

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 20th June 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 Bríd Collins
Councillor David Grant
Councillor John McManus
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor Pat Vance

Also present: Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Ms. Catherine Halligan, Town Clerk
Mr. Pacelli Flood, Acting Town Engineer

Apologies: Councillor Ciaran O'Brien

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated 16th May 2006

It was proposed by Councillor Brid Collins 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 16th May 2006.

2. Reports and Recommendations

The Town Clerk informed the members that she had received notice from Dublin City Council this morning stating that there will be a water shut-off in some areas of Bray on the 22nd June 2006 from 9am to 4pm. She informed the members that an advertisement is going out on East Coast FM on the 21st June 2006.

Councillor Caroline Burrell asked was there any notice given in the newspaper for the water shut-off? She stated that more notice should have been given.

The Cathaoirleach stated that notice will be given out over the radio and it is short notice because the officials only found out themselves today.

Councillor Deirdre De Burca stated that she is disappointed that the issue of the Boathouses is not on the agenda.

The Cathaoirleach stated that this issue will be raised under Any Other Business.

The Cathaoirleach then went on to congratulate Councillor Joe Behan on being elected Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council and also Councillor Anne Ferris on being elected Leas Cathaoirleach. She stated that it is great to see two members of Bray Town Council being elected to these positions.

Councillor Pat Vance stated he would like to congratulate both Councillors.

Councillor Brid Collins congratulated both councillors also on their elevation to Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach respectively. She also stated that she would like to thank Councillor Pat Vance and Councillor Deirdre De Burca their kind words last week to her on her election as Leas Cathaoirleach.

Councillor John Brady stated that he would also like to congratulate the two councillors on Wicklow County Council. He added that this has to be a good thing for Bray.

Councillor Deirdre De Burca stated that on behalf of the Green Party she would also like to congratulate both councillors. She added that she is delighted Councillor Behan has proposed that all meetings be recorded in Wicklow County Council and be made public.

Councillor John McManus also expressed his congratulations to both councillors.

3. Disposal of Fee Simple Interest in 35 Wolfe Tone Square East, Bray, in accordance with Statutory Notice

The disposal of Fee Simple Interest in 35 Wolfe Tone Square East, Bray, in accordance with Statutory Notice was proposed by Councillor John McManus and seconded by Councillor Pat Vance.

4. Further update on the “No Right Turn” at Newcourt Road

The Town Clerk informed the members of the following –

In a letter from the Garda Authorities it was stated that “the Gardai who observed this traffic for several mornings believe that motorists should be allowed to make this right turn from Vevay Road onto Newcourt Road, as it alleviates traffic and will prevent an accident occurring at Glendale Estate where people are currently turning.”

The Gardai subsequently wrote requesting the legal basis of the bye – law that prohibits no right turn at the location, as it was required for prosecution.

Under the Road Traffic Act 1994 section 5(b) “a road authority shall, at the request of the Commissioner, remove any regulatory sign which the Commissioner considers has been provided in a manner or at a location that might adversely affect the safety of road users.”

In view of the Garda recommendations it was concluded that the legal basis for the sign was compromised.

The regulatory road sign banning the right hand turn (only from 8:30 – 9:30 in the mornings) was therefore removed.

The Members raised the following points:-

- Situation in Newcourt is worse now than ever. There is a need for another traffic lane. The only way to do this is to get land from the residents of Scott Park.
- We erected the No-Right-Turn sign because of bad traffic problems. Can the officials look at this and maybe come up with some engineering solution?
- Rat running down Newcourt Road.
- Blockages at end of Boghall Road.
- Can we move the bus stop further? Can the sequence of the lights be changed?
- The two schools should be taken into account. Sequence for crossing the road is very short.
- Problems may arise when another company replaces Dell.
- Problem on Newcourt Road and Glendale Drive.

The Acting Town Engineer stated that he was not directly involved with this project but from what he understood the sign was put up to deal with traffic coming from the Greystones Road and to help ease traffic congestion because of Dell. Traffic turning right caused blockages, he then added that this is not such an issue anymore.

5. To consider the setting up of a cross community Anti-Social Behaviour Forum and the possibility of organising a conference on the topic of anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Burrell began the discussion stating that:

- We have a problem with anti-social in the town. There is a need for a more co-ordinated approach in Bray. A partnership approach, community based.
- Propose that we set up a forum and in the Autumn organise a conference to make councillors aware of this issue. She outlined the Community Warden Scheme in Belfast in association with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the two universities and the police.

