

MINUTES OF THE EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 5th December at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr M Beal (In the chair)
D Marriage
R Bagni
L Tribbick
D Hayes
D Pearson

IN ATTENDANCE: E Hopwood (Clerk)

ALSO PRESENT: County Cllr B. Piggott PC N. Johnson Norman Lee
Watchman in Chief Graham Symonds & Amanda D'Silva
Theo Gray Graham Rosser Ben Morris. 2. Lords Mead
Residents 7. Booth Place Residents

APOLOGIES: M Heyland K Janes R Windmill

SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Page Number	Member declaring Interest	Present or Absent during discussion
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Nature of Interest : No new declarations

(1) CHAIRMANS COMMENTS:

Poppy Appeal Raised £1561.45

The Rotary Club Environmental Awards have invited applications for grants for Projects etc. The GP Committee will garner ideas and report findings. 31st March deadline.

GP Committee

SBDC- Are looking to reduce the number of agendas and minutes sent as hard copies so will no longer send these to PC.

The Clerk will now check the Website for relevant information and advise Cllrs and request hard copies as required, also to request an index of Village related items.

Clerk

The Mobile Library Service has changed its timetable from 28th November.
Clerk to display new times on notice boards and in Focus.

Clerk

Resident at Mill End Close is pleased that the trees have now been trimmed, but asks if the height could now be reduced. Tree Warden to look and advise.

Cllr Pearson

ROSPA Playground Inspection report has been received for the two areas in the village. No high risk problems reported. GP Committee to study findings and report on work needed.

GP Committee

Public meets the PC. Cllr Beal and Cllr Tribbick were available on 3rd December to serve tea coffee and mince pies. They had a very good response with 12 Parishioners

attending. The main areas of concern noted were as follows:

1. Speeding throughout the Village
2. Youth nuisance
3. Overhanging hedges & trees along the footpaths

There were also many constructive comments on making the Village more attractive
This will be an agenda item for the January P C meeting.

Letter received from Chris Banks from the PCC thanking the PC for clearing the War Memorial area ready for Remembrance Day.

Items placed in the circulation file:

- ? SBDC – Rural Management Committee Meeting Agenda 7th December 2005
- ? SBDC- Councils Ambitions Agenda 6th December 2005
- ? SBDC- Minutes Rural Management Committee Meeting 19 October 2005
- ? SBDC- Minutes Executive Meeting 8th November 2005
- ? Voluntary and Community Action Newsletter
- ? SBDC-Notice of Executive Committee Meeting
- ? SBDC-Notice of Standards Committee Meeting
- ? London Luton Airport Informative Letter
- ? London Luton Airport NATMAC Consultative Letter
- ? War memorial booklet see page 1075

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

7/11/05- Parish Council Meeting page 1074 change budget for 2007/8 to forecast for 2007/8
These were then signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

23 November G.P. Committee Meeting – These were signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

HIGHWAYS WATCHMAN IN CHIEF:

The agenda then changed to allow Graham Symonds Watchman in Chief Bedfordshire Highways to give his report.

The new contract started on 1st October 2005 for a 5.5 yr initial term extendable to 10.5yrs based on contract performance. Graham stated that the key to the new relationship was client accountability. They will be working together as a single integrated team, with rigorous performance monitoring. He is looking to attract financial support from central Government to increase the Highways budget. An annual Parish Survey will take place with area teams.

A 24 hour hotline will now be available for reporting problems.

Cllr Marriage asked that we be issued with a family tree to enable a solid link with the PC via the Clerk.

Cllr Hayes asked if there were penalties in place if targets were not met. Graham assured him that they could only survive on reputation. Graham was thanked for his attendance.

VILLAGE HALL:

The agenda was further changed to allow Norman Lee to give his report on the Village Hall
Norman reported that operational problems were fixable with the right focus.

A new roof would be needed at a cost of £17,000

The next phase would be to replace cloakrooms with up to date fittings

In two years they hoped to begin phase two.

Hall lettings, income was projected at £14,000 and was being advertised in Leighton Buzzard and the SBDC window in Dunstable to hopefully encourage new money into the system.

More focus must be put on customer's wishes.

It was hoped in the New Year to change the name to Eaton Bray Village Hall

The makeup of the Trustees is hopefully to include 2 Parish Councillors.

As rectification works are still not complete the cheques held by the PC for payment are not to be sent until this work is done. Clerk to advise KJM Todd.

Clerk

NEVILLE JOHNSON: COMMUNITY POLICE LIAISON OFFICER

Neville reported that ongoing trends in the Village were lots of criminal damage which seemed to tie in with nuisance youths, although there was no evidence to support this.

He has reported all instances to his senior officers asking for a Dispersal Order to be put in place which would give him a better way of dealing with these problems

The Cllrs asked if there was more we could do. He encouraged contacting the Police whenever problems occurred to enable them to attract extra funding for manpower and resources.

Thanks were given to Nev for his continuing support.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES:

County Councillor B Piggott reported that each month a list would be given on work to be done on the Highways graded 1-4. He will be take any serious comments to the CC and feels that the new system will be better.

50,000 new jobs are planned for Bedfordshire over the next 15years, with Nirah, Center Parcs and Luton Airport as the main employers giving a boost to the County economy.

Cllr Tribbick asked how the Council Tax banding system was set, Brian replied that the Government has set a 5% limit to any increase which if Councils go above they can then be capped.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Affordable Housing Cantilupe Close

Graham Rosser and Ben Morris attended the meeting to try to assess the need for more affordable housing within the Village, and presented a plan from one of their clients who owns the land. This was only a very basic tentative approach.

The Cllrs responded by saying they were surprised that SBDC had not informed them that a survey had been done 18 months ago and that other possible sites in the Village had been Put forward with no response from them.

It was suggested that they go back to SBDC for more information but the Cllrs felt that the principle was a good one, although the Planning Committee felt that there was not a need for more low cost housing at present.

BOOTH PLACE PLANNING APPLICATION:

7 Residents of Booth Place and 2 Residents from Lords Mead attended the meeting to voice their extreme concerns about a planning application for a detached cottage to the rear of the Salvation Army Building. Their concerns which will be forwarded to SBDC are as follows.

1. Loss of 8-9 parking spaces for Booth Place which will cause more obstruction to the High Street.
2. The Application has false statements.
3. Conservation Area
4. Loss of privacy all windows look on to Booth Place and Lords Mead
5. Building not in keeping with others.
6. The residents believe there is a dispute on land ownership
7. Some car parking spaces are owned by residents
8. Trees will be affected
9. A right of way would be affected

It was also noted that the Salvation Army Chapel would then no longer have access for a hearse when funerals took place.

Clerk

MATTERS ARISING:

Village website

Theo Gray has a new village website up and running on WWW.Eatonbray.com and will link with the Rural Communities website as requested. He is looking to get Parishioners more involved and would be available to chat through any new ideas. He is hoping to involve the Youth Club in designing a new website. Village Hall Lettings and Youth Club and other timetables are being discussed with a view to publication. Theo is to meet with Peter Rollings who runs the computers at the youth club

Police Restructuring

A poor response of only 3 replies had been received on Police Force Restructuring

Fence - School Lane

The School Lane Fence damaged by a car to be repaired by Handyperson this week.

Golf Games Complaint

Another complaint was received re- golf games being played at School Lane Recreation Ground with a ball closely missing a resident.
Clerk to place byelaw signs.

Clerk

War Memorial

A roll of honour booklet has now been received by the PC and will be placed on file.
Clerk to write to Chris Banks to thank him for this.

Clerk

Dismay had been felt in the Village as to how the new planting of the Memorial Bed had been done, it was felt that more seasonal plants should have been used to give year round colour. and the weed suppressant matting looks very unsightly. A planting plan promised had not been received. Clerk to request.

Clerk

Grounds Maintenance Contract

After a meeting with the Contractor Cllrs Beal & Marriage reported that he did not feel he had time to itemise all aspects of his work. Several areas were still not completed as per the contract.
Clerk to chase.

Councillors unanimously felt that they needed to monitor the contract more closely.
Clerk to draw up a monthly checklist.

Clerk

Fire Protection Services

New Extinguisher requested for Coffee Tavern as advised

School Council meets the PC

After discussion with the Head teacher Sue Hounslow, these meetings are to be scheduled for the Spring

SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB LEASE:

After a meeting on 29th November with the club several points have been put to the Solicitor for amendment to the draft lease. This was discussed at length.

A 3 yearly rent review was suggested.

Councillor Bagni proposed, Councillor Hayes seconded unanimous, that the lease with new amendments be accepted with the proviso that it is not the intention of the PC to raise rents every three years as they wish to keep the Social Club in the Village. Clerk to return paperwork. Clerk

Steven Harris did not attend to report on progress of dilapidations.

GP COMMITTEE:

Height Barrier – The Rye Car Park

The design is now finalised and the constructors requested to manufacture. Clerk

Coffee Tavern

Health and Safety forms completed.

THE COMP/NURSERIES KISSING GATE:

3 complaints have been received about the kissing gate. It was not thought to be pushchair friendly. The other route along the High Street was difficult because of the narrow pavement and overhanging trees on the footpath.

Clerk to check ownership Clerk

(2) CHAIRMANS COMMENTS:

The Chairman read a statement he had written on Councillors conduct reminding them that they were all there to make proper and democratic decisions on behalf of the people in the Village. He asked that his statement be taken on board.

NEXT AGENDA:

Public meets the PC

PLANNING:

No objection was raised on the following applications

- TP/05/1119 Erection of rear conservatory 9 Northall Road
- SB/TP/05/1153 Two storey side & single storey rear extension 4 Icknield Way Cottages
- SB/TP/1117 Side porch Free range farm Doolittle Lane

Objections were raised on the following applications :

Overdevelopment :

- SB/TP/05/1149 Single storey side extension to the Paddocks residential home Springfield Road.

- Loss of 8-9 parking spaces
- Application has false statements
- Conservation Area
- Loss of privacy
- Building not in keeping

Dispute on land ownership
Trees

TP/05/1176 Land adjacent to Salvation Army Chapel Booth Place

ACCOUNTS:

Cllr Beal proposed that the accounts for November be paid, seconded by Cllr. Tribbick unanimous.