

MINUTES OF THE EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD on 4th. September 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: M. Beal (In the chair)
J. Conner
M. Heyland
D. Marriage
R. Windmill

Clerk: E.Bird

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr. B. Piggott
PC Josh Tonkin

ALSO PRESENT: None

1. APOLOGIES: R. Brand. D.Pearson

2. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No specific declarations

3. PUBLIC FORUM:

No members of the public were present.

Josh Tonkin reported that there had been 22 offences over the last month:
12 vehicles damaged (19th./20th.Aug.)
5 thefts from motor vehicles
1 other theft
4 other burglaries

Josh reminded the council that there is currently a dispersal order on the village in an attempt to control groupings and antisocial behaviour. This gives the police the power to disperse groups seen to be causing a problem. The forthcoming alcohol ban was also mentioned, signs have recently been installed on the High Street.

Thanking Josh for his report the council asked him to feed back thanks to Kay Litchfield, Acting Sergeant for the Leighton Buzzard Rural Team, for her prompt response to various reports and queries.

4. CHAIRMANS CORRESPONDENCE & COMMENTS:

The following correspondence has been received:

- ? A letter of resignation from Cllr. Lorna Tribbick. The council requested the clerk to respond by writing to express sorrow at the news and that Lorna's valuable contribution would be missed.
- ? Voluntary Action questionnaire, requesting information about local voluntary resources. To be completed by GP committee.
- ? A letter from Mrs. Christie in response to the council's letter concerning the upkeep of allotments, stating that the general appearance of the site is poor. It was decided, after some discussion, to review the whole issue of the allotments, their upkeep, and the rules and conditions governing their use.

ACTION

Clerk

GP

GP

- ? A letter from Peter Bennett, Chairman of the St.Mary's Carnival Committee, thanking the Parish Council for it's continued support of the Village Carnival. Over £10,000 was raised this year.
- ? A letter from Lloyd Barnard informing the Council of his retirement and a thank you for the custom in the past.
- ? Notice of the SBDC "Future of the Green Belt Conference" to be held on 17th Oct.2006. M. Heyland, D. Marriage, M. Beal to attend.
- ? A response from a resident of Mill End Close to the letter sent out concerning the ransom strip. The Clerk was asked to acknowledge the letter and restate that the ransom strip is part of the development and is a walkway to provide access. Maintenance is the P.C.'s responsibility and the relevant contractor has been consulted. Clerk
- ? Information from the Society of Local Council Clerks outlining the benefits of the Clerk becoming a member. M.Heyland proposed that the council should support this and pay the membership fees of £95. Seconded by J.Conner. Unanimous. Clerk

The Chairman expressed his concern that the Circulation File had been running late, and that not all Councillors had been given time to read through it, he restated the instruction that each Councillor can hold the file for a maximum of 3 days. The Chairman also reported that he was responding to complaints that the P.C. meetings were ending too late, by advising that he would implement the "2 minute rule" if necessary.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETINGS:

After correction of item 7. Market Squire Dog Bin to read:

Informal feedback received by the G.P. Committee from Mr. Sparrow, that he has changed his mind with regard to sponsoring the bin as he now feels there is no longer a need for such a receptacle.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 3rd. July 2006 as true and accurate records. Minutes signed by the Chairman.

6. DISTRICT & COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES:

County Cllr. B Piggott joined the meeting and reported that there was to be no change to the three-tier education system across the county. Recent exam results had shown improvements across the board both in terms of actual results, and compared with other areas.

With regard to the Green Belt, a recent study concerning ways of increasing the employment base of the county has highlighted the problem of finding land suitable for the creation of new jobs and raised the possibility that small pockets of Green Belt land may need to be used in the future.

7. YOUTH CLUB REPORT:

Due for October meeting.

7a. SCHOOL GOVERNOR:

The Chairman requested that the Council confirm M.Heyland’s position as School Governor.

It was proposed by R. Windmill that M. Heyland continue in the rôle of Community School Governor of Eaton Bray Lower School. Seconded M. Beal. Unanimous.

8. SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB REPORT:

D. Marriage reported that work to the dilapidations was progressing, a full S&SC report to be made to the October meeting.

9. VILLAGE SIGNPOST:

It was reported that the Council has now received an offer of a Chilterns AONB grant of £250 towards this project.

The Clerk has written to the Village Carnival Committee seeking further support.

The G.P. Committee was asked to review possible sites for the signpost.

The Clerk was asked to research ownership of land adjacent to the High Street and Wallace Drive.

GP
Clerk

10. TRAFFIC CALMING:

M.Beal and D. Marriage have compiled a summary of items for consideration.

M. Beal reported that he has been in discussion with Steve Welham, who has suggested using “black boxes” to collect more traffic data to try and pinpoint the problems and gain statistical evidence to support a course of action. After much discussion it was proposed that the G.P. Committee should organise the P.C.’s response, and obtain quotes for the installation of black box(es). Proposed D. Marriage. Seconded M. Beal. Unanimous.

It was also agreed that R. Brand should be invited to join the G.P. Committee.

GP

11. BYELAWS:

It was agreed to advertise the proposed changes to the byelaws in “Focus” for the next three months, together with notices around the Village.

Proposed M. Heyland. Seconded D. Marriage. Unanimous.

Clerk

12. COFFEE TAVERN:

The Clerk reported the response to the invitations to tender for the redecoration, it was proposed to go ahead with the exterior work and that the Clerk should contact Ralph Timberlake. Proposed M. Beal. Seconded J. Conner. Unanimous.

Due to the costs being higher than expected it was decided to delay the interior work until next year.

R. Windmill proposed that the Clerk should contact Alan Barnard to go ahead with the inspection and repair of the chimney flashing. Seconded D. Marriage. Unanimous.

Clerk

Clerk

The Clerk has met with two local letting agents to discuss the prospect of letting the cottage. Both agents were of the opinion that it is un-lettable and have made suggestions of what work they feel is required.

The Clerk is to prepare detailed requirements with quotations for the October meeting.

Clerk

13. HANDYMAN TRAINING:

The handyman is to be sent on a Health & Safety course to enable him to use the strimmer when working for the Council. Proposed R. Windmill. Seconded M. Heyland. Unanimous.

Cllr Marriage

14. CEMETERY:

M. Beal reported that the ground maintenance had been brought up to date and that the new area had now been cleared.

Following some discussion about various concerns over the control and management of the cemetery, J. Conner suggested that the regulations and charges be reviewed and options for the future management to be presented to the October meeting to decide on future policy.

Cllr Conner & Clerk

M. Beal proposed that up to £50 be spent on planting bulbs in the cemetery. Seconded R. Windmill. Unanimous.

Cllr Conner Clerk

The Clerk is to arrange for the cemetery gate to be repainted.

15. OTHER MATTERS ARISING:

JGS to be contacted regarding order for Christmas tree brackets on the Coffee Tavern.

D. Marriage reported that following an inspection of the handyman’s toolkit, he would be obtaining new croppers and protective work gloves.

D. Marriage to check on progress of verdraining the football pitch.

Cllr Marriage

16. CLERK:

The Clerk requested to attend the next BATPC course for Parish Clerk Core Skills, at a cost of £150. Support for this was proposed by M. Beal. Seconded D. Marriage. Unanimous.

The Burial Ground Management Course had been cancelled, awaiting new dates. It was proposed that the Clerk’s hours should be increased from 12 to 15 per week to reflect more accurately the actual hours worked.

Proposed M. Beal. Seconded M. Heyland. Unanimous. Effective immediately.

17. SEPARATION OF COFFEE TAVERN & PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS:

It was established that completely separate account records would be maintained for both Parish Council & The Coffee Tavern. Although it was felt that it would be possible and preferable for efficient administration to hold one bank account, this would be subject to advice.

The Clerk to prepare a report for the November meeting.

Clerk

18. NEXT AGENDA:

- ? Meads
- ? Cemetery
- ? Link magazine
- ? Allotments
- ? Traffic calming
- ? Condition of roads
- ? Youth club report
- ? S&SC report
- ? Arrange School Council

19. PLANNING:

SB/OUT/06/0949 Renewal of Applic SB/OUT/03/1116 Land adjacent to 23-25 Bower Lane. This item brought to the attention of the P.C. by a resident, no notice received from SBDC. Clerk to write asking for an explanation and to reiterate the original objections.

Bridleway No.19. Notice of a new length of bridleway under Public Path Agreement.

SB/TP/05/1289 Advice that an appeal has been submitted following refusal of planning permission.

Notice given of SBDC "Town and Parish Councils Liaison Meeting – Planning Issues" to be held on 2nd Oct 2006. M.Heyland to attend.

Cllr Heyland

20. ACCOUNTS:

It was agreed unanimously to pay the accounts for August as attached.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

Next meeting to be held at the Coffee Tavern on 2nd Oct.2006 at 7.30pm.