



Bray Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 25TH JANUARY 2010 IN THE BRAYWOOD MEMORIAL HALL, FIFIELD ROAD, FIFIELD, BERKS

PRESENT:	Cllr D Coppinger (Chairman)
Alexander Ward:	Cllr H Howard
Bray Village Ward:	Cllrs C Graham, M Pierce,
Holyport Ward:	Cllrs P Janikoun, C Langridge, A Monks
	Cllr N Basterfield (joined at 7.55pm)
Oakley Green & Fifield:	Cllrs G Annetts, J Foulger
	Mrs J Eden-Bagley – The Clerk
	1 Member of the Press

11/2010. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Aspey and Cllr Elvin. Cllr Pierce and Cllr Graham declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in respect of the application for funding received from the Bray Enhancement Committee. Cllr Langridge declared a Personal and Prejudicial interested in respect of the Rails property and agreement to grant access across Holyport Green.

12/2010. 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 read a Summary Report on the Play Areas which is taken from ARD's December's Inspection Report.

Aysgarth Park

The Play Area is satisfactory with no priority 1 items.

There are six ongoing priority 2 items which includes securing a litter bin to the ground and replacing a damaged timber slat on one of the benches. These issues will be dealt with by the Parish Maintenance Contractor.

Springfield

The Play Area is satisfactory with no priority 1 items.

Priority 2 and 3 items remain as previously reported and are being dealt with by the Parish Maintenance Contractor.

Jubilee Fields

The Play Area has one priority 1 item relating to algae on the hard surface under the Benches. There is also one priority 2 item to remove moss and algae from the wet pour surface under the slide. Both these issues will be dealt with by the Parish Maintenance Contractor.

13/2010. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

One amendment was made to the date on Part II which was changed to accurately reflect the 14th December 2009. The Minutes of the General Meeting held on the 14th December were then signed as a true record.

NO PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

14/2010. PARISH FINANCE

FINANCE WORKING GROUP

Parish Council's Precept Requirement for 2010

Cllr Graham referred to the paper entitled "Bray Parish Council – Budget 2010/11", which was presented at the last meeting. This showed the Total Expenditure for next year at £144,582 (as against £145,872 for the current year). Projected Total Income for FY2010/11 is £6,515, thus requiring us to fund £138,068. The FWG detailed analysis of the remaining spend in the current year forecasts an under spend of £8,068 which will go into Reserves and which we will use to partly fund FY2010/11. This leaves a Precept Request of £130,000. It should be noted this under spend does not include the Holyport Pond project. If this work does not happen in the current financial year, the allocated monies will be passed into Reserves, ring-fenced for that project and available to be spent in the next financial year.

The Precept Request of £130,000 is equivalent to £31.64 per band "D" property next year, an increase of 6.34% over last year (2009/10) when BPC did not increase the Precept Request over the year before (2008/9). Note that in Unparished areas band "D" properties paid £33.46 last year." Cllr Graham proposed the Parish Council approves a Precept of £130,000. A discussion took place and concerns were expressed at the increase. Cllr Coppinger reminded the members that the Budget had been formally agreed at the last meeting. After further debate, Cllr Graham's proposal was put forward. This was seconded by Cllr Langridge and AGREED on a vote of 6 in Favour, 1 Against and 2 Abstentions.

Application by Bray Enhancement Committee (refer to Appendix A)

As a member of the Bray Enhancement Committee, Cllr Graham read a short statement in support of the application for a grant of £2,110. Having declared both a Personal and Prejudicial interested Cllr Graham and Cllr Pierce left the meeting at 7.45pm to allow the members to consider the application.

Cllr Basterfield joined the meeting during the discussion at 7.55pm. Members generally agreed the work carried out by the BEC was of value to the community and the results were outstanding. However, concerns were raised at the amount requested and after further discussion amount of £1,500 was agreed. Cllr Foulger proposed approval of a grant of £1,500 which was seconded by Cllr Janikoun and AGREED on a vote of 6 in Favour and 2 Against.

Internal Audit for 2010

Mr Weir has carried out the Internal Auditor on behalf of the Parish Council for the last five years and quotes a charge for this Audit of £35 plus travel expenses (at 40p per mile). Approval is sought to appoint Mr G Weir to carry out the Parish Council's Internal Audit for the current financial year. Cllr Howard pointed out that in addition to looking at Finance the Audit also includes a review of procedures. Cllr Janikoun proposed approval of the appointment of Mr Wier. This was seconded by Cllr Langridge and unanimously AGREED. Cllr Howard recommended we should review this process at the end of the year to ensure that all options have been considered.

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

The Payments list had been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting. The Clerk reported on 1 new item added to the list and confirmed the revised total of £9,452.96. The Clerk was reminded to include information when an item has been approved and was asked that the Minute Number be used as a reference. Cllr Monks proposed approval of the list, which was seconded by Cllr Langridge and unanimously agreed.

15/2010. REPORTS FROM OTHER WORKING GROUPS

STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

Cllr Coppinger reported the Strategy Working Group is due to meet on 8th February 2010. Notes will be distributed to all members after the meeting.

PROJECTS WORKING GROUP

No report.

OPERATIONS WORKING GROUP (please refer to Appendix C)

Notes from the Operation Working Group meeting of 19th January 2010 had been circulated to all Councillors in advance of this meeting.

Parish Office Mail – Cost Reduction

Currently the Clerk distributes meeting documents for Main Council and Planning by e-mail (with the exception of Cllr Foulger, Cllr Pierce and Cllr Walters) and then sends a hard copy by post to all Councillors. In an effort to reduce the postage costs, the Operations Work Group propose that meeting documents are sent by email to Councillors, with the exception of Cllr Foulger, Cllr Pierce and Cllr Walters, who will continue to receive the material in the post. This action will save both time and reduce the postage costs by approximately £150 pa. It was agreed that the Clerk will ensure that 6 copies of the Meeting Packs will be available at each meeting for the Councillors to use if required. This proposal was unanimously AGREED.

Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk gave an update on the process to fill the Councillor vacancy for the Dedworth Ward. The Vacancy Notice was posted on all Parish Notice Boards on 19th January 2010. It has also been placed on the Notice Board in Tesco's and at the Riverside. The Notice advises that a Bye-Election to fill the vacancy will be held if, within 14 working days (excluding Saturdays and Sundays) from the date of this Notice the 19th January 2010, ten electors for the ward give notice in writing claiming such an election to The Returning Officer at the RBWM. The Returning Officer will advise the Clerk on 8th February if any notice has been given. If no such notice is given, the Parish Council will fill the vacancy by co-option. The closing date for persons wishing to be considered for co-option is no later than 19th February 2010.

IT WORKING GROUP

No report.

16/2010. GENERAL MATTERS

Parish Newsletter

Cllr Annetts reported that the Newsletter Working Group is due to meet on 28th January 2010 to discuss the production of the draft Newsletter which will be distributed to Councillors for approval.

17/2010. BRAY

Car theft in the Causeway Bray

Cllr Graham reported on the increase in car theft in the Causeway Car Park which is occurring on a weekly basis. Cllr Graham proposed the Clerk contact the RBWM to see if adding a Surveillance Camera would be an option.

18/2010. HOLYPORT

Holyport Pond

The Clerk reported that a meeting will be scheduled with all interested parties to review and agree the schedule of work. The Clerk also confirmed 2 Warning Signs have been put up advising the Public of the dangerous nature of the material on the bottom of the Pond and that maintenance work will be carried out later in the year.

The Rails – Draft Agreement of Access across Holyport Green

The Clerk reported that despite being chased on a daily basis the Parish Solicitor has still not sent the draft Agreement. The Clerk will continue to follow up and will advise members once it has been received.

19/2010. ALEXANDER, DEDWORTH AND OAKLEY GREEN & FIFIELD

No items to report.

20/2010. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Further Meeting Dates

Cllr Coppinger referred to a schedule of proposed Parish Meeting dates which were circulated to the Councillors during the meeting and asked the dates be reviewed and any feedback sent to the Clerk.

21/2010. CORRESPONDENCE AND COUNCILLORS' FORUM

Correspondence (please refer to Appendix D)

The Correspondence List was distributed to the Councillors and the Clerk gave a verbal update of items on the list.

RBWM Local Development Framework Maidenhead Town Centre Area Action Plan: Preferred Options Document

The Clerk reported the RBWM are inviting comments on the document and a that a paper copy was available for review. The Clerk confirmed this is also available on the RBWM website and agreed to circulate the details to Councillors.

Joint Strategic Planning Unit

The Clerk reported that the Berkshire Unitary Authorities Minerals and Waste Core Strategy had been withdrawn on 5th January 2010. As the Bray Parish Council had commented on this 18 months ago, Cllr Annetts asked the Clerk to follow up and clarify the rationale on this decision.

22/2010. DATE OF NEXT MAIN COUNCIL MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 19.30pm on 15th March 2010.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

**THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 25TH JANUARY 2010**

PART II

1. The Council unanimously delegated to the Operations working group the task of proposing a solution to the provision of legal services.
2. The Council unanimously approved the confirmation of Janice Eden-Bagley as Clerk to Bray Parish Council and the increase in pay that this entails.