



# Bray Parish Council

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## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009 IN THE BRAYWOOD MEMORIAL HALL, FIFIELD ROAD, FIFIELD, BERKS

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<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cllr. H Howard (Chairman)
Bray Village Ward:	Cllr.s M Pierce, C Graham, C Aspey
Dedworth Ward:	Cllr D Moores
Holyport Ward:	Cllr.s N Basterfield, L Walters, M Hornby Cllr. C Langridge
Oakley Green and Fifield:	Cllr. G Annetts, J Foulger Mrs J Eden-Bagley – The Clerk

### **165/2009. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Coppinger, Cllr Janikoun, and Cllr Monks. The Register of Declaration of Interest was circulated to all Councillors. Cllr Graham declared an interest as a Bray Allotment holder in respect of the review of Parish Allotment Rents.

### **166/2009. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

A reminder to all in attendance of the fire safety regulations for the venue of the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that there were no new entries in the Parish Council Accident Book.

The Clerk gave a report on Holyport Pond and the Health & Safety issues as a result of the extremely low water level. As a result the Pond has been cordoned off until maintenance work can be carried out which will be discussed in more detail in the Finance section.

The Clerk read a summary report on the play areas based on August and September's inspection reports.

- Aysgarth Play Area was satisfactory with some priority 2 items.
- Springfield was satisfactory in terms of priority 1 issues. Priority 2 and 3 issues have been highlighted. The main issue is to improve the pathway leading to the play area which will be discussed later in the agenda.
- Jubilee was unsatisfactory due to two priority 1 issues. 1) Damage to a springee which has twisted out of base clamp. This is a priority 1 item and an order has been placed to rectify this ASAP at a cost of £45.00 2) Holes in the tennis fencing behind the play area and costs are being sought to make the necessary repairs.

### **167/2009. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

One amendment was made to the previous minutes and Cllr Hornby was marked as present. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009 were then signed as a true record.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Cllr Walters gave an update on Jesus Hospital and the positive meeting with Cllr Burbage. The RBWM may become trustees and Cllr Walters suggested that members of Bray Parish Council may also want to consider becoming trustees.

## **168/2009. PARISH FINANCE**

### **FINANCE WORKING GROUP**

Notes of the last meeting of the Finance Working Group had been circulated to the Councillors in advance of the meeting (refer to Appendix A)

#### Lloyds

Cllr Graham gave a report on the current account and the three alternatives to Lloyds were considered, Natwest, Abbey and Co-op. Due to the issues with changing bank, the FWG agreed that we would negotiate as hard as possible with Lloyds to get as favourable terms as possible, that target being no charges or equal offsetting interest with as small a commitment to maintaining money in the account.

#### Bond

The FWG requests approval from the Full Council to place £50,000 on a 1 year fixed term deposit returning greater than 3% interest. Final decision on the provider to be made by the FWG. The nominated account holders to be BPC Chairman, Vice Chairman and FWG Chairman. This was proposed by Cllr Walters and seconded by Cllr Basterfield. Unanimously agreed.

Agreement is sought for delegated approval of the following projects, details of the expenditure can be found on the individual Project Control Forms and Spending Decision Report (refer to Appendix B)

#### 4.1 Holyport Pond and Tree Works (refer to Appendix C)

Since the agenda was sent out the situation with Holyport Pond has significantly deteriorated and the lack of water has presented a major Health & Safety issue. Therefore, delegated approval is sought for the Clerk and Projects Working Group to incur expenditure up to £3,000 to carry out the Pond Work. This was proposed by Cllr Moores, seconded by Cllr Annetts and unanimously agreed.

#### 4.2 Springfield Park Play Area (refer to Appendix D)

Delegated approval sought for the Clerk and Projects Working Group to incur expenditure up to £1,500 to improve the pathway leading to the Play Area. This was proposed by Cllr Basterfield, seconded by Cllr Horny and unanimously agreed.

#### 4.3 Gays Lane Bridle Path (refer to Appendix E)

Delegated approval sought for the Clerk and Projects Working Group to contribute to the RBWM up to £2,000 for improvements to the surface of Gays Lane Bridle Path. This was proposed by Cllr Langridge, seconded by Cllr Walters and unanimously agreed.

#### 4.4 Parish Cemetery Allotments (refer to Appendix F)

Delegated approval sought for the Clerk and Projects Working Group to incur expenditure up to £1,200. However, it was agreed this work will not proceed until it has clearly been identified if the ground is consecrated, or not. This was proposed by Cllr Walters, seconded by Cllr Langridge and unanimously agreed.

