

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:**

**Councillor Ciaran O'Brien, Cathaoirleach**  
**Councillor John Brady**  
**Councillor John Byrne**  
**Councillor Mick Glynn**  
**Councillor David Grant**  
**Councillor Eugene Finnegan**  
**Councillor Ronan McManus**  
**Councillor Rossa Murray**  
**Councillor Tracy O'Brien**  
**Councillor Pat Vance**  
**Councillor Sarah Wray**

**Also present:**

**Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services**  
**Ms. Christine Flood, Town Clerk**  
**Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer**

**Apologies:**

**Councillor John Ryan**  
**Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer**

The Cathaoirleach, Ciaran O'Brien opened the meeting by extending a Vote of Sympathy to Councillor John Ryan and his family on the death of his father, John. He also extended a Vote of Sympathy to the family of Mr. Francis Byrne, who had passed away on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Mr. Byrne was a former member of Bray Town Council and had retired after almost twenty years service.

The Cathaoirleach then called for one minute's silence as a mark of respect, after which he proposed suspending the business of the meeting until a later date.

Councillor John Byrne stated that Mr. Frank Byrne was an excellent worker, a very popular man and was associated with the Schoolboy Wicklow League and also had a long association with Wolfe Tone Youth Club.

The members extended their sympathies to Councillor Ryan and his family and to Mrs. Imelda Byrne and her family.

The members agreed with the Cathaoirleach's proposal to suspend the business of the meeting until a future date. It was queried if the Local Government Act allows for this. The Town Clerk read the following extract from the Local Government Act:

*"Wherever an annual meeting of a local authority is for any reason not held on the day appointed under these Regulations for the holding of such meeting, the clerk or secretary, as the case may be, shall, following consultation with the Cathaoirleach, summon a meeting of the local authority for a convenient hour on the day which appears to him or her to be the earliest convenient date for the purpose and the meeting held in pursuance of this summons shall be deemed for all purposes to be an annual meeting held on a date appointed under these Regulations."*

and added that postponing the meeting until a future date was allowable under the Local Government Act.

The members agreed to the Annual Meeting being held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June, with a further meeting of the new Council to be held on July 7<sup>th</sup> before recessing for the summer.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members for their understanding in postponing the Annual meeting and for his year as Chair.

During his term of office, the Swimming Pool was opened which has been a great success due to staff and management. The reopening of the Florence Road car park also happened during his term.

Progress on the Flood Defence Scheme has been made, with a number of Councillors travelling to Wallingford in England to view the flood defence model in action. A number of Flood Defence Volunteers have been trained by the Civil Defence whereby in the event of a flood they can be utilised. A Civic Reception was held in the Town Hall for them in January, after they had completed their training.

Bray has improved in the Irish Businesses Against Litter rankings and the litter management programme has also improved. There are a number of committees working for Bray and he thanked them for their work.

The Town Rejuvenation Committee has also done great work for Bray, the hanging baskets being a particularly visible result of their work. Bray Town Council won an Excellence in Local Government Award for the Shopfront Rejuvenation Scheme, which is under the aegis of the Rejuvenation Committee.

He thanked the outgoing Councillors for their hard work and dedication to the town of Bray and added that Councillor Steve Matthews, Councillor Michael Lawlor and Councillor Caroline Burrell had brought passion and talent to the Council.

He thanked the Town Engineer, Sean O'Neill, Senior Executive Engineer, Liam Bourke and Senior Roads Technician, Dominic Gillan for their hard work in managing and averting a potential crisis in the form of the Boil Notice that was issued in August 2008 and remarked that a long term problem had been avoided.

He paid tribute to the management and staff of Bray Town Council and also to the various volunteer groups in the town of Bray. He stated that Bray is potentially one of the best towns in Ireland with the natural facilities such as the seafront and Bray Head and also due to its excellent public transport links.

He finished by stating that the outgoing council had worked well over the years and that there are a lot of initiatives in the town. The easiest part of a councillors' job is getting elected and there is a lot of hard work to do which will be harder due to the cuts in the budget to the Local Government Fund.

The members thanked and congratulated the Cathaoirleach for a successful term of office and raised the following points:

- You were a very good chair and had a fair and balanced approach. You have had an impressive list of achievements over the past 12 months.
- We have a significant number of new Councillors, due to a number of Councillors retiring. We had a small function for the retiring members in April. We have also had some casualties in the Local Elections. Caroline Burrell, Steve Matthews and Michael Lawlor made a great contribution to this town and to the Council. They worked very hard on their committees.
- I would like to welcome the new members and suggest that the Town Manager, Town Clerk and officials set up a training programme/information programme for the new Councillors. There is a lot to learn and it would help them to become familiar with the way Local Authorities work. I am happy to assist all new Councillors should they need it. I wish them all good luck.
- Congratulations on your re-election. Not many outgoing Cathaoirleach retain their seats in a Local Election. You should be proud of your achievements for the town.
- Your year as Chair has been very productive. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new faces around the table. It doesn't seem like five years since I was new.
- We all need to pull together and work together. The people of the town are looking for change. This will be a challenging five years, we have a housing crisis and unemployment crisis in the town. We also have the issues of Bray Lakers and the Recycling Centre. Sinn Féin look forward to working with everyone on these matters.

The Town Clerk, Christine Flood added to the tributes paid by the Councillors to the Cathaoirleach and welcomed the new Councillors. She stated that Councillor O'Brien was very easy to work with and that they worked well as a team. She added that he got a lot of work done behind the scenes and then proceeded to present Councillor O'Brien with a photograph album detailing his year as Cathaoirleach. She thanked Leanne Gordon of the Wicklow Times for providing the photographs used.

The Town Clerk reminded the members that they had received notification of Public Consultation regarding the Town Development Plan for 2011-2017 and stated that an information evening is being held in the Town Hall on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 6.30pm and on 25<sup>th</sup> June from 5pm – 7pm. She added that this would be of interest to all members, particularly new members.

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien informed the members that a review of the Development Plan is a long process. The meetings in the Town Hall are in order to obtain ideas from people as to how to improve the Plan.

There is an eight week display period, during which time submissions are made. A Managers Report is then produced and circulated to the members. At this time, the members can give direction to the officials with regard to the Draft Plan.

The Draft Plan will then be drawn up for public consultation and any amendments the members have made will be on display. Any submissions made will be taken on board and the Plan may be amended to reflect this. A further Managers Report will then be produced for consideration by the members and any changes can be made and voted upon by the members. He finished by suggesting that the Municipal Policy Committees are used to involve the Councillors in the process.

The Town Clerk suggested an informal training session for new members in the form of a round table discussion on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July from 4pm – 6pm.

This concluded the meeting.

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**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOWN CLERK**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_