Councillor John McManus, Chairperson of the Community, Cultural, Social and Environmental MPC stated that this matter was discussed at MPC level and that proposals will be coming forward from that committee. He outlined a number of issues:

- Creating a forum without carrying out the necessary groundwork first might not be a good idea.
- If a student is suspended or expelled from school, Youthreach will only intervene if the student is over the age of 16. So some students of the ages of 13 / 14 who are suspended and expelled are contributing to antisocial activity.
- We must hasten slow with this. All antisocial cases have underlying issues.
- We need a joint approach. No single agency can solve this problem.

The members raised the following points:

- Anti Social Behaviour Orders – it remains to be seen whether these will be effective. The single biggest deterrent is Gardaí on the beat.
- Antisocial behaviour is not only a Local Authority problem. It is a societal one.
- Can Bray Town Council restrict times for children playing football in green areas late at night under our bye - laws?
- Damaging the image of our town.
- Everyone has to become involved, including active residents associations.
- A.S.B. becomes criminality at some stage.
- Recommendations should have come from MPC first before this issue was on the agenda.
- Disagree that we should hasten slowly with this. We should progress with setting up a forum as soon as possible.
- Most anti-social behaviour is caused by drinking.
- Need to get a better understanding of the causes of antisocial behaviour. Parental responsibilities come into this too. Deep rooted problems are not going to be solved overnight.
- The key here is to be consistent. It is never too early to learn from these conferences.
- Lack of facilities is a key factor in this.

Councillor Deirdre De Burca proposed that Councillor John McManus invite other agencies/groups to his next MPC and make recommendations to the full Council. Councillor Anne Ferris seconded that proposal.

It was then agreed that Councillor McManus will set a date for a special MPC meeting to discuss this matter.

6. To discuss CCTV for Ballywaltrim

The Town Clerk stated that the Acting Town Engineer met with a representative of S.K.S. who were responsible for the installation of CCTV for the Department of Justice.

The site was examined to ascertain the specifications for a camera at this location and the possible methodology of supervising the playground at Ballywaltrim.

A proposal is expected in the next few days.

The members raised the following points –

- Would like this to be on the agenda for the next meeting, should be protecting our assets and the public.
- There are cars speeding around this area all night. There is a need for a greater presence of Gardai.
- Proper CCTV cameras are needed in Cedar Court and the playground.
- Everyone knows the benefit of CCTV as long as it is monitored. We should look at the possibility of getting a mobile camera that can be moved around.
- Some rats have been seen, possibly due to building activities in the area.

The Acting Town Engineer stated that Bray Town Council are trying to get a CCTV system that is linked to the Gardai.

7. Update on the 1.78 acres.

The Town Manager stated that an assessment committee has been set up and that twelve interested parties had been interviewed. The assessment committee requested further clarification of some issues and an additional valuation has been received recently and therefore the assessment committee will have to be recalled.

The members raised the following points –

- Delighted to hear progress is being made although it is important for councillors to decide what is best for the site.
- Congratulate Cathaoirleach on reaching this item on the agenda.
- Can this be dealt with in July meetings? Propose that we have a recommendation back in July.
- We have failed the people in this area in providing them with a shopping facility through mistakes on the part of present and previous staff.
- Has Superquinn indicated to the council that they still want to proceed with developing this land.
- A neighbourhood shopping centre is badly needed, the development has been delayed for ten years due to legal difficulties.
- Delighted that twelve parties are interested – everyone wants to see a shopping centre in this area.
- Scale is important – we do not want to compete with Dundrum.
- Proposals will have to be in accordance with the development plan and there must be a planning gain out of this.
- Assume that applicants are bidding with large sums of money but want assurances that money will not be given to Wicklow County Council.
- Footpaths need attention on the Southern Cross Road.
- Derelict site at the 1.78 acres. When will this be sorted?

The Town Manager stated the following –

- Some councillors are being unfair – no mistakes have been made by the present officials.
- This land is registered to Wicklow County Council but was paid for by Bray Town Council. Mis-registered. My understanding is that money will go to Local Authority that owns the land.
- He will seek legal advice on this matter. It may be difficult to sort this matter out within two weeks.

Councillor Pat Vance proposed that the second meeting of July be moved to the third Tuesday of the month to facilitate this on the agenda. Councillor Anne Ferris suggested that we decide what we would do at the first meeting in July.

