

Minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 2nd October at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Brid Collins, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor John Brady
Councillor Anne Egan
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
Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer

Apologies: Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Anne Ferris
Councillor David Grant
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien

The Cathaoirleach Brid Collins opened the meeting by stating that she was suspending all business of the Special Housing & Planning meeting and that the only business that would be conducted would be a vote of sympathy to the families of Fire Fighter Mark O'Shaughnessy and Sub Officer Brian Murray, as a mark of respect to the two heroes.

She called for a minute's silence for Mark O'Shaughnessy and Brian Murray and also included the Harvey and Cahill families who lost loved ones in fires.

Councillor Anne Egan thanked the Cathaoirleach for giving the members the opportunity to extend their sympathies to the O'Shaughnessy and Murray families. She stated that this was a terrible tragedy and that she knew Brian Murray before he became a fire fighter. She remarked that Brian's Murray's family were a credit to him and showed dignity at the funeral today. She wished to express sympathy to Mary Murray and both families.

Councillor Michael Lawlor stated that he'd like to join in with Councillor Anne Egan in congratulating the Cathaoirleach for suspending the business of the meeting. He stated that it was tragic for the families involved and wished to extend his sympathy to both families.

Councillor Caroline Burrell expressed her sympathies to both families and remarked that Bray had stood out in respect for the two families. She added that she was very glad that the business of the meeting had been suspended.

Councillor John McManus thanked the Cathaoirleach for the opportunity to extend sympathies to the families of Mark O'Shaughnessy and Brian Murray and stated that he knew both men for years. He added that he would like to extend his personal sympathy. He added that it wouldn't be expected of people going out to work not to return home and that this was a deep deep shock. He also extended sympathy to their colleagues and remarked about the appreciation for the work that these men, the fire service, Civil Defence, the Gardai etc do. He added that it was time to have a look at these services and how they help the community.

Councillor Pat Vance thanked the Cathaoirleach for the opportunity to express sympathy and stated that he knew both families. He said that it was only when a tragedy occurs that it brings to mind the service they [fire fighters] provide and that the people of the town of Bray have esteem for these services. He remarked that you never appreciate it until you need it. He stated that we need to think of the colleagues of the men, as it was very difficult for them also

over the past few days. He finished by extending his sincere sympathies to the families of Mark O'Shaughnessy and Brian Murray.

Councillor Steve Matthews stated that Mark O'Shaughnessy was his neighbour and was a decent, genuine guy. He didn't know Brian Murray but felt that from the tributes being paid to him that the same could be said of him. He wished to pay tribute and extend sympathies to the families.

Councillor John Brady expressed sincere condolences to the families and remarked that everyone was touched by the tragedy. He stated that these guys are heroes and that they go virtually unrecognised for the work they do. He expressed sympathy to the families and colleagues of Mark O'Shaughnessy and Brian Murray. He remarked that there had been a fire in Ballywaltrim the previous Friday and that Greystones Fire Brigade answered the call and congratulated them on this.

He said that the two men were experienced fire fighters and that Brian had 10 plus years experience, while Mark had 2 years. He finished by stating that Brian Murray had said that Bray needs a full time fire service and that he agreed with him but that discussion was for another day.

Cathaoirleach Brid Collins extended her sympathies to the families, friends and colleagues of Mark O'Shaughnessy and Brian Murray and to the Harvey and Cahill families also. She further extended her sympathies to Chief Fire Officer Jim Dunphy, Bill Downes of Civil Defence, Superintendent Lernihan and the Gardai of Bray. She congratulated the staff of Bray Town Council during a difficult time and stated that she knew Brian Murray well. She also knew Mark O'Shaughnessy as he was on her team in Dell and in fact, she interviewed him. This was during his student days and he told her then that he wanted to be a fire fighter. She remarked that all these firemen are heroes and formally expressed her sympathies to the families, friends and colleagues of Mark O'Shaughnessy & Brian Murray. She added that she will request the report on the full time fire service that is due to be presented to Wicklow County Council and endeavoured to have it on the agenda for next week's meeting.

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien extended sympathies from the management and staff of Bray Town Council. He stated that the fire crew have been devastated by the deaths of two of their colleagues and up to now, Greystones has been covering Bray, but that it would be business as usual from Wednesday onwards and congratulated them on this.

The Town Clerk, Christine Flood added to the condolences from the members and the Town Manager to the families, friends and colleagues in the fire service of the two men.

The Town Engineer, Sean O'Neill stated that last Wednesday started like any other day and it ended in tragedy, which will not be forgotten by anyone. He passed on the condolences of himself and his family and stated that he was asked specifically to pass on the condolences of the outdoor staff – some of which are ex-fire fighters and remarked that the deaths have hit them hard.

The Cathaoirleach stated that Councillors Anne Ferris, David Grant, Ciaran O'Brien and John Byrne extended their apologies for being unable to attend the meeting but that they wished to be associated with the sympathies extended.

She stated that the Leas Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien was at the funerals of the two men.

She remarked that Councillor John Byrne was devastated by the deaths of the two fire fighters and that he works closely with the fire crew and in fact he was manning the fire station and that was why he was unable to attend the meeting.

She concluded the meeting by thanking the members for their support in the suspension of business.

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This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____