

Minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 4th November, 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Ciaran O'Brien, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor John Brady
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor David Grant
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 Brid Collins
Councillor Anne Egan
Councillor Anne Ferris

Councillor John Brady requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss the Budget 2009. The Cathaoirleach stated that this is a national issue and the members would discuss the Bray Town Council budget in due course. He declined the request to suspend standing orders.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting dated 7th October, 2008

Councillor Caroline Burrell proposed confirmation of the minutes of 7th October 2008 and Councillor John Byrne seconded the proposal.

2. To Consider The Housing Progress Report

The members raised the following points:

- What is the Council's policy is if there are two tenants on the rent book and one decides to go travelling? Does the tenant go off the Housing list?
- I am concerned that that a young tenant wishing to travel would be penalised for doing so.
- Elected members should not raise matters that are tenant specific at Council meetings.

Kilbride Lane / Kilbride House

- When will these plans be drawn up?
- The footpaths are very narrow and the poles are dangerous. Can we investigate as part of the scheme?
- Because of traffic and schools nearby a cycle lane is needed.

Miscellaneous

- Heatherwood/Ard Na Greine – can an estate management committee be set-up for these estates?
- Ballywaltrim Business Park – dumping is taking place at the border fence, can the Council investigate this?
- Carrigoona – is the project appraisal delayed until January?
- Disabled Persons Grant – welcome that this issue has been resolved.
- Flash flooding in Oldcourt – is there any update on compensation?
- Deerpark – nameplate needs to be re-erected for the estate.
- Proposed Allocations/Transfers – Councillor John Brady highlighted that this notice states that it is highly confidential. He further added that an upset tenant approached him recently alleging that another elected member informed her that she was to be transferred to a new

house in Bray. Councillor Brady expressed his concern at this irresponsible action and the lack of confidentiality. The Cathaoirleach stated that this is a breach of protocol and would be dealt in the appropriate manner.

Triona Irving, Administrative Officer informed the members of the following:

- There is already a resident's committee set-up to cover Heatherwood, Deerpark, Ard Na Greine and White Oaks.
- The sign for Deerpark has been ordered and will be erected as soon as possible.
- We will speak to the architects regarding a cycle lane at Kilbride Lane.
- I will inform the Litter Warden of the dumping at Ballywaltrim Business Park.

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

- The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government responded to the Council stating that tenants should apply to the Welfare Officer in the Health Service Executive for financial assistance for flood damage. She added that the Clerk of Works is assessing these houses.

3. To Consider Planning Matters

The Administrative Officer reported that Councillor John Brady requested the following planning file: 08/199.

The members raised the following points:

Planning File Reference 08/199

- I welcome this application - can the parking situation (especially in Ballymorris estate) be examined. There is inadequate parking available and this had caused problems for emergency vehicles accessing the Ballymorris estate in the past.

Florence Road Carpark

- It appears that only part of the carpark is going ahead. There are only 122 spaces as opposed to the 290 committed to. What assurances do we have that Ballymore will follow through on the additional spaces?
- There is no visible start to the shopfronts.

Taking-In-Charge of Estates

- When will this be completed? Is there any update?
- The ESB will not record streetlights on their system if they are not taken in charge by the local authority.

Albert Walk

- This is in a disgraceful state, is there anything the Council can do?

Oldcourt Park House

- I wish to thank the staff and officials in the Planning Department for the swift action in making this secure.

Planning File Reference 08/196

- I would hope that this is flats and not second homes.

Planning File Reference 08/199

- I support this application and hope they get the necessary funding.

Planning File Reference 08/110

- Revisions have been submitted. I would hope that this would be in keeping with the area. I would like to see more three and four bedroom houses. Carparking and waste management should be considered also.

Planning File Reference 08/02

- I do not support this application, as it is not in keeping with the area.

Miscellaneous

- I would like to see checks carried out with regard to telecommunications masts.

The Town Clerk informed the members of the following:

- Florence Road carpark – Approximately 120 spaces are to be handed over in the coming days. Access and safety issues need to be addressed before the carpark is open to the public. The remaining spaces are due for completion in early December. No date has been given yet for the completion of the retail units.

