

MINUTES OF THE EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD on 3rd September 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk: E.Bird

ALSO PRESENT: 9 Residents
County Councillor B. Piggott
District Councillor K. Janes

1. APOLOGIES: Cllrs. M.Crace (Illness)
P. Gallagher (Bereavement),
R.Windmill (Work commitments).

2. Specific declarations of interest:

Cllr Beal declared his involvement with the youth club.

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

3. Public forum:

The council was asked why the proposed flagpole has not been erected. It was explained that searches were being made with the utility companies to ensure no underground services would be disrupted. Cllr Marriage offered to check the present situation and try to make progress with this item.

Cllr Marriage

Residents of Mill End Close reported that there are problems with dead trees adjacent to the ransom strip to the rear of their properties, and that the hedge had been allowed to grow tall. The council was asked who is liable for any damage caused by falling trees.

In response, it was explained that the hedgerow and trees are on the adjoining property and thought to be the responsibility of the landowner. The council will check to find out whether the hedge is “shared”, if it is, the council can reduce the height of the trees.

GP

The chairman asked for any fallen trees or branches to be reported to the council so that arrangements can be made to clear them.

Following a report of trees causing problems adjacent to the church, Cllr Marriage explained that the council is awaiting a quote from the contractor.

Cllr Marriage

A comment was made about the Registered Keyholder scheme introduced by SBDC, and the high level of local opposition to the way it is being handled. The GP committee was asked to report on this.

GP

4. Chairman's comments & correspondence:

The following items have been received.

- a.) A letter of resignation from the clerk. The Chairman reported that a new clerk has been appointed. A handover of responsibility would take place over the next week.
- b.) Notice from SBDC of the date for the next liason meeting between SBDC and town & parish councillors, 7.00pm 11th Oct.2007 at the District Offices.
- c.) Notice from Beds.C.C. of an exhibition relating to the Core Strategy Consultation process.
- d.) Notice from The Chilterns Conservation Board of the Chilterns Commons Day to be held at Hughenden Manor on 15th September.
- e.) An invitation from Three Valleys Water to attend a Key Stakeholder Discussion Forum.
- f.) A letter from Victim Support Bedfordshire thanking the council for it's donation of £50.
- g.) a letter of thanks from Cllr Brand for the flowers and best wishes following his recent heart attack.
- h.) A letter from The Eaton Bray Flood Group reporting that following a site survey by the Internal Drainage Board, Clerk of the Board and Area Steward of Beds.C.C. Highways Dept. some improvements have been made and more promised to alleviate future flooding problems, and thanking the parish council for it's support, in particular Cllr Windmill, Cllr Brand and also County Councillor Brian Piggott.
- i.) A letter of thanks from St Mary's Village Carnival Committee for the council's support of the carnival, with the news that a record £11,000 had been raised for local good causes.
- j.) A letter from Beds.C.C. Highways dept. promoting their Representative System for Town and Parish Councils and requesting that the council nominates a representative.
- k.) A letter from EB Lower School requesting financial assistance for the new nursery. The clerk was asked to write, inviting the Head of the school to attend a council meeting and deliver a brief report of progress so far, and to give more detail of what any donations would be used for.

GP

Clerk

There has been no response to the advertisements for a Youth Club Leader.

The GP committee was asked to research noticeboards to display summaries of the byelaws at various positions around the village, and report to the Oct. meeting.

GP

The chairman asked members of the public to leave the hall to allow the council to hear a letter received from Mr. Summers.

The Chairman read the letter to the council and after discussion it was decided that the council could not take any action.

5. Signing of Minutes:

After the addition to the end of item 14 on page 1174 of:

Cllr Marriage requested that SBDC and Beds.C.C. send copies of publications to EBPC via the clerk, it was agreed to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 2nd. July 2007. Prop. Cllr Conner, 2nd. Cllr Brand.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. District & County Representatives:

County councillor Brian Piggott and District councillor Ken Janes both addressed the meeting and reported individually that the decision making process concerning the structure of local authorities was continuing.

7. Police Representatives:

PC Viv Dady explained a new standardised reporting format to be used for feedback to parish councils, consisting of a Parish Report and PCSO's report, and requested that the council inform her of the three main areas of concern.

There were 15 reported crimes in July, and 8 in August.

Acceptable behaviour contracts are being used in an attempt to reduce antisocial behaviour in the village.

The new mobile telephone number for PC Viv Dady is : 0790 0051367

New local police contact detail posters are available.

PCSO Josh Tonkin reported that he had been active offering security advice to neighbouring residents following a local burglary.

8. Holman's Field Goalposts:

Mr. Lancefield, Chairman of EB Lions AFC, addressed the council and gave a report of the condition of the goalposts at Holman's field. During maintenance it had been found that the posts are badly corroded, and need replacing.

Mr. Lancefield explained that this would be an opportunity to install posts that meet current safety guidelines, and that a grant scheme could provide 50% of the cost of new goalposts. The council was given information about the grant scheme and approved suppliers and asked to consider giving financial assistance to meet the cost of buying and installing new posts.

District Cllr. Janes offered to approach SBDC Sports & Leisure dept. to enquire if funding is available.

The GP committee was asked to consider the request and make recommendations at the next meeting.

Mr. Lancefield was thanked for attending.

GP

9. Mill End Close – Access to Ransom Strip:

A letter had been received informing the council that a barrier had been removed and provision now made for access to the ransom strip for the council's contractors.

10. Date of next GP committee meeting:

To be advised

Cllr Crace

11. Flood Committee report:

See item under Chairman's correspondence.

12. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS):

Cllr Marriage reported that he has confirmed that everything has been done to allow installation of VAS to go ahead.

13. Allotments:

Cllr Marriage gave a report on the condition and upkeep of individual allotments, several were found to be seriously neglected. Proposals to improve the situation are to be considered further.

GP

It was agreed unanimously to maintain the current level of rent for the 2007/08 year. i.e. £5.00 per annum per plot.

14. Fencing at Mill End Close Conservation Area:

The clerk has received a quote for the repairs to the picket fencing, it was noted that the original contractor may be liable for repairs.

A quote for replacing the chain link fencing adjacent to Middle path at the bridge has also been received. Following some discussion, it was decided to look again at finding a solution to the problem of damage to this fence.

The clerk is to ask the village handyman to clear the discarded metal sheets and other rubbish from this site.

Clerk

15. Byelaws and Notice Boards:

Cllr Marriage has reviewed the byelaws and produced a list of the main points, to be used on noticeboards around the village. To be discussed further.

GP

16. Clerk:

The clerk explained that the new Code of Conduct requires all councillors to complete and return a new declaration of interests form.

All Cllrs.

Declaration forms were distributed.

17. Planning:

The following planning applications were considered:

SB-TP-07-0896 Moat Hall, Moor End
Alterations & extensions to house and replacement garage.
No objection

SB-TP-07-0953 64 Wallace Drive
Demolition of bungalow & garage, and erection of two detached dwellings.
Objection due to overdevelopment, destruction of trees, overstretched drainage.
The parish council is informed that there is a private sewer serving Wallace Drive.

SB-TP/07/0962 Icknield Way Farm, Tring Rd.
Erection of single storey side and rear extensions.
No objection

SB-TP-07-0950 44 Wallace Drive
Rear conservatory
No objection

SB-TP-07-0848 70 High Street, Eaton Bray
Single storey rear extension & replacement double garage with bedroom annex & store room.
No objection to extension to the house. Proposed new building in replacement of existing garage is too large and possibly too intrusive to neighbouring dwellings.

17. Payment of August accounts:

It was agreed unan. to pay the August accounts. Prop. Cllr Beal, 2nd. Cllr Marriage.

18. Next agenda:

Cemetery

Allotments

Village signpost

Play equipment – School Lane

Annual monitoring.

Items for the September agenda to be requested no later than Fri.21st. Sept. '07

The meeting closed at 22.35

Next meeting to be held at 7.30 at the Coffee Tavern on Mon.1st October 2007.