

MINUTES OF THE EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD on 2nd. October 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs. M. Beal (In the chair)
R. Brand
D. Marriage
D. Pearson
R. Windmill

Clerk: E.Bird

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr. K. Janes
P.C. K. Litchfield
Mr. S. Harris

ALSO PRESENT: Three members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllrs. J.Conner
M. Heyland.
Chief Inspector M. Turner

2. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No specific declarations

3. PUBLIC FORUM:

Concern was expressed that there was nothing in the village for teenagers/young people to do. The chairman reminded the council that the youth club was now open for an additional evening each week.

Cllr. Brand suggested inviting the young people to give their views at an “open evening” with the Parish Council. It was reported that this has been tried before with no response. The Chairman asked that the young people be encouraged to come along to the youth club and discuss their thoughts and ideas.

4. P.C. Kay Litchfield explained the reorganisation of local policing, stressing that Eaton Bray should see little change as local patrols would still be from Leighton Buzzard. The Beat Manager positions were still vacant but should be filled by November.

The Chairman commented on Josh Tonkin’s positive involvement with the village and stated that he would always be welcome at council meetings. Cllr. Marriage said that it would help in future if the council were given more notice of changes to help maintain a good working relationship between council & police.

Crime figures for September: 1 theft from motor vehicle; 2 cases of violence against the person; 1 fraud; 10 cases of damage to motor vehicles.

Two people involved in antisocial behaviour had received home visits to warn of possible further action.

Cllr. Brand gave an account of antisocial behaviour in the Mill End Lane area

K. Litchfield asked anybody witnessing antisocial behaviour to inform the police as this is often the only way that they can build a picture of the problem, and stressed that this information can be given confidentially.

4a. New Councillor.

The Chairman introduced Mr. Phil Gallagher to the meeting as a prospective parish councillor.

Mr. Gallagher stated that his decision to stand had grown from links with the parish council on various projects, and he felt he could offer a contribution to the village through becoming involved as a councillor.

Following a unanimous vote in favour, Mr. Gallagher was co-opted onto the parish council and signed a "Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor", and a "Notification of Financial and Other Interests". The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Gallagher to the council.

5. CHAIRMANS CORRESPONDENCE & COMMENTS:

The following correspondence has been received:

- A letter regarding Wreaths for Remembrance Day. These have been ordered.
- A flyer for anti speeding posters. It was explained that it might be possible to combine an order for these with other parishes to bring the cost down. The general feeling was that it might be a good idea but more information is required.
- A letter from Chief Superintendent Frost explaining the internal reorganisation of Bedfordshire Police, with notice of a meeting at The White House, Leighton Buzzard, on 19th Oct 2006.
- A letter from David Mann, Treasurer of St. Mary's Carnival, with a cheque for £150 towards the village signpost.
- Notice of a meeting of The Bedfordshire Playing Fields Association.

Cllr. Beal

Clerk

The chairman spoke of the request by the Village Hall Management Committee that the Parish Council should have two representatives on the committee due to the considerable financial link between hall and PC. Cllr. Windmill offered to join Cllr. Marriage as the PC's representatives. The Clerk was asked to notify the Secretary of the hall committee.

Clerk

6. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETINGS:

It was unanimously agreed to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 4th September 2006 as a true and accurate record.

Minutes signed by the Chairman.

7. DISTRICT & COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES:

District Cllr. Ken Janes joined the meeting and reported that he had looked into the matter of a plot of land adjacent to Medley Close and Bower Lane, and confirmed that the plot was not shown as Green Belt on any maps. Cllr. Janes also reported that the new theatre development was progressing, and that the northern route was the preferred route for the Dunstable bypass.

Cllr. Marriage commented that refuse collection in Northall Rd. is now satisfactory, and Cllr. Beal thanked Cllr. Janes for a quick response to problems with the traveller site. Cllr. Pearson enquired about the proposal to collect household waste every two weeks. The decision has not yet been made.

8. YOUTH CLUB REPORT:

No report available, no response from the youth club leader. The clerk was asked to contact the leader.

Clerk

The Chairman as treasurer for the youth club presented the accounts, and announced that due to funding from other sources the youth club would not be asking for an increase to the financial support offered by the PC for 2007.

8. SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB REPORT:

Mr. Steve Harris joined the meeting to report that the work on dilapidations and maintenance were on schedule, phase 1 work on roofing, gutter, fire door, heating etc. was now complete and the CORGI inspection carried out. In addition work to the shower areas & flooring has been done following an environmental health inspection. (This work was originally part of phase 3 of the schedule).

The council was asked to consider changes to the schedule, to bring forward exterior work to enhance the appearance of the building and improve its letting potential. In particular to swap the ceiling work – item 7 of phase 2, with items 3 to 3(3) of phase 3.

Cllr. Windmill proposed to accept this alteration, Cllr Brand seconded. Carried.

Cllr. Marriage abstained due to his involvement with the S & SC.

Mr. Harris was thanked for his report.

Cllr. Marriage presented the S & SC accounts and stated that the finances of the club were reasonably well balanced, that payments to suppliers were up to date and that the financial records were being kept in a proper manner. There is an ongoing issue with the gas suppliers relating to metering problems but this is being dealt with. A full set of accounts will be presented in April 2007.

10. G.P. REPORT

The minutes of the GP committee meeting held on 15th.Sept. 2006 were signed as a true record. Agreed by Cllr Pearson & Cllr Beal.

Village signpost.

Cllr Marriage reported that the GP committee preferred site for the signpost was at Market Square, and made that recommendation to the meeting. After some discussion, councillors were asked to vote between Market Square and The High Street, adjacent to Wallace Drive as their preferred site.

2 votes in favour of Market Sq. 4 in favour of the High St.

Clerk asked to investigate feasibility of the High St. site.

Clerk

Allotments.

Cllr. Heyland is preparing a report for the November meeting.

Cllr Heyland

Traffic Management.

Cllr Marriage reported a good discussion; a small team including members of the public has been established to work through this issue.

Cllr Beal has had discussions with Steve Welham of the traffic management team, and was meeting with him to look at different sites to collect traffic data. Cllr. Beal made the proposal to site 3 “black boxes” at a cost of £160 each per week, for one week. Seconded by Cllr Marriage. Carried 5 for, 1 against.

Cllr Beal

Cllr Beal also reported that he had been in discussion with the highways dept. concerning the absence of “school” signs on the High St. around the junction with School Lane and the question of school crossing patrols. He would be following this up with the school.

The Clerk was asked to highlight the invitation to members of the public to attend the General Purposes Committee meetings, held at The Coffee Tavern at 7.30pm on the second Thursday each month.

Clerk

12. BYELAWS:

Notices have been posted and advertisements placed.

13. COFFEE TAVERN & COTTAGE:

The Clerk continues to progress the redecoration and repairs. Tenders for the internal redecoration of the cottage were considered. Cllr Marriage proposed that Ralph Timberlake be offered the contract. Seconded by Cllr. Gallagher. Unanimous.

Clerk

14. CEMETERY:

Ongoing. Cllr Conner to give a report at the November meeting.

15. OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING:

None

16. LINK MAGAZINE:

Cllr Marriage informed the meeting that Sally Siddons has prepared a new issue of this magazine, and proposed that the council support the publication with a donation of £100 towards costs. Seconded by Cllr Brand. Unanimous

Cllr Marriage

17. SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETS PARISH COUNCIL:

Cllr Beal has been in touch with the school and it has been decided to hold this event at The Coffee Tavern at 12.45 on 20th. October 2006.

Cllr Beal

18. CLERK:

The Clerk reported that the BATPC clerk’s course was due to commence on 4th.Oct, and also that a new date has been set for the Burial Ground management course, 9th. Nov.2006.

Clerk

Notice was given of the Beds. Assoc. of Town & Parish Councils A.G.M to be held at Cranfield on 25th. Oct 2006 at 7.30pm.

19. NEXT AGENDA:

- Condition of roads
- Christmas tree holders
- Parish council working agreement

20. PLANNING:

SB-TP-06-1042: Single storey rear extension, Harling House, Harling Rd.

Cllr Windmill declared an interest and abstained.

No objections to this application.

SB-TP-06-0987: Two-storey side extension with internal alterations.

No objections to this application.

Clerk

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Following some discussion the council asked the Clerk to write to SBDC conservation dept. regarding the hedge that has been removed at Poplar Farm Estate adjacent to the High Street, supporting their demand that the hedge be replanted in a manner suitable to the nature of the area.

Clerk

Cllr Brand brought to the attention of the council the dangerous state of the wire fencing on the bridge over the R. Ouzel in the conservation area.

GP

21. ACCOUNTS:

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

The meeting closed at 10.25pm.

Next meeting to be held at the Coffee Tavern on 6th. November2006 at 7.30pm.