

Minutes of the Budget Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 13th January 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

- Councillor Ciarán O'Brien, Cathaoirleach**
- Councillor John Brady**
- Councillor Caroline Burrell**
- Councillor John Byrne**
- Councillor Bríd Collins**
- Councillor Anne Egan**
- Councillor Anne Ferris**
- 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**
- Mr. David Forde, Administrative Officer, Finance**
- Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer, Planning**
- Ms Valerie Armstrong, A/Staff Officer, Finance**

The Cathaoirleach Ciarán O'Brien opened the meeting by stating that there are unprecedented cuts to the Local Government Fund of 6.7%. He added that even though this is the case, it is the duty of Bray Town Council to ensure that services are maintained. He hoped that the members kept this at the forefront of their minds during the meeting. He finished by asking David Forde, Administrative Officer Finance, to present three divisions at a time, after which the floor would be open to questions.

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien remarked that there was not a lot to add. He stated that in the current climate Bray Town Council has done its' best not to make savage cuts to the budget and added that the staff had worked very hard to balance the figures.

The members thanked David Forde and his team for the work they did on preparing the budget and raised the following points:

- [Councillor John Byrne] I propose that we take this programme by programme and then discuss it.
- I am happy to take it three at a time.
- You would think that the Government wrote the introduction. Blaming the international economic crisis on the fiscal problems suffered by Bray Town Council is not right. There has been reckless management of public finances over the past five years. We are suffering cut backs due to this Government.
- I agree, there has been mismanagement of finances in this state by the Government. These are unprecedented financial times – times are difficult. We need to ring fence frontline services and ensure we maintain these.
- The introduction by the Manager is very depressing – perhaps it was to prepare us for the worst.
- In Germany they are suffering a recession also and the Government is running home insulation schemes and house building schemes.
- The German Government increased their capital spending by €50 million, but this is not even 5% of their GDP.
- I am disappointed with the Government decrease of 6.7%, there will be a lot of juggling. The County Demand has increased by 3.6%. We'll do our best for the people of Bray.
- I know the new format is national, but it is more difficult to see the breakdowns.
- We still have to agree a budget, the figures presented are reasonable.
- The issue of the increase in the Commercial Rate of 4.9% needs to be looked at as well as the fees charged for water services. We need to look at recycling in Palermo also.

- The Commercial Rate is very high compared to other Local Authority rates in this county.
- I will not be voting for this Budget unless the Commercial Rate is less than 2%.
- We need to do our best for people and I think we can do so. We should be able to agree this Budget tonight.

1. To Consider the Local Authority Budget for the Financial Year Ending 31st December 2009

Division A – Housing & Building

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this Division.

Estimated Expenditure	€2,231,700	Estimated Income	€3,082,148
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Mr. David Forde informed the members that the figure for Service Support Costs included items such as insurance, staff training and call outs.

Division B – Road Transport & Safety

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this Division.

Estimated Expenditure	€3,397,731	Estimated Income	€2,006,294
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Mr. David Forde informed the members that the figure for Service Support Costs included items such as major public liability claims.

Division C – Water Services

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this Division.

Estimated Expenditure	€1,955,522	Estimated Income	€1,157,884
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Mr. David Forde informed the members that the figure for Service Support Costs included items such as salaries, insurance and staff training.

The members raised the following points:

- There is an increase of 10% in insurance costs. In the present circumstances the statement *'the Council is subject to pay inflation based on national pay agreements, and non-pay inflation at a rate far in excess of consumer price movement'* is not acceptable.
- Why, in light of the current economic circumstances are we paying 10% more on insurance? We should be shopping around. There are deals to be had. The management need to address this issue.
- The Housing Section should address the matter of provision of showers in Richmond Hill. We are obliged to provide a modern standard of living. Where in the estimates is this figure?
- The County Demand is up by over 3% and the Local Government Fund allocation has decreased by nearly 7%. Wicklow County Council is not giving value for money for the services they provide to us. This is putting pressure on us and our rate payers to make up the shortfall.
- The County Demand increase might look small, but services have been cut. Ballywaltrim Library has cut their opening hours from 34 hours to 23 hours per week. This is a step backwards and a bad return for the money that we pay to Wicklow County Council.
- Most of the County Demand is taken up with covering an increase in the Fire Service regarding new equipment and training. I don't think anyone in Bray could reject this. 3.6% was the lowest figure we could get.
- The County Demand is a big drain on us, but most of it is going to the fire service to buy better equipment. We need to keep the level of staffing in the fire service the same.
- Under the Housing & Building Division, there is a figure for maintenance of Local Authority housing units. We have heard nothing back regarding the refurbishment schemes – I take it this is included in the figure provided.
- Do we have enough money to cover improvements such as extensions and attic conversions to Local Authority homes?

- I won't vote for the increase of 4.9% in commercial rates. There have been negative effects on retailers with car parks closing. The free parking in the run up to Christmas was very beneficial to the traders.
- [Councillor John Brady] I propose that the free parking scheme be extended as it draws more people into the town to spend money. What impact would this have on the budget if we were to extend it?
- I fought for free parking on Saturdays when the paid parking was first introduced and it was a disaster. Traders and employees took up the parking spaces. There was nowhere for customers to park. I think the free parking provided at Christmas showed people that they would get a parking spot if they went down the town. It doesn't matter if they have to pay or not, if they can be sure of getting a spot.
- If we relax the parking, staff and traders will take up the spaces. It sounds like a good idea but people going into Dublin on the DART would use it.
- Why are we looking at a decrease from €35,000 to €10,000 in Traffic Management? The Maintenance and Management of Car Parking has increased from €500,000 to €1.3 million. This is a 150% increase.
- There is a figure of €45,000 for public lighting – will this money be used to provide lighting in Ballywaltrim Playground?
- The figure for public lighting is up €40,000 on the outturn in 2008.
- Every year we discuss the increase of water charges to our customers. Wicklow County Council dictate the rate charged. Businesses are being crippled by these charges.
- I am delighted to see the provision of a sewer for Bray Boxing Club in the estimates, we all know how well Katie Taylor and indeed Pete Taylor have done. This is essential to the expansion of the club.
- I support the provision of funding for the Boxing Club – it is in a disgraceful state.
- I think it is unwise to assign money to particular projects. We should wait to see what the Block Grant is and then decide.
- Will the money that has been ring fenced be honoured?
- I support the ring fencing, particularly for the Wolfe Tone Youth Club.
- Does the tax on holiday homes announced in the Budget come to Bray Town Council? This is a form of property tax and I believe it is dangerous to bring this in.
- Why does the Homeless Officer only have a 12 month contract – she is doing a great job.
- There seems to be an increase overall across all divisions in Service Support Costs – payroll costs are due to decrease by 3%.
- There has been a jump in Fire Insurance – can we see about getting a better rate?
- The public convenience on the Main Street was moved some time ago – it is expensive to maintain. Where is it now?
- At a previous meeting it was stated that Wicklow County Council owe Bray Town Council €7 million for the SuperQuinn site. Would this figure make up the County Demand?
- I don't see a list of our borrowings and who we hold them with. Are the interest rate reductions being passed onto us when they are supposed to be?
- The issue of outstanding monies under the RAPID scheme was raised at a recent council meeting. What progress has been made on drawing this down?
- I have a lot of concerns regarding the figures on the administration side. The figure for Debt Management and Rent Assessment has increased by €34,000. The figure for Support to Housing Capital & Affordable Programme has increased to €107,000 from €92,000.

Mr. David Forde informed the members of the following:

- We are insured with Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance. We are required to have insurance with them. In effect, public bodies own IPBMI. Our housing stock has increased, which leads to the rise in fire insurance.
- If we provided free car parking on Saturdays in the car parks alone, a conservative estimate indicates that the cost to this council would be in the region of €100,000.
- My information is that the tax on second homes goes to the Private Rented Tenancy Board.
- Public lighting costs are paid in arrears. In 2009 we may have to go to tender on this as the ESB might not provide this service any more.
- The decrease from €35,000 to €10,000 in Traffic Management is a reduction in the traffic calming area.
- We have achieved a reduction in payroll costs of 3%. Advertising costs are also down. We have increases in other areas that are allocated over all divisions.

- The interest rates are set by the Housing Finance Agency – we have no borrowings from private institutions.
- We are paying maintenance for the removed public convenience. This will be relocated to the seafront.

Councillor Michael Lawlor requested a point of clarification regarding the Central Management Charge. In 2008, this figure was €1.4 million. The figure provided for 2009 is €1.575 million. He asked why this figure had increased by €175,000 in one year.

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien responded that there is a decrease in payroll on the 2008 figures. There was a benchmarking increase of 3% in September of 2008, which will be carried through for all of 2009. There will possibly be a further benchmarking increase of 3% this year. The salaries as are will stand even with the 3% decrease demanded by central government.

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

- The figure for Maintenance & Improvement of Local Authority Houses is for day to day maintenance. There is no provision for extensions etc. These are under Capital Expenditure.
- The responsibility for drawing down RAPID funding lies with the RAPID co-ordinator. I am having a meeting with him tomorrow.
- Professional and Legal fees are now included under Debt Management & Rent Assessment.
- There will be a report at the next Special Housing & Planning meeting regarding the showers in Richmond Hill, as requested.
- The Outreach Officer is on a yearly contract as we have to apply to the Department for funding. Our application for funding for 2009 was successful.

Councillor John McManus asked why Bray Town Council are accepting the '*non-pay inflation at a rate far in excess of consumer price movement*' and added that as Bray Town Council is in a crisis situation, we should look at getting the best possible deal from suppliers. The Town Manager stated that Bray Town Council have had a lot of claims regarding fire insurance. Once claims increase, insurance premiums increase also.

Mr. David Forde informed the members of the following:

- The cost of public lighting will increase in 2009 and Bray Town Council may have to go to tender.
- We are actively seeking to reduce energy costs – we have changed suppliers.
- [Town Manager, Des O'Brien] The ESB have taken the strategic decision to get out of public lighting. Dublin Corporation recently tendered for this and got no responses.
- The increase in the Central Management Charge on 2008 is due to an increase in pensions. Three people retired in 2008 and two received lump sums. There is an extra €85,000 cost in pensions.

Division D – Development Management

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this Division.

Estimated Expenditure	€755,406	Estimated Income	€217,909
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Division E – Environmental Services

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this Division.

Estimated Expenditure	€1,467,580	Estimated Income	€464,811
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Division F – Recreation & Amenity

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this Division.

Estimated Expenditure	€2,218,307	Estimated Income	€612,752
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The members raised the following points:

- I would like to query the introduction. There is a standing amount of €335,000 regarding the Heritage Centre. Did we buy it? I don't remember seeing figures.

- We discussed the mobile recycling service in Palermo last week – we fought for this over the years and kept it on.
- The way forward regarding recycling is door to door, not to have people car dependent on a Recycling Centre.
- The people of Palermo had this service for years and it was taken away. I welcome the service that is provided in Fassaroe, but the elderly in Palermo don't have cars to access it.
- I accept that the mobile recycling service was abused, but the elderly did not abuse it. The onus is on this council to provide a service to the elderly in the area. I suggest a pilot scheme whereby extra recycling bags under the Waiver Scheme are provided to the elderly. If we provide one bag a month it won't cost very much.
- [Councillor John McManus] I propose we include this in the estimates, it will cost €1,500 to provide this.
- I support the provision of a Pilot Recycling Scheme. The mobile recycling was conducted twice a month and there is an extended scheme in operation in Fassaroe. Giving recycling bags to people on the Waiver Scheme is a great idea.
- I am not happy that the mobile recycling service was discontinued and I support the Pilot Scheme for the moment. We can look at this again in the future.
- Bray Town Council should be commended for maintaining the mobile recycling service after Wicklow County Council withdrew funding.
- It is reasonable to have some form of recycling scheme in Palermo. I accept that some people were abusing it, but the majority weren't. A lot of people used the service on foot and the Pilot Scheme will make it easier for them, as the facility on the Boghall Road is not accessible for all.
- I support the Pilot Scheme on the condition that the money does not come from the Waiver Scheme. Extra funding should be provided.
- I am opposed to a Pilot Scheme, as this is pushing it back to the private sector. Money needs to be ring fenced for a recycling scheme. I propose that this go to the MPC. The residents are open to change – they have suggested a collection once a month.
- There is a need for some kind of recycling service in this area. The Fassaroe service is only provided Monday to Friday and some residents work from Monday to Friday. There was a meeting held by the residents of the area last week.
- Councillors McManus and Lawlor always held the position that the recycling collection be a door to door one. Councillors Collins, Matthews and I worked closely with the residents of the area regarding the mobile recycling service and we were not invited to the meeting.
- We also met with the residents and committee members regarding the mobile recycling scheme and were not informed of this meeting.
- The Pilot Scheme is more practical as it is not weather dependent.
- I commend the town council on setting up of a Litter Task Force and I wish them every success. I look forward to a presentation from them.
- There is a reduction in the Litter Management figure. Where was the Litter Control Initiative funding spent?
- There is a decrease in funding for street cleaning from €714,000 to €609,000 – how will this impact?
- There is a figure of €6,000 under Community & Enterprise function – I presume this won't go towards the provision of an Enterprise Centre? Why it is €6,000, are we building up a reserve fund? The onus is on this council to provide an Enterprise Centre.
- We would all like to see an Enterprise Centre. I am a member of the Enterprise Board and we were looking for a site and had funding of €1 million in place. However, the funding was not used and we lost it.
- I am glad to see a figure of €29,000 for Unfinished Housing Estates. I hope we use the bonds paid by developers to fund completion.
- I welcome the increase in funding for Unfinished Housing Estates, I am glad to see a start on this.
- [Councillor Anne Ferris] Last year I got the weekend surcharge on burials removed from the estimates. The death of a loved one is a bad time for people and it is bad to charge this at a sensitive and already expensive time. I propose that this fee is removed.
- [Councillor Caroline Burrell] I support Councillor Ferris regarding the weekend surcharge.
- I do not see provision of funding for the Angels Plot/Urn Wall. We were told that this [Angels Plot/Urn Wall] would be provided and nothing has happened.
- I request funding for the Heritage Forum. We gave €5,000 in 2007.

- Under Division F – the Operation and Maintenance of Leisure Facilities, the curtailment of the hours at Ballywaltrim Library must be opposed at all costs.
- We received a report regarding Ballywaltrim Playground. I am opposed to only part of the playground being refurbished. What level of refurbishment will be conducted?
- The People's Park playground went out to tender and there is no mention of funding for this. What is happening? Where is the money? When will it be installed?
- Funding for changing rooms at the Ballywaltrim Community Centre is also needed.
- [Councillor Anne Ferris] I propose the budget for the Arts Programme. Bray Summerfest, St. Patrick's Day Carnival and the lights at Christmas bring a lift to the town. It is important that we continue to put on festivals. I understand if we can't increase funding but I welcome continued funding.
- I support the Christmas lights but I do not support funding for Summerfest or the St. Patrick's Day Carnival. We are proposing giving €30,000 to both of these groups. They should be paying for the use of the beach.
- These festivals (St. Patrick's Day & Summerfest) are the best value for the amount of money we give them. We should give the funding that is proposed.
- We have free entertainment on the seafront and Councillor Burrell is begrudging the money we are giving to them. Bray would be nowhere without these events. We are drawing tourists in also.
- [Councillor David Grant] I propose that we look at one figure for festivals and let organisations apply for funding, which can then be allocated. This funding should be available to everyone and easily accessible.
- [Councillor Steve Matthews] I propose a pay freeze on funding for the St. Patrick's Day Carnival and Bray Summerfest.
- Point of Clarification – is there an increase in funding for the St. Patrick's Day Carnival and Bray Summerfest?
- I would like it if we could give more to the Bray Concert Band.
- There is a figure of €222,000 regarding the Mermaid Theatre. What is the deficit on the revenue earned each year?
- How long does it take us to recoup the €580,000 for the FÁS Community Employment Scheme?
- What is the situation regarding tree trimming? I understand that there'll be none undertaken this year. The residents of the estates are very concerned regarding Health & Safety issues.
- Where is the suction sweeper gone?
- The suction sweeper cleans my estate on a regular basis.

Mr. David Forde informed the members of the following:

- The figures for the St. Patrick's Day Carnival and Bray Summerfest as the same as last years'.
- There is an outstanding balance on the Capital Account for the Heritage Centre. We carried out a refurbishment on it some years ago and minor work over the past year.
- The figure of €6,000 under the Community & Enterprise function is to fund the Joint Policing Committee and works on the Harbour Shed.
- We are obliged to use national headings.
- Money has been set aside for the People's Park Playground.
- Unfinished Housing Estates refers to the taking in charge of Duncairn Terrace and Lauderdale. Again, we are obliged to use national headings.
- There is no funding provided for the Heritage Forum.
- The 2008 funding for Litter Management was not fully spent. There has also been a reduction in the removal of rubble.
- We recoup the €580,000 for the FÁS Community Employment Scheme within two months of paying it out.
- [Councillor Bríd Collins] €580,000 every two months is a lot of lost interest.
- This figure is over one year.

The Town Clerk informed the members of the following:

- There is funding set aside for the Angels Plot/Urn Wall. We have had a change in engineers and this is on list of duties to be reassigned. I will remind the engineer dealing with this.. He is also working on the People's Park Playground and is liaising with the various groups.

The Town Manager added the following:

- There is a figure of €700,000 outstanding on the Capital Account in relation to the Mermaid Theatre. We put a figure of €222,000 in every year. We envisage that the operation costs will be €180,000 this year. To date, Wicklow County Council have matched our funding, but there is the possibility that they may reduce funding by €6,000.

The members responded:

- The financial control and management of the Mermaid Theatre is excellent. They come in on budget every year.
- Are the 3% savings in salary expenses coming from street cleaning? One of the street cleaners is due to retire and his position is not being filled. The outdoor staff seem to be short staffed as it is.
- These are frontline people cleaning our streets and parks and I am concerned that we are looking at outdoor staff to reduce wages.
- We are maintaining the outdoor services.
- I am opposed to signing off on the Pilot Scheme tonight – we need to ring fence money, engage with the community and refer this matter to the MPC.
- What is the position with tree trimming and the suction sweeper? Is this our truck?

Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer informed the members that the truck used for suction sweeping is hired. The truck belonging to Bray Town Council has not been used for a number of months due to the fact that it needed work done on it and a difficulty in keeping it manned. The truck belonging to Bray Town Council is in Wicklow County Council.

Councillor Pat Vance stated that he had been told that tree trimming would not be conducted until staff are trained in Health & Safety. Mr. O'Neill responded that Bray Town Council need to train staff in order to meet the requirements of the Health & Safety Act. A deficit in training has been identified and is being worked on. Training is being provided on an ongoing basis and tree trimming will be conducted this year.

Division G – Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this Division.

Estimated Expenditure	€334,285	Estimated Income	€213,381
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Division H – Miscellaneous Services

The members were advised of the following estimated expenditure and income under this Division.

Estimated Expenditure	€744,589	Estimated Income	€24,238
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The members raised the following points:

- I welcome the funding under Educational Support Services, particularly the School Meals programme. This is a vital service. There are eight schools in the scheme and it works well.
- I hope children are getting low fat meals and fruit. I would like a report on the school meals scheme.
- We have never had a report regarding school meals. Two of our members sit on the committee. A lot of money is being provided for this.
- There have been reports that schools are handing out doughnuts and I am concerned about this as the children are not benefiting.
- I inherited the School Meals programme from Joe Behan. There are School Completion programmes covering these schools and there are large boards on these programmes. We could ask the board members to provide a report.
- There are numerous organisations providing breakfast clubs etc. Our service should be integrated with theirs.
- The School Completion and Breakfast Clubs are nothing to do with School Meals. The Breakfast Clubs are run by the government. School Meals is a lunchtime service. If you drop the School Meals service, you are putting a person out of a job.
- I welcome the Green Machine – it works well. I was told by a member of the outdoor staff that Bray Town Council don't have a gritting machine and that Bray Town Council don't operate a

gritting service. Wicklow County Council operate the service for Bray Town Council, but there have been complaints that Wicklow County Council don't grit their own roads.

- We are paying off the debt we owe under the Coastal Protection Scheme, but we are supposed to re-visit it every five years. I would like to see funding provided for this, as Councillor Vance said last week, it is starting to deteriorate.
- Is there any money for ongoing maintenance for the Coastal Protection Scheme under the River Dargle Scheme?
- [Town Manager] There is the same amount of money as last year.
- What is the position regarding the percentage of money collected regarding rates/water/rents? Rent collection is always quite high. I hope we can maintain this.
- [Councillor Caroline Burrell] Under the Local Representation heading, I propose a cut of 20% in Conference Attendance, Civic Receptions and Conferences Abroad.
- We should cut back on the budget of €27,000 for Conference Attendance. The allowance for the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach should be the same as last year. We should scrap the €12,000 allocation under Members Projects – this money could be used elsewhere.
- I would be wary of cutting the Conferences Abroad budget as this incorporates Town Twinning and it is beneficial to have delegations to Twinned Towns.
- [Councillor John Brady] I am opposed to cutting Civic Receptions and feel that we should increase it, as this is the only way to give public acknowledgement to the people of Bray. I agree that some conferences are beneficial to members. I propose that we cut 50% on the Conference Attendance budget and a reduction of €1,000 on the Conferences Abroad budget.
- [Councillor Michael Lawlor] I propose a 25% reduction in the Conferences budget, that we abolish the Members Projects, cut the Civic Receptions budget by 25% and let the allowances for the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach remain the same.
- To get the best value for Civic Receptions, we can double and triple up on them.
- If the Members Projects allocation is spent by the end of the lifetime of this Council, do the new members get this fee also?
- [Members] No, they will have to wait for the 2010 budget.
- I am reluctant to suggest that it is hard to justify a 12% increase in the Representational Payments, I don't think it is sustainable.
- [Town Manager, Des O'Brien] This figure is set by the Department.
- Withdraw the Members Projects allocation of €12,000. I agree with Councillor Brady regarding Civic Receptions. I am reluctant to cut it back – let it remain at last year's figure.
- I agree that we should cut the Conference budget but we should leave the Civic Reception budget as is. Leave the Members Projects budget as is, this money goes back into the community.
- Conferences account for 0.15% of our total budget. To devote so much time to discussing them is amazing. People are undermining the value of them. It is important that Councillors (particularly new Councillors) can attend Local Government conferences to bring them up to speed.
- Under operation of Markets and Casual Trading a figure of €463 has been provided. Why were no figures provided last year? Who pays for the electricity the market traders use?

Mr. David Forde informed the members of the following:

- We are finalising our income collection figures at present. We expect collection figures to be the same as previously.
- The income from Casual Trading is €25 per licence. We are making no income from the market at the Heritage Centre.
- [Councillor Anne Ferris] We are paying for this [electricity usage] via funding the Heritage Centre. I will follow up on this matter.

Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer stated that Wicklow County Council grit the roads around Bray as required. The gritter also comes through the town.

Councillor John Byrne proposed that representatives of each political party meet with the Manager, Cathaoirleach and officials to discuss the proposed cuts and revert to the members.

2. By Resolution, To Adopt Such Local Authority Budget, With Or Without Amendment, And To Determine, In Accordance With Such Budget, As Adopted, The General Annual Rate On Valuation To Be Levied For The Several Purposes Specified In Such Budget

After a short interval, the changes to the Budget were agreed and presented as follows to the members.

- The figure of 4.9% for rates as presented reduces to 2%.
- Conference Attendance Budget reduced by 50%.
- Members Projects Budget reduced by 50%.
- The allowances for the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach will remain at the level agreed in 2008's Budget.
- The €80 surcharge on weekend burials will be averaged out over the full week.
- Provision of a Pilot Recycling Scheme in the Palermo area for elderly persons who are on the Waiver Scheme.

Reductions will apply to the following:

- Grass cutting reduced by €5,000
- Traffic signage reduced by €10,000
- Public lighting requirements reduced by €45,000
- Tourism Promotion reduced by €5,000
- Main Street Enhancement reduced by €3,000
- Removal of Rubbish reduced by €5,000
- Golf Course Maintenance reduced by €1,000
- Arts Act Grants reduced by €5,000
- Irrecoverable Rates reduced by €10,000

Funding Loans

- Bray Head Golf Course reduced by €10,000
- Playing Pitches Ballywaltrim reduced by €4,048
- Changing Facilities People's Park reduced by €6,500
- Sewer Truck reduced by €15,000

Councillor John McManus proposed the Draft Budget with the amendments above and Councillor Bríd Collins seconded the proposal.

A vote was called to adopt the Draft Budget, with amendments and the members voted in the following manner:

	For	Against
Councillor John Brady		✓
Councillor Caroline Burrell	✓	
Councillor John Byrne	✓	
Councillor Bríd Collins	✓	
Councillor Anne Egan	✓	
Councillor Anne Ferris	✓	
Councillor David Grant	✓	
Councillor Michael Lawlor	✓	
Councillor John McManus	✓	
Councillor Steve Matthews	✓	
Councillor Ciarán O'Brien	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance	✓	
Total	11	1

The members thanked Mr. Forde and his team in the Finance Department for the Draft Budget and acknowledged the level of work that went into it.

The Cathaoirleach Ciarán O'Brien thanked the members for putting the interests of Bray to the forefront of their discussions.

Request for Use of Town Hall

Before the meeting concluded, the Town Clerk read an email from Ms. Triona Irving on behalf of the Litter Task Force requesting the use of the Town Hall on Thursday the 5th February to host a public meeting to launch the Task Force. Councillor Bríd Collins proposed and Councillor John Brady seconded the proposal for the use of the Town Hall.

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This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

TOWN CLERK

Dated:
