

**Minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting of Bray Town Council
held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 12th June 2007 at
7.30pm**

Present:

- Councillor Brid Collins, Cathaoirleach**
- Councillor Ciaran O'Brien**
- Councillor Caroline Burrell**
- Councillor Anne Ferris**
- Councillor Anne Egan**
- Councillor John McManus**
- Councillor Pat Vance**
- Councillor John Byrne**
- Councillor John Brady**
- Councillor David Grant**
- Councillor Deirdre De Burca**
- Councillor Michael Lawlor**

Also present:

- Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services**
- Ms. Christine Flood, Town Clerk**
- Sean O Neill, Town Engineer**
- Triona Irving, Administrative Officer**

1. To consider the vacancy arising from the election of Deputy Joe Behan to Dáil Éireann in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001.

- The Town Clerk informed the members that Mr. Michael Lawlor has indicated his acceptance of his nomination by the Fianna Fail Party to replace Deputy Joe Behan on Bray Town Council.

Councillor Pat Vance proposed and Councillor David Grant seconded the proposal to nominate Michael Lawlor onto Bray Town Council.

The members agreed to this.

Councillor Michael Lawlor thanked the members for his nomination and congratulated the newly elected Cathaoirleach, Brid Collins, the Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Ciaran O'Brien and Deputy Joe Behan on his election to Dail Eireann.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting dated 1st May 2007.

The minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting dated 1st May 2007 were proposed by Councillor Anne Egan and seconded by Councillor Anne Ferris.

3. Reports and Recommendations

The Town Clerk informed the members that she has no reports and recommendations.

Councillor John Brady asked what the status was on the Ballywaltrim Playground.

The Town Engineer stated that the Gardaí had agreed to erecting a cctv camera at this location , but he had received no further information on this.

The members raised the following points –

- This playground is a massive asset. As soon as CCTV goes in can the playground be fixed up?
- Can we have a report for the next meeting on the mast that was erected in the Garda station?

Councillor Ciaran O'Brien stated that Bray Town Council deemed the erection of this mast exempt from planning regulations but it was then sent to An Bord Pleanala were we are still awaiting a decision.

Councillor John McManus stated that there was supposed to be a report for this meeting on the ramp outside the boathouse on the seafront.

The Town Engineer stated that he had not supplied the Town Clerk with a report on this but it is being investigated. He added that a report will be provided at next weeks meeting.

4. To consider the Housing Progress Report

The members raised the following points –

- The Estate Development Officer is doing great work. Well done.

Fire Safety Audit

- Can we get a full report?
- Disappointed not to have a full report tonight. This is the second time the contractors have delayed this. Staffing problems should not affect the audit.

Disabled Persons Grants

- Well done to staff – this list has gotten shorter and shorter.

Richmond Hill

- Hope the works up here are finished by July.
- Shop – can we have some information on this? Why was this re-advertised after people had gone for interviews already?
- It is essential this shop be opened as soon as possible.
- There is a lot of work still to be done in Richmond Hill. The place is a mess and needs to be sorted out. What is being done?
- Delighted to see this is moving forward. Hope the urgency does not disappear.

Ashlawn Court

- There was a house purchased by a tenant in this estate and there are questions over the state of the house when it was handed over. Is there a basic minimum standard before houses are allocated?
- Who is doing up the vacant houses?
- Is there a landscaping scheme?

Road Sweeper

- What is the current position with regards to the road sweeper?
- Cleaning of estates – are we short of staff?
- Can we get a report on where this is being used?
- It is only a small number of people in this town who create litter. Our road sweepers need to be commended.

Fassaroe Community Centre and refurbishment works

- Has there been any discussions regarding the centre?
- Disappointing report. The officials of Bray Town Council need to make a decision and move forward.
- Have we been given any commitment regarding the community centre?
- We should be given more feedback on the refurbishment works.

Silverbridge

- This is not included in the report. The families are very keen to see plans that were sent into the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. What stage is this at?

The Administrative Officer informed the members of the following –

Richmond Hill

- We are hopeful this can be completed by July. We have to go by what we are told by the contractor.

The Town Clerk informed the members that the letting of the shop was advertised twice in the interest of fairness transparency. The interested parties have been requested to contact the council so that the matter can be progressed.

Ashlawn Court

- Allocation of houses – the house that was complained about was in good condition when it was handed over. We always take pictures and have proof of the condition at handover stage.

Fire Safety Audit

- This is beyond our control but we are also disappointed. We do expect to have a report very soon.

Fassaroe Community Centre and refurbishment works

- We will be meeting with the architects shortly regarding the community centre. Departmental guidelines have recently been issued on regeneration schemes.

Smoke Alarms

- There are different contractors appointed to install the smoke alarms..

Carrigoona Site

- Proposals have not been put before the members yet. We are close to bringing these before the members though.

Silverbridge

- None of the residents attended the last meeting and that is the reason this was not included in the report.

Road Sweeper

The Town Engineer stated that suction sweeper went back into action today and the routes have not change.

The Town Manager stated that we would review this matter.

5. To Consider Planning Matters

The Administrative Officer informed the members that Councillor Caroline Burrell had requested two planning files.

07/62

Apartment Building containing 4 no. apartments,
Connections to existing services and associated site works,

07/89 Proposed demolition of existing 33.8m² retail unit
And the construction or proposed new 2 storey building comprising of 70.4m² retail space at ground floor level with 60.4m² of ancillary office space / storage room at first floor level.

The members raised the following points –

06/310

Very concerned about this.
Planners need to look seriously at this.

07/23

Glad this was refused.

07/62

What size is the proposed development?

AO Smith site

Councillor John Brady stated that this site is in a state of dereliction and Bray Town Council need to contact the owners to clean it up and make it secure. He added that he would be totally opposed to re-zoning on this site.

Councillor Pat Vance stated that this site is almost derelict and is an eyesore. He added that we should speak to the developer to see what is best way to further this.

The Administrative Officer informed the members of the following –

07/62 -

- This application was refused on 22nd May 2007.

AO Smith site

- Will speak to the planning engineer about this. If anyone were aware of anti-social behaviour I would ask him or her to please report it to the Gardaí. She also added that she was not aware of any pre-planning meetings in respect of this.

6. To consider the report of the Bray Joint Policing Committee

The Town clerk read out the following report to the members –

In 2006 Bray was nominated as one of the Pilot Authorities for the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee (JPC). Bray Town Council's JPC inaugural meeting was held in December 2006. In accordance with the guidelines, the committee consisted of the members of Bray Town Council, three of the five T.D.s for the area, and three representatives of the community/voluntary sector. Advertisements were placed in the local newspapers seeking nominations for community/voluntary representatives and nominees from the following organisations were selected : Neighbourhood Watch, Bray Chamber of Commerce, RAPID/St Fergal's Resource Centre. The Garda Superintendent and an Inspector from the "N" District (greater Bray area) are members of the committee as are the Town Manager and Town Clerk. The Sergeant with responsibility for community policing and senior Council officials also attends the meetings.

The establishment and purpose of the JPC and dates, times and venue of meetings were advertised in the 2 local newspapers Notice of each meeting was also posted on the Braytowncouncil.ie website

Meetings of the JPC

The inaugural meeting was held on 19th December 2006. It was noted that there should be a minimum of two meetings annually. The first meeting of 2007 was held on 19th February 2007. The second meeting took place on 23rd April 2007. The next meeting is scheduled for 17th September 2007.

Business of the Meetings

At each of the meetings the Superintendent gives an update on the most recent crime figures highlighting trends in particular areas. A year on year analysis is given as part of this presentation.

The following issues have also been on the agenda for the meetings

- Role of the JPC
- Bray Town Council issues
- Divisional Structure of the Garda Siochana
- Design for Crime Prevention
- Anti Social Behaviour Orders
- Graffiti
- Drugs Task Force
- Policing Plan
- Anti Social Behaviour Conference

It is proposed to hold a public meeting on 11th October, 2007 at 8 p.m in the Royal Hotel Bray.

The Town Clerk also stated that the contact list sent out previously was incorrect and a new amended list will be sent out to the relevant bodies.

8. Correspondence

- The Town Clerk informed the members that she had received a letter from Bray Wanderers requesting the use of the Council Chamber to hold a press release to officially launch Kieran "Tarzan" O'Brien's testimonial. This would be held on 27th June 2007 at 7pm.

This was proposed by Councillor Pat Vance and seconded by Councillor Anne Egan.

9. Any Other Business

Councillor John Brady asked when would the Wolfe Tone Drainage System be put in place?

Councillor John Brady also asked what was happening in Elgin Heights regarding water - metering boxes?

The Town Engineer informed Councillor Brady that Bray Town Council has installed these metering devices in order to detect leaks and to conserve water. He also stated that we are currently awaiting prices for the Wolfe Tone Square West Drainage system as tenders have been sent out.

Councillor John McManus stated that Bray Town Council needs to enforce their drinking Bye - Laws in the People Park because there is too much anti-social behaviour happening here.

At this point of the meeting the Town Clerk and the Town Manager presented the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Anne Egan with a photo album to mark her year as Cathaoirleach.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

TOWN CLERK

Dated:
