

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 9th September, 2008 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present:

**Councillor Ciaran O'Brien, Cathaoirleach
Councillor John Brady
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Brid Collins
Councillor Anne Egan
Councillor Anne Ferris
Councillor Michael Lawlor
Councillor John McManus
Councillor Steve Matthews
Councillor Pat Vance**

Also present:

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

Apologies:

Councillor David Grant

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting dated 8th July, 2008

Councillor Bríd Collins proposed confirmation of the minutes of 8th July 2008 and Councillor Anne Ferris seconded the proposal.

2. To Further Discuss the Recent Flooding in Bray.

At the meeting of 2nd September, 2008, the Town Engineer, Mr. Sean O'Neill had circulated a report to the members with regard to the flooding in Bray on Saturday 16th August, 2008.

The members thanked the Town Engineer for such a comprehensive report, complemented the people who worked during the flooding and raised the following points:

- Last Friday the town was on alert again, thankfully it was not flooded.
- A gentleman in a wheelchair rang the council last Friday and was told to contact the HSE, as he had a disability. The HSE then told him it was a Bray Town Council issue. He was very worried and was considering telephoning an ambulance. I feel that there should be centre for people like him to go to under these circumstances.
- We have to look for engineering solutions to this. The Town Engineer has supplied a report as to what works can be done, but there are no costings.
- I was approached by residents on the Boghall Road who got flooded. They are of the view that this happened due to unauthorised works on an industrial site in the area. Can this be investigated?
- People accept that this flooding was unprecedented but they are worried that it will happen again.
- [Councillor John Byrne] People on low incomes/social welfare were affected by this. They lost their belongings and their homes were destroyed. Many can't afford insurance. I propose that we write to the Minister to seek funding to help them.
- [Councillor John Brady] I second this proposal to write to the Department.
- [Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien] Myself and the Town Clerk will be meeting with the Minister, and we will add this to the list. We will report back to you.
- There have been a lot of complaints about the shores and drains not being cleaned.
- There are plans for Flood Protection in the town. These have been passed by An Bord Pleanála. I call on the people who have submitted objections to withdraw them so that we can start this scheme. It will protect homes and provide employment in this town.
- Yes, there should be a national fund for compensation.
- The reaction from the council to the flooding on 16th August left a lot to be desired. Well done to the outdoor staff – they did the best they could under the circumstances.

- Well done to Bray Town Council for their actions during the threatened flood. They handled it very professionally.
- A lot needs to be changed with the Draft Emergency Plan, for example the traffic management. People rang the Council looking for sandbags and were told to go to the Depot on the Boghall Road. The town was gridlocked. Elderly and disabled people can't get to the Depot. We need to look at this. We also need to look at alternatives to sandbags in the long term.
- We should look at delivering sandbags to the homes of people who can't get to the Depot on the Boghall Road. We should also have a few thousand on standby.
- We need to get the Emergency Plan out of Draft status.
- We need to produce a document to give to people in flood risk areas that will highlight the protocol and steps that should be taken.
- We need maintenance plan for the drains and gullies. We also need the staff.
- What is the capacity of the culverts? Are they at full carrying capacity at all times?
- We need a very clear evacuation plan.
- I have concerns for the tenants flooded in Oldcourt. There was a lot of damage to their properties, e.g. the floors and plasterboard. They were told by council workers that it will dry out. This is not good enough. I request that a survey be done on these properties to ensure that the walls are OK.
- Regarding the threatened flooding on Friday 5th September, I would like to complement everyone involved. This is the first time that we have had a comprehensive response.
- I know an audit of elderly and disabled people was done in the area. They should have been told what to do in an event like this. The Civil Defence should know about these people.
- We need to get a clear communications system. People have said that the truck with the loudspeaker was driving too fast for the message to be fully heard. We should look into notifying people by text etc.
- If this happens again, I ask that the truck with the loudspeaker go down the side streets or members of the Civil Defence knock on doors to warn people.
- It is possible to implement a scheme in June/July to clear the gullies and drains?
- We, as Councillors, should have been notified that an emergency plan was implemented – we could have helped out by contacting people.
- On 16th August, extra staff came in to man the phones. The council didn't have the phone lines but they had the staff. Staff were readily available that weekend.
- What happened in the meeting with the members of SWAP?
- We need to address the drainage issue.
- We were lucky that the Emergency Plan that was put in place on Friday 5th September was an exercise. It was very useful and we've all learned from it. No matter how good a plan that is in place is, events will still surprise us.

The Town Engineer informed the members of the following:

- A meeting was held on Tuesday 2nd September regarding the threatened flooding.
- We all had Major Emergency Flood training in Wicklow County Council on Wednesday 3rd September.
- The Flood Emergency Plan is a draft document. When it is finished, it will still be considered a draft as we will add to it constantly.
- Sandbags are no use in the Little Bray area. Little Bray is an evacuation situation.
- We haven't managed to convey to people that it is dangerous to remain in Little Bray when it is under threat of flood. People should not visit the area to look at the river rising. They should evacuate immediately.
- If people wish to put flood barriers on their doors, they should be at a height that can easily be climbed over when they are told to evacuate.
- If this happens during school times we will contact the schools and tell them to stay open and keep the children there.
- We will ask the members to vote on a gully-cleaning programme in the future.
- During the summer, we had a cleaning programme in areas that are vulnerable to flooding. We have worked out that if ten per hour were cleaned by a person working on this full time, each gully would be visited every seven and a half weeks.

- We got a weather warning in relation to rain falling on the morning of the 16th August. There was major rain in the afternoon. We looked at the Dargle as a potential flood risk, but flooding happened elsewhere in the town.

The Town Clerk, Christine Flood informed the members of the following:

- The budget for the gully-cleaning programme has been exceeded several times over, but Bray Town Council will continue to clear gullies.
- We found that after the flash floods of 16th August, our Flood Plan dealt with river floods. We have amended the plan to include flash floods. We will always be adding to this Plan.
- We will submit our Flood Emergency Plan to the Major Emergency Plan Committee of Wicklow County Council. Our Emergency Flood Plan will be part of the Wicklow Major Emergency Plan. The plan is based on a template provided by the Office of Public Works.
- We are inviting people who volunteered to be a Community Volunteer to a meeting next week. They will be an invaluable resource. We want to help people to help themselves.
- The Civil Defence will train these volunteers and issue them with high visibility jackets and identification also.
- We will distribute an information card to households in vulnerable areas. This will indicate how people should prepare and who to contact in the event of flooding.
- We have arranged evacuation centres. I wish to congratulate the Fassaroe Estate Management Committee and the Community Centre, who went on standby quickly.
- We had Easi Cab and Finnegan's Bus on standby. Easi Cab will also be able to identify their clients and where they live.
- We are improving our database of elderly and vulnerable residents in the area.
- The Civil Defence propose testing the evacuation plan in a months' time. We will ask vulnerable people to participate and this will give them [participants] an idea of how things will be handled. It will also introduce them to their Neighbourhood Wardens (Community Volunteers).
- The evacuation centres will be able to facilitate wheelchairs etc.
- I wish to apologise to the councillors for not contacting them in relation to 5th September. We were at high alert and had to prioritise. We will put the request to contact the councillors into the Emergency Flood Plan also.
- The OPW, Civil Defence, An Garda Síochána, Department of Defence, representatives of Bray Town Council and representatives of SWAP were all invited to the meeting on 2nd September. SWAP were invited to address the meeting with their concerns, but as they were not asked to attend the full meeting, they felt that this was not worthwhile.
- I will contact SWAP and ask them to attend the meeting organised with the volunteers. The councillors will be contacted with the time and date also.
- We have distributed 10,000 sandbags since the 16th August. We are looking into the provision of flood gates, but these are very expensive.
- We are looking at all other means of keeping flooding out. Sandbags are not always effective.
- Lists of people were given to the Civil Defence to distribute sand bags to. If people are not in a position to collect sandbags (elderly, infirm etc.) we will endeavour to deliver them.
- We had fantastic co-operation from An Garda Síochána, the Civil Defence, Easi Cabs and Finnegan's. The volunteer Neighbourhood Wardens did a great job also.

The members raised the following points:

- I am very disappointed that SWAP did not attend this meeting. I am delighted that we have evacuation centres.
- I am concerned that dealing with flash flooding is getting conflated with the Little Bray flooding plan. We need to keep these separate. Lives are at risk.
- SWAP sent a list of issues as to what they would like included in the plan. We should look at having public information meetings. The flood barriers are a good idea, we should look at subsidising 50-50.
- Will the Town Engineer find solutions to the flash flooding?

The Town Engineer responded:

- The list of future measures is not exhaustive. Some are alternates.

- There are a number of questions to be asked regarding works carried out in the past. We need to find out if the designs are normal designs.
- We will try to find out why flooding happened and come up with solutions for any area that experienced flooding.

3. To Discuss The LUAS B2 Line Scheme

Mr. Des O'Brien, the Town Manager informed the members of the following:

- We will have to do a Section 49 Development Levy Scheme for the LUAS B2 Line. The RPA will insist on this being in place. This will be put before you in the next month or so. I am meeting with the RPA in the next few weeks and we are planning to get something on paper by March 2009.
- The Pizzaro scheme will cater for a lot of the line. The Dublin Road scheme will cater for some of the line also.
- I have asked Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to expedite their Dublin Road scheme as all elements need to be in place to make planning for a Railway Order easier.
- We will keep this on the Agenda and give you a report in the future.

4. To Discuss Bray Town Council's Nomination to the County Wicklow Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Councillor John Brady, as the nominee of Bray Town Council to the above committee formally resigned his position on the committee. Councillor John Byrne, Chair of the above committee stated that he understood it is not always possible for people to attend meeting and proposed Councillor Caroline Burrell onto the County Wicklow Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee. Councillor John Brady supported Councillor Burrell's nomination to the committee. Councillor Burrell accepted the nomination and stated that she would like to see a record of attendance at committee meetings, as if people accept nominations, they should attend these meetings.

5. To Discuss The Taking In Charge of Duncairn Terrace

The Town Clerk, Christine Flood informed the members that this is a reserved function of the members and that this will be put before the members to consider when submissions are received from the public.

The members thanked the Town Clerk for her prompt response to this matter and raised the following points:

- A number of cars have been clamped in this area. It is important that we go down this route.
- I welcome this. It is a long time coming. The clamping is getting out of control.
- Can we take the Boulevard Shopping Centre into account also?
- I support this, but the residents won't be happy.
- Can we investigate the conditions of the planning permission granted to the Boulevard Shopping Centre with regard to clamping?

6. To Discuss The Taking In Charge of Lauderdale Terrace

Councillor John Byrne stated that the Taking in Charge referred to Lauderdale Estate and that the road outside houses 19-26 is not in charge, but that the rest of the estate is. Councillor Byrne added that he had received a petition from the residents of the area and the Town Engineer had proposed taking in charge certain areas, but not all and the residents were not happy with this response.

Councillor Byrne was asked by the residents to bring this matter to Bray Town Council again and that the road be brought up to standard. He then proposed that the road bordering houses

19-26 Lauderdale Estate be taken in charge by Bray Town Council. Councillor John McManus seconded the proposal.

The Town Engineer responded that he didn't recommend that it be taken in charge and that it is up to the members to decide this. He added that there will be cost implications to Bray Town Council if this is taken in charge but that he will defer to the members wishes.

After some discussion the members decided to start the process of taking in charge and requested that the Duncarin Terrace and Lauderdale Estate schemes be advertised together.

7. Reports and Recommendations

Junior Council/Youth Council

The Town Clerk had circulated a report on the meeting between herself, the Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien, Ms. Mary Mooty Comhairle na nOg coordinator, County Wicklow VEC and Ms. Deirdre Whitfield, Wicklow County Council Community and Enterprise.

Following on from this meeting, the following measures are proposed:

- Bray Junior Council will continue as Bray Youth Council but will consist of 17 members rather than 14.
- Bray Youth Council will elect nominees to the County Comhairle who will in turn elect a nominee to Dáil na nÓg.
- The Junior Council will represent Youthreach and other youth Fora representing 'harder to reach' young people.
- There is a budget of €20,000 for the 5 Comhairle (including Bray).
- The Comhairle will be serviced by Mary Mooty Comhairle na nOg co-ordinator and a staff member of Bray Town Council.
- The meetings will continue to be held in Bray Town Council.
- It is proposed to write to the School Principals to request that they conduct elections. (among TY students) in the near future.
- The Cathaoirleach of Bray Town Council will meet with the Youth Council.
- The Youth Council will be asked to present a report to the Town Council twice a year.

The members raised the following points:

- Are we doing away with the Junior Council? Who dictates to them?
- Will Bray Town Council fund this new model?
- I welcome this – the presenting of a report to the Town Council twice a year is great.
- Well done to the Junior Council and to Suzanne Finucane, she works very hard behind the scenes. I will support this.

The Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien, informed the members that the existing Junior Council will decide what projects they undertake. If they wish to, they can nominate a representative to go to Dáil na nOg. Bray Town Council can of course fund the Junior/Youth Council as they will still be part of the bigger grouping of Comhairle na nOg.

8. Notices of Motion

302. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (10/06/2008)

"That the council replace the missing name plate signs at various locations in the town."

Report

(SEE Liam Bourke) I have only a record of a sign missing for Glenard Avenue and a request for a sign for Brighton Terrace. If there are no others to add to list, an order will issue ASAP.

The members were not happy with this report, with some stating that they had personally requested signs in various parts of Bray. The Town Manager accepted the remarks of the members and stated that this issue will be worked on.

303. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (17/06/2008)

“That this Council calls on the HSE to redevelop St. Colmcille's Hospital in Loughlinstown to allow for access for public transport directly within the hospital grounds, similar to other locations such as Beaumont, St. James and Connolly Memorial.”

Report

This is a matter to be considered by the elected members.

The members raised the following points:

- I have been approached by a number of people in relation to this.
- A need is felt for public transportation to go into the hospital grounds.
- A lot of elderly use this hospital they need to cross the N11 to return to Bray.
- We should write to the HSE regarding this – forward this motion to them.

304. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (08/07/2008)

“That the Council refurbish the seat backs along the seafront, including painting and the replacement of missing pieces.”

Report

Bray Town Council is currently in the process of acquiring prices for the work to the seafront. A further report will issue when these are at hand.

The members raised the following points:

- I support this motion. The whole of the seafront should be done. I ask that the lamps along the seafront be looked at also.
- We've all agreed to this over the years. I support. We also need proper wheelchair access to the beach.
- There was an allocation for the seafront – what happened to the money?
- The beach is a great amenity. By investing funds, we will only improve it. I fully support.

305. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (08/07/2008)

“That an examination of the streets off Strand Road be done to introduce one-way traffic on alternative streets.”

Report

It is agreed that traffic management would benefit from one-way traffic on Sidmonton Avenue, Victoria Avenue and Convent Avenue between Meath Road and Strand Road in alternative directions. However public consultation should be undertaken.

The members raised the following points:

- The real problem is Sidmonton Avenue. I am not certain that it is necessary to extend this scheme to Convent Avenue – perhaps cars could go up Victoria Avenue and down Sidmonton Avenue.
- I fully support this.

306. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (08/07/2008)

“That a raised table or ramp be provided at the junction of Seapoint Road and Seymour Road.”

Report

This is on a list of traffic calming proposals presented to the members in July that will be shortly available for public consultation.

The members raised the following points:

- I am delighted to hear that this is going to public consultation.

9. Correspondence

Works Being Carried Out In Bray

The Town Clerk reminded the members of an email that was circulated regarding the planned being undertaken by Bray Town Council during the week commencing Monday 8th September, 2008.

Letter from HSE Regarding Palliative Care In Wicklow

The Town Clerk read out a letter received from Mr. Hugh Kane, Assistant National Director PCCC. This was in response to a letter sent to Mary Harney TD and Professor Brendan Drumm, CEO of the HSE on 22nd May 2008 expressing concern at the lack of a Palliative Care Nurse in the Bray area.

Mr. Kane's letter stated that the HSE will advertise for a Palliative Care Nurse and that it is hoped that the position is filled in early Autumn.

Councillor John McManus informed the members that there has been no movement on Palliative Care in Wicklow.

10. Any Other Business

Mobile Recycling Service

Councillor Anne Ferris informed the members that an email was sent to each of them by a local resident informing them of a meeting being convened in relation to the Mobile Recycling Service at St. Peter's BNS. Councillor Ferris stated that Wicklow County Council have confirmed in writing that they will be discontinuing the service and added that the Town Clerk Christine Flood had informed her that Bray Town Council will continue funding this service until alternative arrangements are made. Councillor Ferris commended Bray Town Council for taking over the funding of this service and asked the Town Clerk for her comments on this matter, so that all present would be made aware of the arrangements.

The Town Clerk informed the members that Bray Town Council have agreed to fund this service until the end of September and that she is confident that the alternative arrangements will be in place at this stage and that the residents will be happy with these.

The members thanked the Town Clerk for continuing with this service and stressed the importance of it to the local residents, many of whom are elderly or do not have access to transport to bring them up to the Recycling Centre on the Boghall Road. It was noted that there was no suspension of service and that mis-information had been relayed. Councillor Anne Egan stated that a survey of the Mobile Recycling Service had been carried out and Councillor John McManus added that the Municipal Policy Committee should receive the results of the survey.

Memorial Mass for Sub Officer Brian Murray & Fire-fighter Mark O'Shaughnessy

The Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien, informed the members that a memorial mass will be held at 11:00am on Saturday 27th September in the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer.

Road in Wolfe Tone Square West

Councillor John Byrne informed the members that he had been approached by the residents of 58, 59 and 60 Wolfe Tone Square West. He stated that the road here is in terrible condition and asked if something could be done on a temporary basis.

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Councillor John Brady requested that reports be provided regarding the Mountainview Right of Way and also the fence in Glen na Smol.

Councillor Brady informed the members that a Skip Hire company is distributing free bags in the area and when people telephone to have them collected, none is forthcoming. He wondered what could be done as a Council. He stated that people are willing to pay to have the bags collected by the company, are requesting that they be collected but that the company in question are not collecting. Councillor Brady wondered it is possible to prosecute the company under the Litter Act, if Bye Laws could be brought in to govern this or if Bray Town Council could write to the company in question.

The Town Clerk responded that usually the Council would write to the residents, rather than the company and issue fines to the persons using the bags.

Councillor Brady responded that he recognised this but that a lot of the bags were left on open spaces and that there is no one to correspond with but the company. He stated that he will pass on the contact details of the company.

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The meeting concluded with the Town Engineer stating that he will give a report to the members on the three issues at the next meeting.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____