

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Eaton Bray Parish Council

Held on 7th April 2008

PRESENT: Cllrs. D. Marriage (in the chair)
J. Conner
D. Pearson
P. Gallagher
M. Heyland
R. Windmill
R. Brand

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk: H. Head

ALSO PRESENT: District Cllr Ken Janes, PC Viv Dady, 8 Residents/General Public

1. APOLOGIES County Cllr B. Piggott, Cllr M. Beal

2. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Marriage declared his involvement with the Sports and Social Club.

3. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Cllr Marriage asked those in attendance if they had any items they wished to raise.

Norman Lee spoke on behalf of the residents of Wallace Drive/The Nurseries regarding the lack of road markings at that junction. He said that it was felt that this junction was an accident waiting to happen. Also raised were the state of the roads and the *pot holes* that are appearing, residents are becoming so fed up with the roads that they feel that if Highways won't fix the problem, they would like to. Cllr Marriage explained that the Parish Council are aware of the problems with the Parish roads and is meeting with Mr Nick Carafolo, Bedfordshire Highways on the 10th April 2008 at 10:00am on this issue. Also attending the *walk around the village* will be the Parish Clerk and Cllr Phil Gallagher. Cllr Marriage also recommended that all villager and Councillor should contact the Highways Department Hotline number and reports the faults, agreeing the more people report these fault direct the more change of getting them dealt with.

Cllr Marriage
Cllr Gallagher
Clerk

Resident, Carol Ambrose expressed concern at the number of dog fouling occurring along the *Park Lane path/Market Square* and the need for a dog bin and relevant signage. The Parish Council agreed to look into the costing, putting it forward to the next General Purposes Working Group.

GP Working Group

A concerned Resident enquired as to the Parish Councils position on the new flight path changes. Cllr Marriage confirmed that the Parish Council were looking into the report released and with a need to agree on what action to take. Copies of relevant documentation were handed over from the Resident to the Parish Council.

All Councillors

4. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The following items have been received:

- Letter from Cllr Mick Beal offering his resignation from the Parish Council. Cllr Heyland ask who would be taking on the role of Chairman for the Parish Council (*temporary until May*), Cllr Marriage said he was happy to take on this role. Cllr Heyland proposed Cllr Marriage to take on the role as Chairman, Cllr Windmill seconded. All unanimous.
- Communication from Cllr Rick Brand offering his resignation from the Parish Council. Cllr Marriage took this opportunity of thanking Cllr Brand for his help on

Cllr Marriage

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the Parish Council and wishing him well.

- Letter from Eaton Bray Lower School confirmation their acceptance of the Parish Councils offer of a donation and loan.
- Correspondence from Laurent Martial regarding reward schemes for detection of criminal damage. The Parish Council agreed that the best way forward would be to *keep it simple* and has been in contact with Sally Siddons, Focus who is putting together an article for the Focus magazine on reporting crime and a contact number.
- Correspondence from CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) from which it was agreed that the clerk to respond on behalf of the Parish Council stating that there should be a need for affordable housing. Clerk
- Letter from BATPC stating a vacancy on the South Bedfordshire District Council Standards Committee. Cllr Heyland confirmed that she had already been on the Standards Committee on behalf of the Parish Council in which there were 4 to 6 meetings a year. All agreed there was no Parish Councillors able to apply at this time. Clerk to respond. Clerk
- A communication from Bedfordshire County Council was read information all of a temporary road closure in Totterhoe and a diversion route to be through Eaton Bray for that period.
- Correspondence from Came & Company (Insurance) offering a quote for the Parish Council yearly insurance. Clerk to get quote. Clerk
- An Email informing the appointment of Mrs June Adamson as the new part-time co-ordinator for Bedfordshire Police Community Safety Department. Clerk to copy to PC Viv Dady. Clerk
- An Email from Philip Jerred, the Communities/Rural Housing Officer was read out asking to carry out a new Housing Needs Survey. Forwarded to *read file* for Councillors comments. All Councillors
- An offer to attend a training course, Bedfordshire Train to Gain Awareness, 24th April 2008. No Parish Councillors are available.
- An invitation to attend the South Bedfordshire Rural Conference, 11th October 2008. Forwarded to Cllr Heyland. Cllr Heyland
- Letter from John Seamarks confirming the Parish Councils application for the Confident Communities Fund has been successful. The Parish Council asked PC Viv Dady if she could look into the best way to go forward with our agreed funding for a PCSO. The original application was for us to share the services of a PCSO with Whipsnade and Kensworth. PC Viv Dady to look into our options and return back to the Clerk with her findings. PC Viv Dady
Clerk
- A request from the Milton Keynes ADHD Group asking for donations. Forwarded to *read file* for Councillors comments. All Councillors
- An Email from Ann Collett-White regarding CPRE Bedfordshire and training to be offered on the planning system. Forwarded to *read file*, Cllr Heyland to look at. Cllr Heyland
- Letter from Mrs Christie asking for the possibility in the reduction of her current allotment plot 21. The Parish Councillors all agreed to her holding a 1/3 plot, with the rest of the plot being released as a 2/3 plot. Clerk to action. Clerk
- A letter from Mrs Brooks thanking the Parish Council in agreeing to her to keep the whole allotment plot.
- A letter from Mrs Livingstone requesting to keep whole allotment plot. The Parish Council agreed that the whole plot could be retained, however on the understanding (*as with all allotment plots*) that plots are to be kept in good order with rental being terminated if not. All allotments will be assessed at the yearly October inspection. Clerk to respond. Clerk
- Correspondence from; Ian Sayers, Deputy Director General to Association of Investment Companies; A resident of Eaton Bray Parish; Lin Sargeant, Parish Clerk for Edlesborough; Colin White, Planning Officer for the Chilterns Conservation Board; all showing their concerns for the airspace change/proposals. The Parish

