

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 12th December 2006 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Anne Egan, Cathaoirleach
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor Déirdre de Burca
Councillor David Grant
Councillor Joe Behan
Councillor Brid Collins
Councillor Pat Vance
Councillor John Brady

Also present: Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Mr. Christine Flood, Town Clerk
Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer

Apologies: Councillor John McManus
Councillor Anne Ferris
Councillor Ciaran O' Brien

Before the meeting the Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she would like to congratulate Bray on the latest I.B.A.L results. She added that she hopes we can keep this going.

The Town Manager stated that the only bad mark Bray received was on the Wilfred roundabout, which is not even in the jurisdiction of Bray, but rather Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council's area.

The members raised the following points –

- Very impressed – this singles Bray out and everyone involved should be proud.
- We should send a letter to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council bringing this to their attention.
- We should not get carried away with this result.
- Bray was never as bad as was made out in these reports but it was never as good either. These reports are not accurate.
- We should write to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council regarding the Wilfred roundabout.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated 14th November 2006

Councillor John Brady stated he would like something changed in the minutes dated 14th November 2006.

“That this Council endorses the call for the Dublin Government to lead and immediate and extensive consultation process with all sections of society – including unionism – on a green paper for the re-unification of Ireland.”

This motion to be changed to –

“That this Council endorses the call for the Dublin Government to lead and immediate and extensive consultation process with all sections of society – including unionism – on a green paper for the re-unification of Ireland.”

The minutes of the Monthly meeting dated 14th November 2006 were then proposed by Councillor John Byrne and seconded by Councillor Caroline Burrell.

2. Reports and Recommendations

The Town Clerk stated that there are no reports and recommendations.

Councillor Pat Vance stated that he raised the issue of disabled parking in Fitzwilliam Terrace. He added that he will speak to the Town Engineer regarding this issue in private.

Councillor John Brady stated that he asked for a report on Ballywaltrim playing area. He asked if this report could be given in January?
Councillor Brady also stated that he had asked for a report on the Old Municipal Dump.

Councillor David Grant stated that asking for reports like this is defeating the purpose of requesting Notice of Motions. He added that it is not fair asking for reports like this.

3. Progress Report on the Swimming Pool.

The Town Engineer stated that the swimming pool has taken a long time but it has gone through the usual protocol. He added that the preferred tenderers were pre-qualified. He also stated that the tenders are being analysed and we should know early next week.

The members stated the following –

- Welcome the progress on the Swimming Pool.
- An integrated management structure is what will be needed when everything is up and running.
- We need to start thinking about policy for the running of this.
- Concerned that the Ballywaltrim Users Committee has had meetings with other Councillors and officials and we were not told.
- When do we expect work to start and how long will it take to complete?
- Disappointed that the Cathaoirleach was not present at this meeting.

- Hope that the officials are still on course for signing all documents.
- Playing pitches – there has been some news that they might be losing one of the pitches. Can we have some more information on this?
- A while ago plans were drawn up to build a boxing club in Ballywaltrim. Are the officials aware of this? Are these plans still in existence?
- We never came to a decision on who was going to manage the swimming pool / facilities. When is it proposed for us to make a decision?
- We need to keep some space up here for other things other than football.

The Town Engineer informed the members that he would like to apologise for not informing some members of the meeting with the Ballywaltrim Users Group. He added that he cannot say exactly when work will begin but it will probably be this side of Easter. He also stated that he is unaware of any plans for a boxing club in Ballywaltrim and that no decision has been made on the playing pitches as yet. He added that the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government asked each Council for three projects and this is where the confusion arose.

The Town Clerk stated that the management are currently taking expert advice on the management set-up. She added that the Mermaid were to be used as a model for this. She also stated that they were going to look into setting up a steering - committee.

4. Progress report on the Wolfe Tone & District Youth Club.

The Town Clerk stated that the Law Agent has written to Lord Meath's solicitors and he hopes to have something by January for the members. She added that she has also asked him to send a reminder to the Senior Counsel.

The members raised the following points –

- The premises up here at present are very dilapidated. They should be demolished.
- The maintenance for this is costing Bray Town Council €60,000 per annum. It should be sorted so that this club knows where they stand.
- Suggest that the Law Agent is at the council meeting when required.
- This has been going on for twelve years. The users are losing out.
- We need to move as quickly as possible.

5. Update on the damaged wall at Boghall Road, Bray.

The Town Clerk stated that this is actually a fence and that she is pleased to say that the materials have been purchased and work should be completed by Christmas.

6. Correspondence

The Town Clerk stated there is no correspondence.

7. Any Other Business

Recommendation from Protocol Committee

Councillor David Grant raised the issue of Heiner Ratsch, a teacher from Wurzburg, who is due to retire soon. As the City of Wurzburg had bestowed an honour on Kevin Meehan on his retirement from St. Killians, he felt that it was appropriate that Bray should recognise Herr Ratsch. This may entail travelling to Wurzburg to make the presentation.

This was proposed by Councillor David Grant and seconded by Councillor Pat Vance.

Ferris Wheel re-location

Councillor Caroline Burrell stated that residents in Fontenoy Terrace have asked that Bray Town Council consider not putting the Ferris wheel in this area in future.

Sea Wall

What does Bray Town Council intend to do with this?

The Town Engineer informed the members of the following –

Sea wall

- The Sea wall was inspected by our consultant. He recommended that we place gravel down.
- Bray Town Council has applied for a foreshore licence but as yet we are not in receipt of a reply.

The members raised the following points –

- Is there a time limit on getting a fore shore licence?
- Putting shingle on seafront is only a short term solution. Can we refer this to the MPC?
- I would not agree to the Ferris wheel being relocated onto the seafront.
- We should have this as an item on the agenda in January.
- Can we have clarification on a section of the boxing club being closed off?

The Town Clerk informed the members of the following –

- On the 18th July 2006 a vote was taken on the leasing of the harbour shed to boxing club. We wrote immediately to both clubs involved stating the Council has approved the lease.
- To this day I have not received any correspondence from the boxing club. We should not have to go chasing them or their solicitors.

Emergency Housing

The members raised the following points –

- There was a fire in a house recently and the tenants were sent to Rathdrum. This is unacceptable. What is the situation regarding emergency housing in Bray?

The Town Clerk stated that this would depend on the situation. She added that we did have emergency B&B but unfortunately we do not anymore.

The Cathaoirleach then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

TOWN CLERK

Dated:
