

MINUTES OF THE EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD on 5th. March 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Clerk: E.Bird

IN ATTENDANCE: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. N. Lee; Mr. T. Gray

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr.M.Crace; Cllr.M.Heyland;

2. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. PUBLIC FORUM:

Mr. Lee asked the Parish Council to approach the necessary authority to consider suitable road markings for the junction in Wallace Drive.

Clerk

4. CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE & COMMENTS.

The following correspondence has been received:

1.) At a recent meeting with Mrs. Hounslow, Head Teacher of Eaton Bray Lower School, it transpired that to move further ahead with the nursery project, the school needs confirmation of the Parish Council's consent, in principle only at this stage, to the installation of a new gateway into the school premises from School Lane Rec. The Council agreed unanimously to give consent in principle, with the provision that the installation of the gate must not cause any restrictions to the future use of the park.

Clerk

2.) A letter from Mr. Trantum, on behalf of the St.George's day Society, seeking permission to erect a flagpole in the Coffee Tavern grounds.

GP

3.) An email from Beds. C.C. with an update on the Children's Centre Services project in the area.

4.) A letter from Mrs. Robinson of Mill End Close concerning:

a.) The problem of dog mess in the area.

b.) Parking in the area of Waterside and the main road.

c.) Trees along the ransom strip behind the houses.

The clerk was asked to respond, pointing out that the council can do very little about the problem of dogs messing the area apart from providing special bins as it does on the grass area near the bridge. Also suggesting that a neighbourhood watch team might help and advising SBDC of the problem.

The comments relating to parking will be passed to Edlesborough Parish Council as this area is in that Parish.

The Chairman and Clerk have recently inspected the work on the ransom strip and report that the area has been cleared as agreed.

Clerk

CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE & COMMENTS.(contd.)

5.) A letter from The Reverend Canon M.E. Grant of St. Mary the Virgin advising the Parish Council that the Parochial Church Council are unwilling to accede to the application to rent the plot of land in Bower Lane.

See item 7.1

6.) An email from Mr. Bagni on behalf of the Tennis Club, reporting that work on the courts is due to be finished in June and inviting the Parish Council to the official opening which is to be celebrated with a "Play Day" for all villagers to come and "have a go". Also requesting the PC to allow access to the park for a few vehicles on the day, and assuming responsibility for any damage to the grounds.

The clerk was asked to write thanking The Tennis Club for the invitation and giving the council's consent to access to the park on the day.

Clerk

7.) A flyer from Calor Gas inviting applications for "Village of the Year".

8.) An invitation for nominations for the Standards Committee.

Items 7. & 8. placed in the circulation folder for consideration at the next meeting.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETINGS:

It was unanimously agreed to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 5th. March 2007 as a true and accurate record.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

The G.P. committee minutes for the 15th March 2007 were agreed by the councillors who attended, and signed by the GP Chairman.

6. DISTRICT & COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

None

6a POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

PC Dady addressed the meeting and reported seven minor crimes for March:

1 x attempted theft of motor vehicle

2 x criminal damage

4 x thefts from motor vehicles.

The council was also informed that a meeting has been arranged between officers responsible for the area and the management team of Chiltern View site to create an opportunity for dialogue.

The Council told PC Dady that the main areas of concern in the village are:

1.) Strangers wandering around the village and onto private property.

2.) Speeding traffic.

3.) A youth has been seen hanging around the school, and damaging local trees.

4.) The apparent easy availability of drugs.

PC Dady gave contact details for the Safer Neighbourhood Team, it was suggested that an insert for Focus magazine could be produced to distribute this information so that residents know who to report anything suspicious to.

7. G.P. REPORT

1.) Bower Lane field

The GP committee have considered the application to rent this land, and advise the Council to reject the request. The Clerk will write to the applicant and St. Mary's PCC(Co-owners of the land).

Clerk

2.)Traffic calming.

All the advice received has been to pursue the installation of Vehicle Activated Signs as the most suitable traffic calming measure, with the preferred sites being in the vicinity of the Methodist Chapel and at the bottom end of Bower Lane.

The next step is a meeting to consider different designs of VAS.

8. CEMETERY REGULATIONS

Cllr Conner has amended the draft regulations according to previous comments and suggestions. Councillors were given copies of the new draft for comments at the next meeting.

9. CEMETERY PATH

The Clerk was given a set of specifications for the proposed path and asked to invite quotations for consideration at the next meeting.

Clerk

10. RURAL CONFERENCE REPORT.

Many local villages were represented and workshops were held to establish and highlight the main concerns of those present. South Beds. District Council will be analysing the feedback and reporting back through the Parish Clerks.

12. RISK ASSESSMENT.

The Clerk distributed a report on the current risk assessment system and invited Councillors to make comments and suggestions to establish an on-going system of assessment.

13. CLERK

The Clerk reported that a lot of his time has recently been used researching proposed projects, this has not left sufficient time for the mandatory aspects of his role. It was proposed that in the future more attention would be given to the detail of proposals, with a view to sharing some of the consequential workload.

A bank mandate adding the Clerk as a signatory on the current account at Lloyds bank was signed as agreed at the March meeting.

14. OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM FEBRUARY MEETING.

None

16. PLANNING.

The following applications were considered:

SB-TP-07-0261	8 Bower Close, Eaton Bray Revised app. for installation of side dormer window and removal of balcony.
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SB-TP-07-0238	New Clouds Farm, The Rye, Eaton Bray. Agricultural straw storage barn.
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The Council has no objections to either application.

Clerk

17. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

It was unanimously agreed to pay the March 2007 accounts.

18. NEXT AGENDA

Cemetery regulations

To consider quotes for new path at cemetery.

Youth club

The meeting closed at 21.30

Annual Parish meeting to be held at the Coffee Tavern on 8th. May 2007 at 7.30pm.

Next Parish Council meeting to be held at the Coffee Tavern on 9th. May 2007 at 7.30pm