



# Bray Parish Council

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## **THE MINUTES OF *THE ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING* HELD AT 7.30PM ON THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2009 IN THE BRAY VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, BRAY, 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, C Graham, Mrs C Aspey, M Hornby, K Elvin
Dedworth Ward:	Cllr D Moores
Holyport Ward:	Cllrs P Janikoun, A Monks, L Walters, C Langridge
Oakley Green and Fifield:	Cllr G Annetts, J Foulger Mrs C Woodley – The Clerk Miss P King – The Deputy Clerk 18 attending members of the public

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr N Basterfield and Mr N England. An attendance list was signed as at Appendix A.

### **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN 2008**

The Minutes of the Annual Electors' Meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2008 were signed as a true record.

### **WELCOME AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST YEAR**

Cllr Coppinger welcomed all and gave his report as at Appendix B. He then asked the Clerk to present the Bray Parish Charity Accounts at Appendix C, as prepared by their Treasurer, Mr M Copcutt.

### **INTRODUCTION OF THE GUEST SPEAKER**

Cllr Coppinger then introduced Mr Tony Carr, the Traffic and Road Safety Manager from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, who gave a power point presentation on traffic and road safety responsibilities in the Borough, to include a breakdown of RBWM's Capital Programme which included Local Safety Schemes, Traffic Management, Safer Routes to School, Public Transport Improvements and Cycling Schemes. Mr Carr highlighted schemes in Bray as the speed limit review along the A308 Fifield to Water Oakley and west of the Fifield Road and also the gateway, signs and footway work outside the Braywood School, Oakley Green. He also talked about the Borough's speed management and education in road safety.

#### **Questions:**

Cllr L Walters - raised the question of the removal of road signs when too many exist. Mr Carr agreed that he was in support of this on rural roads and that it worked well in some locations but not others, so must be looked at carefully.

Cllr J Foulger – commented that Maidenhead is described as the town in the South East with more road “cushions” than any other and comment was made that traffic calming of this kind penalizes law abiding drivers due to suspension damage. Mr Carr commented that it reduces noise impact caused by larger vehicles which straddle the “cushions”.

Mr R Lord (Fifield resident) – queried whether there was likely to be a change in speed limits in the Fifield area. Due to be reviewed. Would Mr Carr's dept. be involved in commenting on traffic issues relating to a planning application? Yes, generally it would but uncertain how much weight these comments carry.

Mr K Hughes (Willows Park resident) – made the point that there are 197 caravan homes at The Willows, many of whom are pensioners, but the nearest bus stop is a quarter of a mile away in Ruddlesway. Could a bus stop be put nearer? There are several possible sites but it would be down to the bus company to decide whether to create a new stop. Mr Hughes thanked Mr Carr for the yellow road lines near the Willows which has reduced parking and made it easier for pedestrians to cross the road.

A Bray resident – highlighted the problems with parking by delivery vehicles visiting The Fat Duck and The Hinds Head in the village. The owner of The Fat Duck applied for a pedestrian crossing two years ago being worried about his staff crossing the road with trolleys. Cllr Annetts suggested staggering of delivery times to reduce the problem.

Cllr Coppinger thanked Mr Carr for an interesting presentation and for the information he had given.

### **PRESENTATION OF PARISH ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AWARDS FOR 2008/2009**

A power point presentation was given to show the properties that had been awarded this year's Parish Environmental Planning Awards:

Cllr Mrs Pierce gave a short presentation introducing the property Tanhome, Ferry Road, Bray which had been a rebuild to replace a dilapidated dwelling by the river. The Architects of this development were present to receive this award.

Cllr Mrs Aspey gave a short presentation of the new MDHA development along the Windsor Road named Hayes Close, a name proposed by the Parish Council in honour of their recently retired Chairman, Mr Geoff Hayes. Mr Hayes accepted the award on behalf of the Housing Association.

### **A FINANCE PRESENTATION**

Cllr C Graham gave a power point presentation on the state of the Parish Council's finance to include the income and expenditure in 2008-2009, the grants awarded by the Parish Council to local charities and organizations which totaled £3933. Projects completed in this financial year were also highlighted. The reported out turn at the end of the financial year showed a surplus of £14, 838. Cllr Graham gave details of the budget for the forthcoming year indicating that the Parish Council's precept requirement of £122, 250 remains the same as last year. Cllr Graham then ended the presentation with a report on the changed recently made in the financial management structure of the Parish Council.

(Details reported in the Parish Summer Newsletter 2009)

### **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR – COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS INVITED FROM RESIDENTS**

Mr R Ball a Fifield resident – how closely does the Parish Council work with RBWM? Is it consulted enough and does it have sufficient powers? Mr R Howard, a Fifield resident thanked the Parish Council and Borough Councillors for their work with the Borough but echoed Mr Ball's concerns commenting that contact with RBWM can be a mixed experience and the Parish Council is not necessarily a large enough voice to address shortcomings and must assert itself in order to be heard.

Cllr Coppinger – the Parish Council does not have enough power and the Borough is the superior body. Consultation under the new Chief Executive has improved in the last two or three years. The newly introduced Parish Charter should go a long way to help with this. DALC (District Association of Local Councils) has the ability to talk with a common voice on behalf of all the Parishes in the Borough but not all Parishes are involved with DALC. A Parish Conference is held every three months and requested speakers attend to cover Parish issues. Cllr Coppinger also reported that the Parish Council has a Strategy Working Group set up to improve relationships with RBWM and residents' comment will be taken into account.

Cllr Walters – reported that 80% of the Borough is Green Belt and the LDF (Local Development Framework) forces certain government targets for development but may not transpire. The sites listed are just sites preferred by developers and not definite potential development sites.

Cllr Coppinger thanked all in attendance for joining the Parish Council for the evening and cordially invited them to join him in a glass of wine and refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.