

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

PRESENT: Cllrs M Beal (in the Chair)
R Brand
J Conner
D Pearson
R Windmill

IN ATTENDANCE Clerk: M Round

ALSO PRESENT 4 Residents
County Councillor B Piggott
District Councillor K Janes
Laurent Martial
Lyn Lyman, Woburn
Viv Dady
Joshua Tonkin

1. Apologies Cllrs D Marriage, M Heyland, P Gallagher

2. Special declaration of interest:

Cllrs Beal, Conner and Windmill declared their involvement with the Finance Committee

3. Public Open Forum

Alan Woolridge, on behalf of Mr & Mrs Dear of Mill End Close. raised an issue regarding the gaps in the hedge which runs alongside their drive. This borders the ransom strip along side Middle Path and would like permission to close this off. The Parish Council would like to check their plans. To be discussed at the January meeting.

Cllrs Beal and
Pearson

Mr Woolridge also asked if there are any byelaws which would cover horses riding across the green to Middle Path, at the moment there is no restriction and due to the mess the horses are making you cannot walk along this path. The Parish Council are to check this and report back.

Cllrs Beal and
Pearson

4. Chairman's Comments and Correspondence

The following items have been received:

- Letter from Councillor Pearson apologising for not helping leaf clearing on 10 November
- A thank you letter from the Poppy Appeal for our donation of £100, total sum raised was £2035.03
- The Chairman read out the Agenda from the meeting with the School Council on 30/11 and gave an update on what the children are involved in
- Progress report on Unitary, placed in read file
- A complaint regarding overgrown hedge, Clerk to write to owner
- An email regarding graffiti on bus shelter near The Meads. The Clerk to request John Hopwood to repaint using anti graffiti paint, Clerk to talk to Crime Prevention
- Invoice from E Bird for additional work during handover
- Resignation from Councillor Maria Crace with immediate effect
- Email regarding The Big Green Challenge, placed in read file
- Email regarding Campaign to Protect Rural England, placed in read file
- Invoice from G & J Groundwork was discussed regarding the cemetery path
- Confident Communities Fund – the Chairman advised 8 councillors had opted for PCSO in time for 30 November deadline

Clerk

Clerk

5. Signing of Minutes

It was agreed to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th November 2007. The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. Laurent Martial, Community Development Officer, Rural Areas

Laurent's main focus is on community safety covering antisocial behaviour, graffiti, traffic calming, and youth community. He is here to help with any funding which may be available. He will also point us in the right direction for funding for any other issues. The package of activities which will be available are to be covered in the final papers which are due to be issued in January 2008. Cllr Windmill asked if any more funding will be made available from South Beds and Laurent advised there may be some available from January. Cllr Brand asked if anything was being considered in the case of a "civil emergency", Cllr Beal asked if any help may be available for the Youth Shelter and Skate park, Laurent will look into both of these and report back to the Clerk. Cllr Beal briefed Laurent on the Buckinghamshire Police Papers regarding Youth Shelters, Laurent will look at this online and report back if anything similar is used in South Bedfordshire.

7. District and County Representatives

County Councillor B Piggott started off by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. County Cllr Piggott advised:

- As from mid 2008 any repairs to highways by utility companies must comply with Highways standards and have permission from local authorities.
- The Unitary Authority Government is still planning Bedford Borough and council have been given to 17 December to respond. Cllr Beal asked about costs incurred and this is estimated at £12,000 to date.
- Also from mid 2008 parking offences will become civil offences and fines/penalties are still being considered.

District Councillor K Janes he had nothing to report but was attending full council meeting on 4 December and an update will be available thereafter. District Cllr Janes confirmed forms for football posts and been sent to Marie Crace, he will investigate what stage they are at and advise Clerk according.

K Janes

8. Police Representatives

Crime stats placed in read file.

Viv Dady

- Expressed being heavy hearted due to the mindless vandalism to 13 vehicles which has taken place, there is no evidence of the offenders and asked everyone be extra vigilant and would like to hear from anyone who knows or has seen anything, she spoke about offering a reward and would welcome any information, even anonymously. Cllr Beal to write to Viv Dady offering Parish Council support in this. Resident A Woolridge advised no details of these or other crimes in Eaton Bray are covered by Ringmaster, Josh Tonkin to check with Ringmaster Services.
- Requested we be extra careful when taking bookings for hall hire etc as fraudulent bookings are being made for illegal raves.
- Advised she is looking to hold a Policy Surgery in the village, possibly in the Hall, to encourage members of the public to raise any concerns on a more informal basis, this is being planned for sometime in the New Year.
- Asked about the Youth Shelter, Cllr Beal to give Viv a choice of 3 dates to meet in the village to discuss further. Viv expressed the importance in involving the local youths in this kind of project to help them feel part of the community.

Cllr Beal

9. GP Report and Signing of Minutes

It was agreed to accept the minutes of the General Purposes Meeting held on 19th November 2007 (*attached below*). Cllr Pearson signed the minutes.

10. Finance Committee Report and Signing of Minutes

Minutes agreed and signed after Cllr Conner advised amendments be made to correctly reflect the term of Coffee Tavern loan repayments.

Cllr Beal proposed precept remains at £46500 for 2008 as in 2007. Cllr Conner abstained, all others in favour. Clerk to request precept accordingly when forms are issued.

School funding, Cllr Pearson was given confirmation money was to be used for actual building. All voted in favour to donate £2,000 and give a three year interest free loan of £3,000. Cllr Beal to advise Ms Hounslow of Eaton Bray Lower School.

Cllr Beal

Clerk

Cllr Beal

11. D Granger Contract

This should be referred to as the Grounds Maintenance Contract. Cllr Windmill recommended we be more specific with instructions within the contract to avoid any misunderstandings. Cllr Beal to provide Cllr Conner with copy contract.

GP Committee to ensure any tasks which have been identified as being for John Hopwood are communicated to him via the Clerk.

Cllr Beal
Cllr Beal

GP Committee

12. Confident Communities Fund

See item under Chairman's Correspondence

13. Byelaws

Clerk to amend section for Ball Games and distribute for final signoff.

Clerk

14. Village Noticeboards

Cllr Pearson left the room in order for the quotations to be read out and considered. All in favour for G & J Groundwork to be awarded the job. Clerk to progress.

Clerk

15. Caravan at Wellhead

Due to illness Cllr Heyland was unable to attend the meeting. To go on Agenda for January.

Clerk

16. Mill End Close

Cllr Brand gave detailed report on dredging work carried out. As a result of this work a lot of rubbish has been left behind and needs disposed of. Cllrs Beal and Pearson to meet with Cllr Brand to address this and report back to the Clerk.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Beal for his involvement in this project.

Cllrs Beal,
Pearson, Brand

17. Sustainable Development Fund

Due to an accident at home Cllr Marriage was unable to attend the meeting. To go on Agenda for January.

Clerk

18. Clerk

Due to Clerk being on holiday from 24 December for one week, it was agreed Agenda items be received by noon on 21 December please.

All

19. Planning

The following planning application was considered:

- TP/07/1341 – Land adjacent to 41 Moor End, Eaton Bray
Erection of detached bungalow (revised application SB/TP/06/1110)

Clerk to check on original application, and object on overdevelopment of site

Clerk

The Clerk advised three planning applications had been passed to the Planning Committee for their consideration as a response was required before 3 December. These were

- TP/07/1238 – Icknield Way Farm, Tring Road, Dunstable
Demolition of existing building and erection of single storey side and rear extension and front porch
No objection
- TP/07/1266 – Biggs House, 2 Dyers Road, Eaton Bray
Erection of one two storey dwelling
No objection but raised concerns about flooding in this area and increase in traffic egress/ingress at what is already a dangerous corner
- TP/07/1308 – 70 High Street, Eaton Bray
Erection of single storey rear extension (revised application SB/TP/07/0848)
No objection.

18. To resolve to pay November 2007 accounts.

It was unanimously agreed to pay the November accounts.

19. Next Agenda

Items for the January agenda to be requested no later than noon on Friday 21 December 2007.

The meeting closed at 9.50

Next meeting to be held at 7.30 at the Coffee Tavern on **Monday 7 January at 7.30pm.**

Eaton Bray Parish Council

General Purposes Committee

Minutes of meeting - 19 November 2007

Membership

Cllr Crace - Chair

Cllr Marriage

Cllr Beal

Cllr Pearson

Cllr Gallagher

1 Apologies for Absence

No apologies received all members present.

2 Skateboarding and Youth Opportunity Fund

The members discussed the proposal for a skateboard area in the village and it was agreed that Cllr Gallagher would draw up a proposal and project plan which would allow he and Cllr Crace to formalise the necessary actions. Cllr Beal reminded the meeting that £15K had been set aside for the development and the meeting agreed to seek as much matched funding as possible from the various sources to enable the project to be completed. Cllr Gallagher agreed to speak to an estimator to initiate some basic costings.

PG

3 Confident Communities Fund

The meeting discussed the possibilities that the fund offered including the funding of a PCOS for the village. It was agreed that the details of the funding process be circulated to all councillors for their comments and decisions at the meeting on 3 December.

MC

4 Mill End Close

After discussion it was agreed that recommendation for a repair be undertaken to the fence downstream of the road-bridge be put before the Parish Council. It was agreed that the proposal would be that Cllr Pearson would source materials and that John Hopwood be requested to undertake the repair work with advice from Cllr Pearson.

MC

Cllr Crace asked if any communication had been received from Viv Dady on the subject of redeveloping the boundary of the conservation area. As no communication had been received MB agreed to make a further request for assistance.

MB

5 Dave Granger Contract

Cllr Beal advised that the work undertaken had generally been done satisfactorily and an addition to the contract would be beneficial. This was:

1 Mill End Close - hedge around property to be reduced on an annual basis.

Cllr Pearson advised that a full review of this hedge was needed as some growth may start to damage the fenced area.

MB agreed to update the contract ready for presentation to the next meeting of the full Council.

MB

6 Park Repair/Renewal

Cllr Crace informed the meeting that the parts needed to make the initial repairs were on order. Cllr Beal advised that he had met with the Wicksteed engineer and reminded the meeting that the required actions to meet the statutory requirements in his report had been agreed at the meeting of the full Council but that others remained

Cllr Crace agreed to prioritise the recommendation based on the risk categories so that the full Council could take an informed decision on spending.

7 Meeting with the Chief Constable

Those members who attended the meeting were of the opinion that the meeting was useful and the priorities for the Police were clear but that no significant new initiatives had been proposed.

8 Projects for 2007/8

The meeting heard a number of projects that the members considered worth progressing. Estimates for these would be included in the next budget meeting.

They were:

The skateboard project

Survey and maintenance of the trees in St Mary's Churchyard - Estimate £500

Additional works for Dave Granger - Estimate £1000

Repair and refurbishment of the village gates (including additional signs)

Sign for the Allotments

Various tree "whips" for hedging repairs

9 Annual Timetable

It was agreed that an annual timetable be prepared that would allow the finance for projects to be planned and tracked as well as allocating funds for additional ideas.

10 Next Meeting Agenda

Cllr Crace asked that the next meeting discuss the provision of changing facilities for Eaton Bray Lions. It was agreed that MC ask the clerk to place this on the agenda of the next meeting of the full Council.