

MINUTES OF THE EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD on 6th November 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs M Beal (in the Chair)
R Brand
J Conner
M Heyland
D Marriage
D Pearson
P Gallagher
M Crace

IN ATTENDANCE Clerk: M Round

ALSO PRESENT 5 Residents
County Councillor B Piggott
Theo Gray

1. Apologies PCSO Viv Dady

2. Special declaration of interest:

Cllr Beal declared his involvement with the youth club.

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

3. Theo Gray

Theo gave a talk about the Eaton Bray Website which he populates and maintains. If anyone wants anything added to the site, contact Theo by email to theo.gray@eatonbray.com. The chairman thanked Theo for all his efforts.

4. Public Forum

Alan Woolridge requested an update on Mill End Close and the Ransom Strip. The chairman advised:

- the fencing is still in a state of disrepair and we are now looking at erecting a different type of fence. Mr Woolridge advised more fencing broken down near the bridge area.
- The River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board are due to commence dredging work and will access through the broken fence area

Mr Woolridge asked what was happening regarding the Youth Shelter, the Chairman advised we are liaising with PC Viv Dady, still awaiting response and as yet no decision has been made.

Mr Woolridge also advised more clearing up had been done in this area and recommended EBPC liaise with Edlesborough Parish Council and work together on this. The state of the fencing is a Health and Safety Issue. Cllrs Crace and Gallagher to talk with Edlesborough Parish Council.

Cllrs Crace/
Gallagher

5. Chairman's comments and correspondence

The following items have been received:

- a) a letter of thanks from Cllr Heyland.
- b) a letter from Cllr Heyland regarding planning
- c) the clerk distributed a note to all Councillors regarding Corporate Body and Code of Conduct to assist her in her job.
- d) email from Viv Dady detailing crime statistics, placed in read file.
- e) email from Cllr Brand re limited available until his return to full health
- f) letter from The River Ouzel Internal Draining Board. Cllr Marriage proposed one councillor to take responsibility of this, Cllr Brand willing to oversee this.
- g) Wicksteed Playground Inspection report. The chairman gave an update on work required. Cllr Crace proposed, Cllr Marriage seconded, all in favour to proceed. Passed to GP Committee to progress.
- h) Poppy Appeal, Cllr Heyland proposed we increase donation to £100, Cllr Marriage seconded, all in favour, cheque raised at end of meeting to this effect.
- i) leaf clearing at the memorial will be carried out at 10am on Saturday morning, Cllr Beal,

Cllr Brand

GP Committee

Marriage, Gallagher and Pearson to assist.

j) Finance Committee Meeting scheduled to be held on 22 November, awaiting confirmation from Cllr Windmill.

k) Mr Morgan, Allotment 20 at The Meads would like plot reduced by half. Proposed rent reduced from £5.00 to £3.00 all in favour. Clerk to write to Mr Morgan

l) costings received from D Granger for winter work. Due to the fact this is the third year of growth it involves a considerable amount of work at a cost of £1,655 – 5% = £1572.25 excluding VAT. Cllr Beal proposed, Cllr Gallagher seconded, all in favour. Put reserve in budget for 2007/08. This work should be monitored.

m) the chairman read out a “plea”, placed in read file.

n) the chairman advised he has been called to court as a witness on 9 January 2008.

Cllr Windmill

Clerk

Clerk

6. Signing of Minutes

After the addition under Section 9 Mill End Close, page 1182, of *Research legal status of restricting access to ransom strip*, and correcting spelling error on page 1181 it was agreed to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st October 2007. The Chairman signed the minutes.

7. Ms Hounslow, Eaton Bray Lower School

Ms Hounslow and two school governors gave a brief presentation on “Why Have A Nursery” and distributed the latest Ofsted Report. Building work commenced on the new building this week and a copy of the plans will be made available to the Parish Council. The cost is £335,000, for the building work, but not fitting out, existing fitments will be used. Funding is in place for £300,000 and looking to raise the remainder by either donation or loan. The Parish Council will consider gift or loan to be addressed at a separate meeting. The Chairman congratulated Ms Hounslow on their fantastic achievements and Ofsted Report.

The clerk confirmed the Parish Council representatives will meet with the School Council on Friday 30 November at the school.

All Councillors

Clls Heyland,
Connor, Beal

8. District and County Representatives

County Councillor B Piggott gave a talk on the two current task forces he is currently involved in, thus being transport and Unitary Council for Bedfordshire.

Cllr Marriage recommended a letter of appreciation be sent regard the VAS, Cllr Piggott to be given a copy.

Clerk

9. Police Representative:

Apologies were received, unable to attend meeting.

10. GP Report:

- Cllr Crace has received a response from the Confident Communities Fund and will be actioned by the GP Committee.
- *No Public Right of Way* signs are required for the Ransom Strip, Cllr Brand to advise Clerk of sizes
- D Granger contract, will all councillors please complete pro forma and return to clerk prior to next PC meeting
- GP recommend we purchase a springer “horse” and “duck” from Lapsett at a cost of £559. Cllr Gallagher proposed, Cllr Pearson seconded, all agreed. Clerk to order.
- The Parish Council were asked to approve the costings for erecting the Village signpost of £225. Cllr Marriage proposed, Cllr Gallagher seconded, all approved.
- The chairman requested a timescale be put in place for the Skatepark, this will be addressed at the next GP Meeting
- The GP will report back on the meeting with the Chief Constable being held on 9 November.

GP Committee

Cllr Brand

All Councillors

Clerk

Cllr Marriage

Cllr Crace/
Gallagher

11. Youth Club Accounts

The accounts were distributed prior to the meeting for consideration. The chairman advised still no success in recruiting a Youth Club Leader and will advertise this post again. To consider using Post Office, Public Houses and Garage along with media sources. If this vacancy cannot be filled the

Cllr Beal

Youth Club Constitution regulations are the money must be used for youths.

12. Fencing

This was passed to the GP for consideration.

GP Committee

13. Bus Shelter

Three quotations have now been received.

The chairman recommended we replace the roof, not make do with repairs due to the state of disrepair. Cllr Marriage proposed, Cllr Crace seconded. Cllr Pearson objected to the amounts involved. Cllr Marriage proposed we use Alan Barnard for work, all in agreement. The clerk to advise Alan Barnard.

Clerk

14. Village Signpost

See item under GP Report

15. Christmas Decorations

The Parish Council would like to buy trees and lights at a cost of £100. Cllr Beal proposed budget of £100, Cllr Crace seconded. All in favour.

16. Clerk

- The clerk reminded all the councillors any tasks for John Hopwood should be directed through the clerk.
- Gratuity of £25.00 to be made for voluntary work in populating and maintaining website, Cllr Crace proposed, Cllr Gallagher seconded.
- Clerk advised cost of PO Box for 12 months is £115.70 including redirection. Due to the number of change of address already carried out this is something which should be adopted when a new clerk starts.
- The clerk talked out the importance of some records held in filing, looked into ways of ensuring safety and Cllr Gallagher to investigate photocopying books for reference, archiving originals.
- Yearly timetable, all councillors to advise clerk if they can help populate this
- EB 2007 monitoring forms still outstanding from Cllrs Brand, Gallagher, Pearson and Windmill. Clerk to send new copy to Cllr Pearson

Clerk

Cllr Gallagher

All Councillors
Cllrs Brand,
Gallagher,
Pearson,
Windmill
Clerk

16a. New Item – Outstanding Invoice

Norman Lee and Ross Bagni joined the meeting as this time to address an outstanding invoice which should not be paid, Clerk to respond to Solicitor.

Clerk

17. Planning

The following planning applications were considered:

- TP/07/1108 - Grasmere, Wellhead, Dunstable LU6 2JU
Erection of Replacement Garage
- TP/07/1214 – 44 Wallace Drive, Eaton Bray LU6 2DF
Erection of new chimney breast

No objections were received.

18. To resolve to pay October 2007 accounts.

It was unanimously agreed to pay the October accounts.

19. Next Agenda

Items for the December agenda to be requested no later than Friday 24 November 2007.

The meeting closed at 10.05.

Next meeting to be held at 7.30 at the Coffee Tavern on **Monday 3 December at 7.30pm.**