8. Progress report on the Swimming Pool

The Town Manager stated that the last draft of the contract documents were given to the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism this week. A prior information notice is to be placed in the European Journal.

The members raised the following points –

- Does the manager feel that the timeframe will be adhered to for this matter?
- Delighted this is on the agenda – propose that we contact our five TD's to ask them to contact the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism to expedite this matter as soon as possible.
- Do we advertise in national papers other than the European journal? Is this open or confined competition?
- There is a need for a professional management committee.
- Energy and conservation is vital to any project that goes ahead.
- Are we still entitled to our funding?
- Pitches – maybe all of this could be brought in together.
- How will the traffic be managed? The capacity for traffic on the Southern Cross Road has reached its maximum.

The Town Manager stated the following –

- There has been no 'foot-dragging' on this since approval was given.
- Design of the pool – a decision has been made and there is no going back.
- Swimming pools do not cause major traffic problems.
- Alternative energy – there will be combined energy saving.
- We have to pre-qualify tenders first – hope to have it completed before Christmas.
- I will discuss a presentation with the Cathaoirleach.
- All weather pitches need to be done separately and this is why the contract has been drawn up.
- I have no problem with meeting with the users committee.

Councillor Pat Vance then proposed that the consultants involved in the swimming pool project be invited to make a presentation on the swimming pool.

9. Update on lease agreements for Wolfe Tone & District Youth Club

The Town Clerk informed the Members that the Law Agent had received a revised map and the names of the Trustees of the club for inclusion in the documentation in due course. A copy of the map has been sent to Lord Meath's solicitors for the approval of Lord Meath.

Bray Town Council hold the entire field under a Sporting Lease. The term of the lease will be extended for a further 50 years. Lord Meath is going to transfer the strip of land that the new clubhouse sits on to the Youth Club together with the old building and Bray Town Council will grant a sporting lease of the field to the club.

The members raised the following points -

- Would like to pay credit to the club for their patience with this. It has been regrettable it has taken so long.
- Can we look at putting in place, a new management committee?
- Pay tribute to Councillor John Byrne who has worked so hard for this.

10. Notices of Motion

The Town Clerk informed the members of the following Notices of Motions –

Notice of Motion 138 - "That the Council receives an update on the proposal to improve sight lines at Ellershie's House, Sidmonton Park."

Response – 'The junction at this location comprises of a T-junction to which only entry from Sidmonton Road is permitted (one way). There is no need to improve the sight lines at this location. A solid white line at Sidmonton Road would require traffic to keep to the left – thus reducing any conflicts at this location.'

Notice of Motion 139 - "That the Council removes the experimental speed ramps at the southern end of Meath Road."

Response – 'These speed cushions have succeeded in reducing average speeds to 50 km/h and aid in keeping traffic to it's own side of the road. These were installed in 1994 and it is proposed to keep them in situ to maintain the constricted traffic speeds.'

Councillor Joe Behan stated that the Roads Engineer has refused to remove these. He added that a resident up here has asked him to highlight the fact that cars try to swerve to avoid these ramps and there will be an accident. He stated that he would like the members to take a vote on this to remove the ramps.

Councillor Deirdre De Burca stated that she would like the Town Engineers opinion before any vote is taken because she does not know the full story regarding this.

Councillor John McManus stated that we must be very careful about removing something that might cause an increase of traffic speeding. It might be better to replace these with a different ramp.

Councillor Behan stated that if Councillor McManus' suggestion is an amendment to his proposal that he will accept it.

Notice of Motion 141 - "That this Council identify a suitable site for a skateboard park in the town and progress a project under national funding now available."

And

Notice of Motion 147 - That the Bray Town Council seek funding from the Department of the Environment for a skateboard park in Bray.

Response for 141 and 147 - During the summer 2005, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government invited each County / City Council to apply to participate in a pilot project for the provision of a small number of skatepark facilities for which €1 million is available, countrywide. In the case of County Wicklow - expressions of interest in this scheme came from Bray Town Council, Wicklow Town Council, Arklow Town Council, Greystones Town Council and Wicklow County Council. Each made proposals for skate-park facilities in their areas. However Bray Town Council's application was not successful.

Councillor David Grant stated that we have not had any discussions on this matter and that a location to put a skateboard park needs to be discussed.

Councillor John McManus stated that the key point is the site.

Councillor Pat Vance suggested that the Golf Club Lands be looked at as a possible site.