The Town Manager informed the members of the following:

- Taking-In-Charge of Estates – the ESB will not service or maintain streetlights until they are taken in charge by the Council. The Council will make an effort and commitment in progressing this matter.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the parking at Florence Road carpark. He also stated that he would raise the issue of the streetlights and the ESB at the Infrastructure, Planning and Development MPC.

4. Disposal of Fee Simple Interest in 51 James Everett Park, Bray, in accordance with Statutory Notice

It was proposed by Councillor Pat Vance and seconded by Councillor John Byrne to proceed with the disposal of Fee Simple Interest in 51 James Everett Park, Bray, in accordance with Statutory Notice.

5. To Discuss The Wolfe Tone Road Works Scheme

Liam Bourke informed the member's that works on the scheme had been delayed due to the drainage scheme and also a shortage of engineering staff. The original scheme which went out to tender was too expensive and had to be modified. However the Wolfe Tone Road Works Scheme would be progressing in the coming weeks.

The members raised the following points:

- I am outraged and disappointed at the delay. Bray Town Council went to public consultation in 2002 and the residents were promised that the works would be completed in a three/four year period.
- The drainage scheme is ongoing for 11 months and has still not commenced.
- [Councillor John Byrne] I propose that these works are completed to bring the roads up to a reasonable standard.
- [Councillor Caroline Burrell] I second this proposal.
- Traffic calming is a priority in Wolfe Tone Square.
- Residents and Councillors should have been informed of this delay.
- Undergrounding of wires and poles should have taken place. Can we examine the possibility of doing this in Wolfe Tone Square West?
- There is a credibility issue for Councillors and officials.

Liam Bourke stated that he will take onboard the members comments.

6. To Discuss The Review of the County Development Plan and the Bray Town Development Plan

The Town Manager circulated a detailed booklet regarding the review of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016. He informed the members that the Bray Environs Plan will be published in the coming weeks and this will be parallel with the County Development Plan. Fresh thinking is needed from elected members and officials for the town especially the Boghall Road and the Seafont. We will need to come up with creative policies for the future and consider major issues facing the town.

He added that the County Development Plan lists overall policies and settlement strategies. The Town Development Plan concentrates on that specific area. It is anticipated that the review of the Bray Town Development Plan will commence in six months time.

7. Reports and Recommendations

On Street Parking Control Bye-Laws 2009

The Town Clerk circulated the On Street Parking Control Bye-Laws 2009 and she informed the members that the Bye Laws were adopted at the Monthly Meeting dated 8th July 2008. Additional parking meters were ordered in August, however these machines have a long delivery time and are due to be installed in mid November. The Town Clerk requested the member’s endorsement to postpone the commencement date of the scheme to 5th January 2009. This will facilitate shoppers over the Christmas period, allow publicity in advance of the new commencement date and also allow estates to opt in to the scheme.

The members raised the following points:

- Are there any legal implications because the resolution, which was passed in July, stated that the bye-laws were due to commence on 1st October 2008.
- Controlled parking on the Seafront will upset commuters. The Council should contact Dublin Bus to provide alternative transport to the Dart Station.
- I agree, a private operator or CIE should provide a loop bus service around the town.

The Town Clerk confirmed that she had communicated with CIE regarding the changes. She also stated that she had a meeting with an official from the Quality Bus Network in order to improve the viability of bus services. It is proposed that Ciaran de Burca from the QBN would attend a meeting in December to discuss this with the members.

Councillor Caroline Burrell proposed that the commencement date for the On Street Parking Control Bye-Laws 2009 would be postponed until 5th January 2009. Councillor John Byrne seconded the proposal.

The councillors took a vote on the motion and voted in the following manner:

	For	Against
Councillor John Brady	✓	
Councillor Caroline Burrell	✓	
Councillor John Byrne	✓	
Councillor Brid Collins	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Councillor Anne Egan	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Councillor Anne Ferris	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Councillor David Grant	✓	
Councillor Michael Lawlor	✓	
Councillor Steve Matthews	✓	
Councillor John McManus	✓	
Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance	✓	
Total	9	0

The Town Clerk then deemed the resolution to be carried unanimously.

Ballywaltrim Playground

- Councillor John Brady enquired if there was a report for Ballywaltrim Playground. Mr. Liam Bourke stated that the report would be available at the next meeting.

8. Correspondence

Rent Allowance Forms

The Town Clerk informed the members that she had received a letter from the Health Service Executive in response to a query regarding the inclusion of the landlords PPSN on the rent allowance form. The letter stated that Section 123 of the Finance Act 2007 requires Community Welfare Officers to request landlord PPS numbers of the landlords of the properties for which rent supplement applications are made. It further stated that Data Protection difficulties have arisen in relation to this matter. Enclosed with the letter was a copy of the circular 07/08 issued by the Department of Social and Family Affairs on the 17th October 2008, Section 3 of the circular outlines the position.

The members raised the following points:

- I cannot understand why there are data protection issues.
- The Community Welfare Officers should be vigorous. I would hope that the Council is also vigorous.
- €442 million is spent on rent supplements.
- The Data Protection Act applies to everyone. Can we seek clarification from the HSE?

The Town Clerk confirmed that she would seek clarification from the HSE.

Letter from SWAP

The Town Clerk circulated a letter from SWAP regarding the outcome of their public meeting held on 13th October 2008.

The Town Clerk informed the members of the following:

- I have written to the Office of Public Works regarding funding. They replied by email stating that they are currently drafting a response.
- The results of the running of the physical model of the Flood Defence Scheme will be made available as soon as these are completed.
- The siren warning system is under consideration.
- The provision of sandbags is currently being examined however there are some cost issues.
- The report regarding the non-provision of wheelchair accessible toilets in the evacuation centre is incorrect. Persons with special requirements will be accommodated.

The members raised the following points:

- I welcome the siren system.
- We need to examine the provision of floodgates and seek funding.
- We should seek funding elsewhere as there is a rumour that the developer is not proceeding with the project.
- A siren is not a nice thing to live near. There may be noise pollution issues. Picking the location for the siren is not going to be easy.
- We should examine the surveys and figures we collected to decide on the right procedures for each household. Some residents may or may not require sandbags or evacuation.
- There is likely to be a delay in the scheme due to the current economic climate.
- There was an expression of interest regarding text alerts. Could this be examined?
- Could we contact Pizarro asking them to clarify their position or intentions?

The Town Manager informed the members of the following:

- Officials from Bray Town Council and the OPW went to view the physical model of the River Dargle. It was very impressive and runs from Silverbridge down to the sea. The model measures the level of water at each point.
- The commercial market is in a different position to the residential market. We don't want to use public funds if a private contributor is willing to fund the scheme.
- Flood protection funds were not cut during the recent Budget.
- Text alerts are difficult as people are constantly losing or replacing mobile phones.

The Town Clerk informed the members of the following:

- The IT section are testing a system for text alerts. However group texts are quite slow in delivering.
- The first meeting of the community wardens took place on 30th October and seventeen wardens attended.

Visit to the Town Hall

The Town Clerk reminded the members that the Belmont Brownies would be visiting the Town Hall on Thursday 6th November 2008.

Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013

The Town Clerk advised the members that the Draft Travellers Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 is available for inspection at the offices of Wicklow County Council, Bray Town Council, Arklow Town Council, Greystones Town Council, Wicklow Town Council and at public libraries throughout the County.

9. Any Other Business

Public Lighting Contract

Councillor John Brady advised the members that he was informed that the public lighting contract is being amended. One person who would also serve South Dublin and North Wicklow would maintain the service.

It was agreed that a full report would be presented at the next meeting regarding this matter.

Florence Road Carpark

Councillor John Brady enquired who would be running the Florence Road carpark, what would the charges be and who would receive the revenue.

The Town Clerk stated that Bray Town Council would operate the carpark. The charges will be the same as the Herbert Road carpark and there will be costs associated with running the carpark. Bray Town Council have committed to paying Ballymore for the use of their section and this agreement is in place for one year.

* * * *

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____