

MINUTES OF THE EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD on 2nd July 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk: E.Bird

ALSO PRESENT: 5 Residents
County Councillor B. Piggott
District Councillor K. Janes

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. D. Pearson

2. Specific declarations of interest:

Cllr Marriage declared his role of secretary to the Sports & Social club

3. Public forum:

Mr. Webb referred to the letter he had sent to the PC concerning a planning application. To be dealt with later in the agenda.

Mr. Woolridge asked what action had been taken regarding his comments at the previous meeting about damaged fencing and lack of signs at the conservation area adjacent to Mill End Close. The chairman assured Mr. Woolridge that this was not being ignored and that he and the clerk are in the process of arranging the work to be done.

Cllr Beal &
Clerk

4. Chairman's comments & correspondence:

The following items have been received.

a.) Two letters from residents commenting on vandalism and litter in Bower Lane cemetery.

Clerk

b.) Information from SBDC advising the PC that it is unlikely that the metal bottle bank bins would be replaced as suitable alternatives were unavailable, but that roadside glass collections could commence in the autumn.

c.) A letter from Victim Support Bedfordshire asking for support. It was agreed to donate £50. Prop Cllr Heyland, 2nd. Cllr Marriage. Unan.

Clerk

d.) A copy of their letter to Mrs. Detre from Bedford Group of Drainage Boards in response to problems with flooding.

e.) A consultation document from Beds. CC Community Safety Team. Passed to GP committee for consideration and response.

GP

f.) A reply from the Bedfordshire Chief Constable in response to the Chairman's letter from the previous meeting. Copy to all councillors.

5. Signing of Minutes:

It was agreed unanimously to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4th. June 2007. The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. District & County Representatives:

District Cllr Janes addressed the meeting. He reported that the Ministry for Local Government is due to make a decision on Unitary Authority for Bedfordshire, on 25th July. There has been no indication of what the decision might be.

There has been a special planning meeting to discuss outline planning for the expansion areas of Leighton Buzzard, there will be a further meeting before decisions are reached.

County Cllr Piggott informed the PC that he is seeking suggestions for bids from voluntary organisations in Eaton Bray for small grants from the County Councillor Funding budget.

14. Report of Special Planning Meeting:

Cllr Heyland reported that the appeal started in April has been suspended awaiting further information and consultation and will recommence in July 2007. A report for all councillors was placed in the Read file.

Cllr Brand commented that Eaton Bray was shown as an area of possible expansion on a recently published map showing planning proposals. Cllr Janes responded that his understanding of the situation is that there is currently no plan to expand the village, only infill development. In addition to the proposed development areas South of Leighton Buzzard, the proposed by-pass link to the M1 would create a possible corridor for future development.

County Cllr Piggott commented that the recent publications are consultation documents, a number of different suggestions are being considered for the area and it is important that opinions are voiced.

7. Police representatives:

Non present.

8. GP Committee Report:

There was no GP committee meeting.

9. Carnival stall:

Arrangements are ongoing. Cllr Crace requested that information for publicity be sent in time for weekend.

Cllr Crace

9a. Flood committee report:

Cllr Windmill reported a productive meeting in which the history of the problems was discussed. It is hoped to organise a meeting with all the relevant agencies.

10. Annual statement of accounts:

The clerk read the Annual governance statements from the Annual Return. It was unanimously agreed to approve the return and that the Chairman sign on behalf of the council.

Clerk

11. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS):

Cllr Marriage reported that the PC has received confirmation of funding; he and the clerk will ensure the ordering procedure is followed.

Cllr Windmill queried what arrangements for insurance cover would be required.

The clerk will contact the council's insurers.

The Chairman expressed the council's thanks to Cllr Marriage and County Cllr Piggott for their work in support of this project.

Cllr Marriage &
Clerk

Clerk

12. Councillors Read file:

The Chairman reminded the council that the read file must be passed on promptly and that councillors should contact each other before handing it on.

16. Planning:

SB-TP-07-0672 Land at Dyers Road, Eaton Bray

Conversion of existing stables into residential dwelling including change of use.

The Chairman read two letters from residents expressing concern about this proposal. Cllr Heyland reported that she had already spoken with SBDC planning dept. and the PC's response was awaited.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to oppose the proposal on the following grounds:

- a.) The property is in the Green Belt.
- b.) To allow the proposal would set an unacceptable precedent.
- c.) The proposal would have an adverse effect on traffic and access at the junction of Dyer Road and Totternhoe Road would make an already hazardous junction more dangerous.
- d.) The Parish Council has taken account of the number of objections from local residents.
- e.) The proposal would have a negative effect on local amenities.
- f.) Dyers Road is a bridleway.

Clerk

SB-TP-07-0668 25 Church Lane, Eaton Bray

Single storey side extension and conservatory.

The Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

Clerk

13. Clerk's appraisal:

Cllr Heyland gave an account of the appraisal.

The council agreed to promote the clerk to the next point of the pay scale, i.e. SCP19.

Prop. Cllr Crace, 2nd Cllr Conner, unan.

Clerk

15. Other matters arising:

Cllr Crace had received a letter complaining of overhanging trees. The clerk will investigate.

Clerk

The clerk was asked to write to Sgt. Lichfield to enquire whether a "Police Forum" could be reinstated as liaison between the parish and police.

Clerk

17. Payment of June 07 accounts:

It was agreed unan. to pay the June accounts.

Clerk

18. Next agenda:

Items for the September agenda to be requested no later than Fri.24th.August 2007

The meeting closed at 22.10

Next meeting to be held at 7.30 at the Coffee Tavern on Mon.3rd September 2007.