Notice of Motion 142 - "That this Council replace the barrier at 83 Oldcourt Avenue with a line of bollards."

Response - 'There were bollards originally placed at this location but these proved ineffective in that motorbikes were using the pathway. It is not proposed to remove the suggested barrier. In 1995 the bollards at this location were replaced with the barrier.'

Councillor Joe Behan stated that we should do something to alleviate this problem.

Councillor John Brady stated that this is a genuine problem and it is very unfortunate.

Notice of Motion 143 - “That Bray Town Council calls on the Government to introduce a national waiver scheme for domestic refuse charges”

Response – ‘If this Notice of Motion is passed by the Members, a letter will issue to the Department.’

Councillor John Byrne stated that there is a need for a Waiver Scheme nationally. Councillor Byrne proposed this Notice of Motion and this was seconded by Councillor John McManus.

Councillor Joe Behan proposed a time extension for so the members can include Any Other Business. This was seconded by Councillor Deirdre De Burca.

Notice of Motion 146 – ‘That Bray Town Council meet with senior management of Iarnrod Eireann to ensure that the threatened three-month weekend closure of the DART service to Bray is averted and an alternative arrangement using night-time work be devised.’

Response – ‘Representatives from Iarnrod Eireann have presented their case to the Members already.’

Councillor John Byrne withdrew this motion.

11. Correspondence

Elgin Heights Residents Association Letter

The Town Clerk informed the Members that she received a letter from the Elgin Heights Residents Association requesting the closure of the right of way at the front of the estate which leads to Ballywaltrim Lane.

This was proposed by Councillor John Brady and seconded by Councillor Deirdre De Burca.

O’Byrne Road and Wolfe Tone Square Letter

The Town Clerk informed the Members that she received a letter from the residents of O’Byrne Road and Wolfe Tone Square requesting to extend their back gardens by taking in the grounds of the laneway at the rear of O’Byrne Road and Wolfe Tone Square North.

12. Any Other Business

Noise pollution

Councillor John McManus stated that he knew of an elderly person in a part of Bray who’s neighbour is renovating and knocking down walls within their house using Kango hammers. He asked if Bray Town Council include conditions for this kind of

disruption to residents at such early times in the morning. He stated that Bray Town Council has an obligation to put in a provision to cease noise pollution at such early times of the morning. He then asked if the council needs to change the Development Plan to ensure these provisions are put in?

The Town Manager stated that in large developments there are provisions included in the grant of planning permission regarding noise but for extensions and renovations we do not. The Environmental Protection Agency are the people to complain to in a situation like this.

Road Markings

Councillor John McManus also stated that the road markings at the Maltings and Seapoint Road are very badly worn. He added that there will be a bad accident there one of these days and something needs to be done.

The Town Manager stated that this road is due for resurfacing in July and new road markings will be painted when this is completed.

Blue Flag Status

Councillor John Brady stated that it is bad that we do not have a Blue Flag Status. He then asked if Bray Town Council had applied for this flag?

He asked if this could be put on for the next agenda.

The Town Clerk stated that the Council was not successful this year but will apply again next year for this status.

Boathouse and Harbour Shed

Councillor John Brady stated that this seems to be going on forever. He added that on the letter it says that a 2 year 11 month lease is given. He added that he thought the Council had voted in a 5 year lease.

The Cathaoirleach then informed the members that the Law Agent has stated that he hopes to have something ready for the next meeting.

The Town Clerk informed the members that she is very hopeful to have a lease for the first meeting in July. She added that this will depend on the Law Agent. She then informed the members that this will then be a matter for them to decide on, including the length of the lease and the amount of the rent.

Sidmonton Park - Parking

Councillor Pat Vance stated that the yellow lines were painted as requested but they were put on the wrong side of the road. He asked if this could be looked at.

Fire Audit Report

Councillor Joe Behan stated that the residents in Oldcourt are quite concerned about this report. He stated that the residents in the report should be contacted by the tenant liaison officer about the basic findings in their houses.

Councillor Behan then proposed that the Council should make this information public after the residents have been informed.

The Town Manager stated that in hindsight the Council should have held onto the report. He added that if the press are to report it the names / numbers of the houses should be left out. He also stated that this report was asked for at a previous meeting and that the officials did not give it out as a last minute hand-out.

Councillor John McManus stated that it should be made very clear that this report is just an interim report.

After some discussion it was agreed that the residents of the houses that had items that needed to be addressed should be informed.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

TOWN CLERK

Dated:
