

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 18th July 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

- Councillor Anne Egan, Cathaoirleach**
- Councillor Deirdre De Burca**
- Councillor Anne Ferris**
- Councillor Joe Behan**
- Councillor John Brady**
- Councillor John Byrne**
- Councillor Ciaran O'Brien**
- Councillor Bríd Collins**
- Councillor David Grant**
- Councillor John McManus**
- Councillor Caroline Burrell**
- Councillor Pat Vance**

Also present:

- Mr. Catherine Halligan, Acting Director of Services**
- Ms. David Forde, Acting Town Clerk**
- Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the new Town Clerk, Ms. Christine Flood, to Bray Town Council and stated that she is looking forward to working with her.

She then wished Liz Kearney all the very best in her new job and stated that she hopes she would go on to bigger and better things in the future. The Cathaoirleach then presented Liz Kearney with a bouquet of flowers and a gift from Bray Town Council.

She also wished Mick Mason all the very best as he is retiring as a driver from the Council after twenty-eight years of service. She thanked him for his loyal service and wished him all the best in the future.

The Cathaoirleach then stated that she would like to thank everyone involved in making the Bray Summerfest such a success.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated 20th June 2006.

Before the minutes were adopted Councillor John Brady stated that in the minutes of the 20th June he raised the issue of the Blue Flag Status for Bray under Any Other Business. He added that he had asked for this to be put on the next agenda and this was not included in the minutes or put onto the agenda.

The Cathaoirleach stated that this will be put onto the next agenda.

It was proposed by Councillor Anne Ferris and seconded by Councillor John Byrne and unanimously agreed to confirm and adopt the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council dated the 20th June 2006.

2. Reports and Recommendations

The Town Clerk stated that she had received correspondence from a U.K childrens television channel called Nickolodeon enquiring about using the Seafront for a period of time in August to film a childrens programme. She also stated that we have received all of the necessary documents to cover the insurance aspects.

This was proposed by Councillor Anne Ferris and seconded by Councillor Brid Collins.

The Cathaoirleach then asked the members if they would consider taking item number 6 next. The members agreed to this.

6. To consider the Annual Financial Statement 2004

Councillor John Brady stated that under programme 1 in the Annual Financial Statement it states that a lot of things were under spent. He added that this does not look well and he would like some information on why this occurred.

The acting Town Clerk explained the over expenditure in all of the programme groups to the members.

Councillor Deirdre De Burca stated that this now raises the question of if we are getting value for money. He stated that we need to look at street cleaning and how to get value for money.

The acting Town Clerk stated that all the programme groups must be proposed and seconded by the members as recommended by the Local Government Auditor.

Programme Group 1 was proposed by Councillor Anne Ferris and seconded by Councillor Brid Collins.

Programme Group 2 was proposed by Councillor David Grant and seconded by Councillor Anne Ferris.

Programme Group 3 was proposed by Councillor John McManus and seconded by Councillor John Byrne.

Programme Group 4 was proposed by Councillor John Byrne and seconded by Councillor David Grant.

Programme Group 5 was proposed by Councillor Anne Ferris and seconded by Councillor David Grant.

Programme Group 6 was proposed by Councillor Anne Ferris and seconded by Councillor Brid Collins.

Programme Group 7 was proposed by Councillor Anne Ferris and seconded by Councillor John Byrne.

Programme Group 8 was proposed by Councillor Brid Collins and seconded by Councillor John McManus.

Councillor Joe Behan stated that he is concerned about comments made by the Town Manager, Mr. Des O'Brien at a previous meeting about the pensioners error. He stated that Mr. O'Brien gave the impression that 'the less glare put on this the better'. Councillor Behan stated that this is unacceptable and someone needs to take responsibility.

3. Disposal of Leasehold Interest in the Harbour Shed, Bray Harbour in accordance with Statutory Notice

Councillor John Brady stated that he is opposed to the Law Agents recommendation. Councillor Brady then proposed the following recommendation.

“That Bray Town Council offers a lease for five years to St. Fergals Boxing Club with an annual rent of €200 per annum and in the event of the harbour being redeveloped an alternative premises is provided to the boxing club with the consent of the Boxing Club.”

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Joe Behan.