#### 4.5 Jubilee Fields Fencing Work (refer to Appendix G)

Delegated approval sought for the Clerk to incur expenditure, £150.00 for the tree work and £1375 for the fencing. This was proposed by Cllr Basterfield, seconded by Cllr Pierce and unanimously agreed.

Review Parish Allotment Rents (refer to Appendix H)

Cllr Graham left the meeting at 7.55pm having declared a personal interest.

Cllr Howard presented the review of the Allotment Rents which was discussed at length and included an overview of RBWM pricing structure and that of other Allotment providers. The proposal is to charge allotment rental by the size of the plot at the rate of £3.50 per 25 square metres commencing 10<sup>th</sup> October 2010 which will be reviewed annually. This will bring the pricing structure in line with other Allotment providers. This was proposed by Cllr Walters, seconded by Cllr Hornby and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Graham rejoined the meeting at 8.10pm.

Applications under S1.37 for Grants (refer to Appendix I)

Report was reviewed in respect of one application which was tabled for consideration: Bray Village Hall (refer to Appendix ) requesting a grant of £1,000. After discussion, a grant of £900 was proposed which was agreed on a vote of 7 in favour and 2 against.

Approval to pay accounts on the Payments List (refer to Appendix J)

The Payments list as at Appendix G was circulated to Councillors for approval. The Clerk reported on 7 new items that have been added to the list after circulation.

Cllr. Langridge proposed approval of the list, seconded by Cllr. Walters and unanimously agreed.

**169/2009. REPORTS FROM OTHER WORKING GROUPS**

**STRATEGY WORKING GROUP**

No meeting to report.

**PROJECTS WORKING GROUP**

No report.

**OPERATIONS WORKING GROUP**

The Operations Working Group met on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

**IT WORKING GROUP**

Notes of the last meeting of the IT Working Group had been circulated to the Councillors in advance of the meeting (refer to Appendix K)

**170/2009. GENERAL MATTERS**

BT Phone Box Scheme (refer to Appendix L)

The Clerk gave an update on BT's proposal to adopt Kiosks thought out the Parish (refer to Appendix for details). The deadline for feedback to BT is 14<sup>th</sup> November. It was agreed this will be delegated to Ward Councillors to make a recommendation at the next main council meeting.

RBWM Annual Roads and Footway Programme 2010/2011

The Clerk reported the RBWM has invited the Parish Council to advise the Highways team of any streets that the council consider are in need of particular attention, for example Road Condition, Pot Holes, Footways, Drainage issues etc. The deadline for submitting suggestions is 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009. The proposal is to delegate this to ward councillor to provide feedback to the Clerk by 29<sup>th</sup> October.

**171/2009. BRAY**

Proposed Wild Area on Bray Village Green (refer to Appendix M)

Cllr Graham gave an overview of the proposed Wild Area on Bray Green. The proposal is to convert a corner of the Bray Village Green as a Wild Flower Meadow Area. This was proposed by Cllr Hornby and seconded by Cllr Aspey and unanimously agreed.

Community Payback Project

Cllr Graham gave a verbal report on the success of this project and the positive feedback from local residents.

**172/2009. HOLYPORT**

**173/2009.FIFIELD, OAKLEY GREEN, FIFIELD, ALEXANDER AND DEDWORTH**

Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Plan

Cllr Annetts reported the draft plan was now complete. The draft plan will be presented in an exhibition at Braywood Memorial Hall which will give residents and members of the public the opportunity to engage with the volunteers that have contributed to the plan.

**174/2009. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

**175/2009. CORRESPONDENCE AND COUNCILLORS' FORUM**

Correspondence (please refer to Appendix N)

The Clerk reported on correspondence

Cllr Graham - Bray Village Car Park

Cllr Graham reported the allotment holders would like to place a compost bin in Bray Village Car Park. Further investigation is underway with the allotment holders and Parish Contractor who is responsible for tidying the leaves.

Cllr Foulger – Meadow Way

Cllr Foulger asked for an update on the work required to the trees on either side of Meadow Way. Cllr Howard advised as the trees are on the highway the RBWM are responsible for the work to reduce the lower branches

Cllr Foulger – Manor Way

Cllr Foulger asked for an update on Manor Rd and the residents issue with the condition of the bank which is affecting the fencing. The Clerk advised its still not clear who owns the land. Cllr Annetts reported that feedback from a new resident in the road is the land is owned by all the residents. It was suggested the Clerk check the Land registry to establish the actual boundary lines of the property.

Cllr Pierce – Bray Green

Cllr Pierce reported that branches on the trees are very low and may require maintenance which the Clerk will look into.

**176/2009. DATE OF NEXT MAIN COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.