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Council agreed to respond to the issues. Forwarding relevant information to an allocated person/Clerk.

All Councillors
Clerk

- Letter from Andrew Selous MP who will be holding a surgery in Eaton Bray on 18th July 2008, 11:30am to 12Noon at The Coffee Tavern. Clerk to action.

Clerk

5. SIGNING OF MINUTES

An amendment was made to page 1201, also present to include "District Cllr Ken Janes and PC Viv Dady".

It was then agreed to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3rd March 2008. The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

- Emergency Procedures: The Clerk confirmed the basic procedures in place and confirmed all the necessary information being available at the Bedfordshire and Luton Resilience Forum website, <http://www.blrf.org.uk/> The Clerk agreed to put together a list of contact numbers to be used for specified emergencies, updated regularly and copied out to all Parish Councillors. Cllr Brand agreed to copy/forward information regarding emergencies he had obtained to the Clerk for retention.

Clerk

Cllr Brand

- Cllr Heyland asked the Clerk if a response had been received from South Bedfordshire District Council, Planning as to the Parish Councils enquiries for certain planning issues. The Clerk confirmed that although two letters had been sent, no replies had been forthcoming. The Parish Council agreed for the Clerk to copy Cllr Heyland on the correspondence sent and District Councillor Ken Janes. Also asking for the Clerk to enquire direct to David Hale, SBDC, Planning for a response to their questions. Clerk to action.

Clerk

Clerk

- Cllr Gallagher confirmed that he has been in contact with Maria with regards to the Carnival stall. Ongoing.

Cllr Gallagher

7. GENERAL PURPOSE WORKING PARTY REPORT AND SIGNING OF MINUTES

It was agreed to accept the minutes of the General Purposes Working Group held on the 13th March 2008. Cllr Marriage signed the minutes.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE GENERAL PURPOSE MINUTES

- Cricket Club: it was agreed that the Cricket Club be invited to the Parish Council Meeting on 2nd June 2008.
- Planning for Gypsies and Travellers Accommodation: the Clerk was asked to download a response form, to be copied and used to generate answers; to allow the Clerk to fill in and upload a formal reply. Also it was agreed for the Clerk to contact other Parishes (Toddington, Whipsnade, Stanbridge, Billington) to get their ideas/support and to co-ordinate a response from this area.
- Skateboarding: Cllr Gallagher confirmed he has been in contact with Sue Norman regarding funding, who informed him that Grants can go up to £50k. Therefore Sue feels that our *recreational development* project looks very positive for making a bid. Ongoing.

Cllr Marriage

Clerk

Clerk

Cllr Gallagher

9. DISTRICT AND COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

District Councillor Ken Janes informed that a meeting was to be held on Tuesday, 8th April 2008 looking at the running of the new Council. Currently there are to be no elections in 2008 with all Councillors standing for re-election in 2009.

District Councillor Ken Janes informed the Council that he had received correspondence from a concerned resident regarding the rubbish at the Chiltern View Site. It was confirmed that Chiltern View is managed by Bedfordshire County Council, however Bedfordshire County Council have said that they only manage the site and are not responsible for outside of the fence. Cllr Marriage felt that Bedfordshire

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County Council should take on their responsibilities for the site and asked District Councillor Ken Janes to report to the County Council asking them to do so. All Parish Councillors were in agreement.

County Cllr Janes

Cllr Windmill reported more fly tipping in The Rye. It was agreed for Cllr Windmill to report details and inform clerk when reported.

Cllr Windmill

10. POLICE REPRESENTATIVES

PC Viv Dady presented crime statistics for the month of March:

- 10 recorded crimes/incidents:
 - 1 x burglary – Church Lane
 - 2 x sheds forced open, Wellhead - disabled shed alary
 - Suspicious incident - Wellhead
 - Incidents on Chiltern View Caravan Site:
 - (i) management company building window stolen, enquiries ongoing
 - (ii) window smashed on dwelling
 - Damage to trees at riverbank on Beds/Bucks border
 - Theft from motor vehicle, Moor end – steering wheel stolen
 - Items being thrown at vehicles, Northall Road, 7th-15th March 2008
 - Unauthorised taking of motor vehicle, Knights Close
- 1 x harassment warning issued

PC Viv Dady asked the Parish Council for their next three months priorities for the Police. The Parish Council agreed: (i) Speeding (ii) Nuisance Youth (iii) Vehicle Crime.

PC Vic Dady informed that Parish Council that she and Sergeant Kay Litchfield had visited the Women's Fellowship to introduced themselves and are aiming to meet key contacts/individuals in the Parish. Cllr Marriage confirmed he would forward details of the WI to PC Viv Dady as another organisation to meet with.

Cllr Marriage

Cllr Heyland suggested the Police could visit the local school, PC Viv Dady confirmed that the Police have set up a project with local schools, *Stepping Out Safely*, which is felt is a good way to introduce the children to the Police in the area.

Cllr Marriage asked to meet with PC Viv Dady to walk the Carnival route in readiness for July and to get together with Buckinghamshire Police to organise the handover at the border line.

Cllr Marriage
PC Vic Dady

11. ADOPTION OF THE STANDING ORDERS

It was proposed by Cllr Heyland and seconded by Cllr Brand to adopt the *Standing Orders* for the Parish Council. All agreed.

The Standing Orders were adopted by the Parish Council on the 7th April 2008.

12. ENHANCED PARISH PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Marriage confirmed that the Parish had received an allocation of £9k. Cllr Marriage pointed out that £5k of those moneys had already been allocated to VAS and therefore we have £4k of spend. It was decided that the Parish Council needs to look at areas that need improvement (roads/pavements/verges) with the Parish Council's decision being submitted by 1st June 2008. Therefore it was agreed to put this forward to the next Parish Council Meeting on 7th May 2008. Cllr Windmill pointed that Highways need to be informed that when they come to mend the road, often they appear worse, Cllr Marriage confirmed he would mentioned this of their visit on 10th April 2008.

All Councillors

It was agreed for the Clerk to compose a notice for the Parish notice boards (copying in Parish Councillors) giving contact details for the Bedfordshire Highways and asking residents to contact them direct to report problems. Also for the Parish Councillors to report faults direct, letting the Clerk know. All agreed.

Cllr Marriage

Clerk

All Councillors

13. VILLAGE HALL MONEYS

Cllr Marriage declared an interest with the Village Hall and was therefore not able to

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vote of any resolutions made in this matter.

The background of the moneys allocated to Eaton Bray Village Hall was explained to the Parish Council. *"It was agreed in 2005 that £85k was allocated to the Village Hall Project. However, due to problems with the architect at the time, some moneys were held back, being deducted from the architects costs and leaving £2987.45 held in the Parish Council account."* The Village Hall has now contacted the Parish Council with a request for this money to help in the improvements at the hall (Phase 3; kitchen/disabled toilet). This request was put to the vote. It was resolved unanimously that the Parish Council would release the moneys to the Village Hall. Clerk to await confirmation from Cllr Marriage of when moneys to be paid.

Cllr Marriage

14. CHURCH ROOF FUND

The Parish Council have agreed to make a direct donation to the Church Roof Fund of £100. Proposed by Cllr Heyland, seconded by Cllr Marriage – all agreed. Clerk to action.

Clerk

15. DOG BINS

Cllr Pearson and Cllr Conner requested additional dog bins and signage for the village: (i) Holmans Field (ii) The Meads (iii) Market Square. The Parish Council agreed to look into this and to bring this matter forward to the General Purposes Working Group on 24th April 2008.

GP Working Group

Also Cllr Conner put in a request for a bin to be placed in Holmans Field due to the increased amount of litter. The Clerk was asked to contact John Hopwood in the interim to clear up the general area (cans in hedge) over the monthly period.

Clerk

Cllr Windmill also said he would contact Paul Marshall (EB Lions) as he was aware that litter has been left after football matches.

Cllr Windmill

16. FENCING – SCHOOL LANE RECREATION GROUND

It was discussed about the condition of some parts of the School Lane recreation ground fencing. Cllr Conner said she would look at the fencing and report back to the Clerk her findings. It was agreed for the Clerk to look into getting fencing quotes for getting the work done. Cllr Pearson said he would forward a contact that may be able to give a quote for the work. It was agreed to bring this forward to the Parish Council Meeting in May.

Clerk

Cllr Pearson

17. DRAINS IN HIGH STREET

Cllr Pearson and Cllr Conner mentioned problems with blocked drains in the Parish: (i) Church Lane/High Street junction (ii) Church Lane T-junction (iii) The Comp, junction with the High Street (problem with 3-4 drains) (iv) Totternhoe Road, outside Hawkins (v) High Street, outside properties 33-37. It was agreed for the Clerk to report the faults.

Clerk

18. ACTS OF VANDALISM AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE IN EATON BRAY PARISH

Cllr Brand put to the Council his concern with the level of vandalism and criminal damage in Eaton Bray and what he felt the Parish Council should be doing. Cllr Brand felt that the Parish Council should be setting an example to offenders, in that anyone found committing acts of Vandalism and/or Criminal Damage will be pursued through the Courts and upon conviction be sought financially the costs for making good any said damage, if the offender is under age then the Parent/Guardian of the said individual should be held responsible. The Parish Council understood Cllr Brands and that the Parish Council should make a stand. It was agreed that the Parish Council should give more support to the local Police and in trying to get the residents more involved in reporting incidents to the Police. Cllr Marriage once again informed the Parish Council of the article that Sally Siddons was putting in Focus regarding the reporting of incidents in the Parish and a contact telephone number. It was agreed for the Clerk to put this number on ALL the parish notice boards.

All Councillors

Clerk

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The Parish Council agreed to look into next year's budget for a *civil fund* to help with any Court cases. Clerk to bring forward to December Agenda.

Cllr Marriage briefed the Parish Council on the result of the recent court case and its decision.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that if a crime is reported, a copy of the police report *MIGHT* be supplied, dependant on case. However the report can only be released to the person who reported the incident, including a £10 fee. If the Parish Council wanted to see a copy of the report it would be up to the original person who reported the incident to give their authority to the Clerk to be able to request the report.

It was agreed to put notices on the Carnival stall giving details of the local Police and contact numbers for reporting incidents.

Clerk

19. CLERK

The Clerk asked the Parish Council to give her details of who has keys to Parish Council property, so she can hold a list and know who has what.

The Clerk explained to the Parish Council that she and Cllr Conner were putting together an up-to-date Cemetery pack which will be sent to Undertakers with the relevant documentation for burials/memorials.

The Clerk asked if the Parish Council were happy for her to get quotes for work to be done at The Meads Allotments, clearing vacant plots ready to reletting. The Parish Council agreed to the Clerk getting quotes for work to be completed with a maximum spend of £300. Clerk to action.

Due to additional issues being raised with Mr/s Dear, Mill End Close, the Clerk ask for permission of the Parish Council to contact the council's Solicitors to request further details should it be needed. All agreed.

The Clerk requested items for the Annual Parish Council Meeting Agenda on 6th May 2008. Cllr Heyland requested a copy of last year's minutes. Clerk to action.

All Councillors

Cllr Conner/
Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

20. PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

The following planning applications were considered:

Application Number	Proposed Development	Decision	If Refusal: Grounds for
TP/08/0289	Free Range Farm, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe: erection of single storey side extension	Recommended Refusal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overdevelopment in green belt
TP/08/0288	1 Church Lane, Eaton Bray: demolition of existing conservatory & rear porch with replacement orangery	No objection	-
ARM/08/0102	Land adjacent to, 23-25 Bower Lane, Eaton Bray: erection of 4 detached dwellings	Recommended Refusal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over development Poor access
TP/08/0311	Willow Cottage, 16 Moor End, Eaton Bray: demolition of single storey rear extension/conservatory & erection of new single storey extension/conservatory	Recommended Refusal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not in character with Listed building
LB/08/0312	Willow Cottage, 16 Moor End, Eaton Bray: demolition of single storey rear extension/conservatory & erection of new single storey extension/conservatory	Recommended Refusal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not in character with Listed building

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21. TO RESOLVE TO PAY MARCH 2008 ACCOUNTS

It was unanimously agreed to pay the March 2008 accounts.

22. NEXT AGENDA

- Items for the Annual Parish Council Meeting Agenda no later than, Friday 25th April 2008.
- Items for the May Parish Council Meeting Agenda no later than, Monday 28th April 2008.

The meeting closed at 10:40pm.

Next meeting to be held:

Annual Parish Council Meeting: **Tuesday 6th May 2008, 7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern.**

Parish Council Meeting: **Wednesday 7th May 2008, 7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern.**