The members raised the following points –

- Important to safeguard the long-term safety of the club – should offer them a five-year lease.
- Law Agent gave advice that stated this club is a sporting club therefore is a business letting and should be given a business lease.
- Reluctant to give lease for five years – that would not be in the interests of the club.
- We are only talking about the difference of three months. Why are people pushing for the five - year lease? We need to be careful not to tie the council's hands with a long-term lease.
- We should go for the five – year lease because we should be thinking about commitment for the club. They might be seeking funding from the lottery in future so they need a five – year lease.
- We should provide top class facilities in the redevelopment of the harbour for the boxing club.

Councillor Ciaran O'Brien then proposed that an appropriate premise is found at the end of the lease with the consent of the Boxing Club.

The members continued with the following points –

- Members should take a look at page 16 of the draft lease. There are additional pages of forfeiture. There are a huge number of constraints in this lease. I do not have the confidence that this council will offer a sufficient lease.

The acting Director of Services stated that the executive is very anxious to proceed with this. She stated that we strongly recommend that the members proceed with the Law Agents recommendations.

That Bray Town Council offers a lease of 5 years to St. Fergals Boxing Club with an annual rent of €200 and in the event of the harbour being redeveloped an alternative premises is provided to the Boxing Club with their agreement.		
Councillor Joe Behan	✓	
Councillor John Brady	✓	
Councillor Caroline Burrell	✓	
Councillor John Byrne		✓
Councillor Brid Collins		✓
Councillor Deirdre De Burca	✓	
Councillor Anne Egan		✓
Councillor Anne Ferris		✓
Councillor David Grant		✓
Councillor John McManus		✓
Councillor Ciaran O' Brien	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance		✓
	5	7

Councillor John Brady requested that Councillor Ciaran O' Briens proposal be taken at the end of his proposal. This was agreed to.

The members were then asked to vote on Councillor Anne Ferris' proposal, which was as follows –

“That Bray Town Council offers a lease for four years and nine months to St. Fergals Boxing Club with an annual rent of €200 per annum and in the event of the harbour being redeveloped an alternative premises is provided to the boxing club.”

That Bray Town Council offers a lease of 4 years 9 months to St. Fergals Boxing Club at a nominal rent of €200 per annum and in the event of the harbour being redeveloped an alternative premises is provided.		
Councillor Joe Behan	✓	
Councillor John Brady	✓	
Councillor Caroline Burrell	✓	
Councillor John Byrne	✓	
Councillor Brid Collins	✓	
Councillor Deirdre De Burca	✓	
Councillor Anne Egan	✓	
Councillor Anne Ferris	✓	
Councillor David Grant	✓	
Councillor John McManus	✓	
Councillor Ciaran O’ Brien	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance	✓	
	12	0

This vote was then adopted.

Councillor Deirdre De Burca then asked how soon will the boxing club be able to move into these premises?

The Town Engineer stated that it should not be too long as the council still has to remove some chemicals from the boathouse.

4. Disposal of Leasehold Interest in the Boathouse, Bray Seafront in accordance with Statutory Notice

Councillor John McManus proposed that Bray Town Council offers a lease for four years and nine months to the Queen of Peace adventure youth club Ltd with an annual rent of €200 per annum and in the event of the harbour being redeveloped an alternative premises is provided to the Queen of Peace adventure youth club.”

This was seconded by Councillor Anne Ferris.

The members raised the following points –

- Prefer to see a longer term lease – ideally a twenty – five year lease.
- The idea of trying to facilitate a business in this lease is very wrong. I do not think the harbour redevelopment will be up and running in 4 years anyway.
- The club will have difficulties trying to get the boat onto the beach because the wall impedes their path. Can the council look at amending this?
- The Law Agent says it is up to the members but he is recommending that we think long and hard about what decision.

Councillor Joe Behan then proposed that Bray Town Council offer a lease as advised by the Law Agent with a ten – year timeframe and a €250 rent per annum. This was seconded by Councillor Caroline Burrell.

The members continued with their discussion –

- The Coffee Dock should not be included in this discussion because it has no relevance anymore. Lottery grants should not be an issue either.
- I think it is in the interests of the club to go for a 4 year and 9 month lease.

The members decided to go to a vote on this item.

That Bray Town Council offers a lease of four years nine months to the Queen of Peace Adventure Youth Club Ltd, at an annual rent of €200 and in the event of the harbour being redeveloped an alternative premises is provided.		
Councillor Joe Behan		✓
Councillor John Brady		✓
Councillor Caroline Burrell		✓
Councillor John Byrne	✓	
Councillor Brid Collins	✓	
Councillor Deirdre De Burca		✓
Councillor Anne Egan	✓	
Councillor Anne Ferris	✓	
Councillor David Grant	✓	
Councillor John McManus	✓	
Councillor Ciaran O’ Brien		✓
Councillor Pat Vance	✓	
	7	5

This item was then adopted.

5. To consider the Establishment of a Joint Policing Committee for Bray Town Council

The members raised the following points –

- Will this be the same as the Garda liaison committee meetings?
- Have these guidelines any statutory basis?
- Have we received any information from the Department of Justice as to how much money will be given?
- What mechanisms will be put in place? Will this be run the same as the Municipal Policy Committee's?
- We should try to choose people to sit on this forum for the September meeting.
- Will it be an issue that this is not included in the budget?

7. Progress Report on the Swimming Pool

The Town Clerk informed the members that she had received a letter from the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government confirming that money will be given for the funding of the swimming pool.

The members raised the following points –

- Welcome this news and thank the Minister for his intervention. We should write to the Minister to recognise what he has done.
- This news is great for the town of Bray. Now we need to move swiftly on this.
- Thanks to Councillor Caroline Burrell and Councillor Anne Ferris also who were on the swimming pool committee.
- Councillor David Grant did a lot to progress this so would also like to thank him.
- I do not think it is appropriate to send a thank you letter to the Minister as he is just doing his job.
- Welcome this but there is also a need for work on the twenty three acres recreational park in Ballywaltrim.

9. Correspondence

Update on the 1.78 acres

The Town Clerk informed the members of the current situation regarding the purchase of 1.78 acres of land in Ballywaltrim.

The members raised the following points –

- Concerned that there is already a preferred bidder on this. The twelve bidders should be made available for the members.
- It is the members decision in the end to decide on the disposal.

The acting Town Manager stated that it is regretful that we do not have this on the agenda but the board did not meet until late last week therefore it was not put on the agenda. She also stated that a small legal issue still needs to be sorted but this is only minor. She also stated that a section 180 is the decision of the members and any decision will have to come before the members. She finally stated that the council is currently checking out legal opinion of ownership of the land.

10. Any Other Business

After Hours Call Out Service

Councillor John Brady stated that on the 5th July 2006 a number of houses were flooded in Bray. He added that people tried contacting Bray Town Council to inform them but they said that they could not get through to the emergency number. He added that he now has no faith in this system.

The acting Town Manager informed the members that due to human error the call out service was not switched on at 5pm on that evening.

The Town Engineer stated that from 7.45 pm that evening the call – out system was switched on. He added that when someone rings this service, the company just rings one of the outdoor staff. He also stated that at this moment the Council does not have a guaranteed crew available. He added that the council always has full co-operation from the staff.

The members raised the following points –

- What change can we see in procedure to ensure this does not happen again?
- We should look at Kildare County Councils system, were they are linked through the Fire Station.
- We under-spent on this last year – it is about time we reviewed the system.

Ardmore Crescent Bollard

Councillor John McManus stated that a bollard had been removed from this area a while ago and was never replaced. Can this be amended?

Entrance to Bray Head

Councillor John McManus stated that the entrance to Bray Head is not accessible for wheelchairs. This needs to be addressed.

Public Toilets

Can the Council look at keeping the public toilets on the Seafront open later in the evening?

Environmental Impact Statement on Flood Protection

Councillor John McManus enquired as to what stage this is at and what is the next stage?

The Town Engineer stated that there has been one public information day. He added that we are a bit behind schedule so probably August or September is the time set.

Swans at Bray Harbour

Councillor Anne Ferris stated that a lot of swans were taken away because they were sick. She asked the Town Clerk to put a phone number on the web site to help people with any enquiries they may have about this.

Bray Summerfest traffic

Councillor Anne Ferris stated that the traffic was not managed properly by the Gardai. She asked the Town Clerk to ask the Superintendent to monitor the roads in future.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

TOWN CLERK

Dated:
