a recent bad accident involving a car pulling out from the Nursing Home, the Parish Council has pressed RBWM to consider sightlines at this junction taking into account traffic speed, the current pipeline work and temporary road signs installed.

#### Water Pipeline through Fifield

Cllr Annetts reported that a notice had appeared in the local press confirming road closure of Fifield Road between 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2008. This will cut down the impact to the community since it will fall within the school summer break and therefore not interfere with school bus routes. The work is on schedule to finish in November.

### **160/2008. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

No report.

### **161/2008. CORRESPONDENCE AND COUNCILLORS' FORUM**

Messrs Lovegroves – various correspondence relating to the Transfer Deed for land at the former Hare and Hounds site, Fifield, as previously reported.

St Michael's Church, Bray PCC – notification that the owner of The Dower House, bordering St Michaels Churchyard, intends to remove the sycamore tree growing in the churchyard and into the foundations of his property, at his own risk.

Copy correspondence between Dudley Good and Landmark Tree Surgery for follow up tree work at St Michael's Churchyard, Bray.

Bray Conservation Area Draft Appraisal – copy letter to RBWM Conservation Officer from Cllr Leo Walters commenting on the Draft and pressing for the inclusion of reference of two Green Belt open spaces, one to the rear of properties on the west of the High Street and the other on the approach to Bray Village along the Upper Bray Road (currently known as the Bray Triangle). The deadline is 28<sup>th</sup> August and Bray village ward Councillors will respond.

Braywood Memorial Hall Committee – notification of increase in fees for hire of Braywood Hall.

S106 Agreement from RBWM in respect of 33 Bray Court, Bray (08/01187) – public open space, play/landscape improvements noted for Aysgarth Park, Holyport (£6372), teenage facilities at Holyport (£580) and traffic safety improvements at Windsor Road/Holyport Road.

Eton Rowing Centre, Dorney – response to Clerk’s enquiries about arrangements for the 2012 Olympics at the Lake and associated traffic and travelling arrangements. These will commence after the current Beijing Olympics.

RBWM – notification of appointment of host for RBWM Link to Help and Care – website [www.helpandcare.org.uk](http://www.helpandcare.org.uk)

The Berks Communicator – copy for all Councillors. Notification of Training Day for New Councillors on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

Community Council for Berkshire – Annual Review for 2007/2008.

Cllr G Annetts

Reminded members that Fifield holds its Funday this Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August at the Fifield Inn.

Cllr J Foulger

Raised the subject of signage around the Borough, with particular reference to land development signs purportedly sponsored by the Borough. Cllr Walters reported that this had been raised in a Borough Council meeting and was due to be altered and it is a current Borough initiative to remove excessive road side signs. Comment over the state of individual signs was made.

Cllr Mrs H Howard

Reported that there is renewed activity at Silver Springs, Drift Road with evidence of further materials being brought onto the site and an increase in vehicle activity.

Also a report that a polo canter track has been created which cuts across Footpaths 45 and 46 leading from Coningsby Lane in Fifield to Holyport which could cause a hazard to walkers. It was agreed that the Clerk would write and point this out to the Borough.

### **162/2008. DATE OF NEXT MAIN COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2008 in the Braywood Memorial Hall, Fifield.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.