

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 17th April 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Anne Egan, Cathaoirleach
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor Anne Ferris
Councillor Brid Collins
Councillor John McManus
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien
Councillor Pat Vance

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

Apologies: Councillor David Grant
Councillor Joe Behan

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting dated 13th March 2007.

The minutes of 13th March 2007 were proposed by Councillor Brid Collins and seconded by Councillor John Byrne.

2. Reports and Recommendations

Swimming Pool Update

The Town Clerk gave a report to the members on the Swimming Pool;

"The Contract for the construction of Bray Swimming Pool was signed on 12th April, 2007. The contract which was endorsed by the Cathaoirleach, is between Bray Swimming Pool, Sports and Leisure Centre Limited and Rohcon Ltd.

Members will recall in previous reports in this connection, that I had advised that we were in the process of forming a company. The reasons for this are To allow the Town Council to operate the swimming pool and ancillary facilities in accordance with best business practice so as not to become a drain on council resources.

To be in a position to engage staff, without the restrictions on employee numbers that are applicable to local authorities and finally as it is financially advantageous from a taxation perspective.

The company formation has now been completed, it is intended that during the construction phase the number of directors will be limited to ensure

speedy decisions, On completion of the construction, a board will be formed consisting of directors from nominating bodies. Nominating bodies will be approved by the Town Council. It is also envisaged that the Board will include a number of members of Bray Town Council. Recommendations on these issues will be made to the members by the Swimming Pool Sub-Committee..

Grant Assistance of €3.8 million has been awarded by the Department of Arts Sport and Tourism, the balance will be funded from council resources.

It is expected that construction of the Swimming Pool, Sports and Leisure Centre will commence within the next two weeks. The works should be completed in 18 months.

Rohcon has requested that Bray Town Council guarantees its wholly owned subsidiary Bray Swimming Pool, Sports and Leisure Centre Limited . Provision of grants, loans, guarantees or other financial aid is a reserved function, I wish to therefore seek the members approval to the guarantee.

Councillor Anne Ferris proposed and Councillor Caroline Burrell seconded the recommendation that Bray Town Council guarantee . Bray Swimming Pool, Sports and Leisure Centre Limited in respect of the construction of the Swimming Pool. The resolution was adopted accordingly.

The members raised the following points -

- The swimming pool is good news for Bray and that we should all welcome it. Hope that sub-committee members will be members of Management Company.
- Hope the Cathaoirleach of the day will sit on the Management Company
- When is the sod being turned? Well done to everybody on the project.
- Councillor Collins also welcomes the development and congratulated everybody on their efforts. She also mentioned that it was not Bray Town Council who closed Presentation Swimming Pool.
- Councillor Ferris agreed with that point stating that it was the trustees of Presentation College who made the decision.
- Councillor Egan also said the Pool was great for Bray
- The Town Clerk then suggested that the sod turning would take place on 1st May and that the contractor suggested that Bray and Greystones are done on the same day. She said she'd clarify the date and inform all.

Glen Na Smole

- Sean O'Neill stated that the work on Glen na Smole was agreed at a recent meeting. He continued to say that an engineer is drawing up the tender documents in order to get prices, etc. The site in question is not in the charge of Bray Town Council. He read out the following report.

Glen na Smole is a small estate comprising of a single cul de sac with 9 houses. On the opposite side of the road is a boundary ditch separating Glen na Smole from Wheatfield.

The vegetation on the ditch / boundary consists of trees and scrub and extends in width to over an area of 10metres in places and the boundary is approximately 100m in length.

This boundary is permeable in places and in at least three or four locations there is clear evidence of considerable pedestrian traffic. The two main places that the boundary is traversed is opposite No. 2 (Northern End) and adjacent to the junction with Boghall Road. There is also considerable litter in these areas.

There are a number of issues to be resolved and the physical works recommended need to be reflective of these.

To prevent pedestrian traffic via the cul de sac would be tackled by means of erection of a barrier IE a fence on a wall approximately 2metres high. However, the tree cover would still exist and be a possible harbour for continuing anti – social behaviour.

In any event the construction of a fence would require some scrub clearance, which would reduce the shelter effect. The cost of fencing the joint boundary would be of the order of €15,000, subject to receipt of tenders, depending on the location of the trees and the fence and the relative location.

The Town Engineer has asked that all of the interested contractors submit tenders.

The members raised the following points –

- this had been the wish of the Councillors over the years as it is a main spot for anti social behaviour. This is good news that the Council are acting on it.
- Welcome the report but added that one resident got in contact and said she had objected 22 years ago. I promised that I'd raise it and reminded all that it was not a unanimous decision to erect a fence.

Rowing Club

The members raised the following points –

- The season is nearly upon us and that a ramp or some means of access to the water is needed.

Sean O'Neill said that Liam Bourke, the Senior Executive Engineer is looking into that matter.

Open Spaces

The members raised the following points –

- What are the plans for the open spaces audit.

The Town Clerk advised that Liam Bourke is working on the Parks Plan and is confident that it will be available in May. She added that he will be attending the JPC on Monday and will give an update on the Graffiti issue.

With regard to the Open Spaces, Des O'Brien said that it was envisaged that this work would be done in the summer months when there were summer students available to help with the work-load.. He added that the graffiti is a Department of Justice and Law Reform programme – Bray Town Council is only an intermediary.

3. Presentation on Broadband from Mr. Liam Fitzpatrick, Head of Information Services, Wicklow County Council

Liam Fitzpatrick explained how Metropolitan Area Networks (MANS) work. He illustrated the coverage of broadband nationally. While maps will show comprehensive broadband coverage in urban areas, this is not always the case and there are pockets where the service is poor. and outlined the regional broadband project and showed how it had been rolled out in Blessington and in Newtownmountkennedy / Kilcoole. He advised that wireless and satellite broadband could be a bit patchy sometimes and that the most reliable form of transmission was by copper wire.

The members raised the following points –

- It is a real concern in Bray from an economic development perspective. Lack of broadband infrastructure has been identified as a weakness by the IDA.
- Why can somebody have Broadband but someone two doors down cannot get it?
- We get the impression that Broadband in Bray was at an overall good standard.
- Where did the money come from for other towns to avail of this and where could we apply for this and who do we engage?
- “Blackspots” in Bray. Is this related to the fact that many businesses leave Bray. Are Eircom responsible for the Broadband coverage and would like a letter to go to Eircom regarding the lack of coverage in parts of the town?

Liam Fitzpatrick answered that the Local Authority involvement in this issue is because the best method of delivery is through Eircom exchange. He explained that say that in some cases where the physical infrastructure is old or damaged the service can be poor, even if it is good in adjoining houses.

Liam also stated that based on pricing of Blessington, that it may cost from 1.5 to 2 million to provide a fibre network in Bray. He said that Eircom are looking at the whole country and not just specific areas. He added that the Council will have to make a funding investment if they want it. The Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources had funded a number of broadband projects throughout the country and that Bray could apply to the Department for funding. Many homes in

Bray have good quality DSL and ADSL lines and that there will always be peripheral areas where there is no guarantee of 100% coverage. He said that there is a huge range of service providers however.

Des O'Brien asked if we wanted to get a good dense new technology development where AO Smiths is situated, who would be the best to approach?

Liam Fitzpatrick replied that you could go to a number of companies such as Clearwire, or Magnet Broadband but that firstly you should go to Eircom as they provide service to much of the country and in effect the service provided by any other provider would be bought from Eircom. He continued to say that the best method for businesses would be a fibre line and you would obtain this from the Local Exchange.

4. To consider a Disposal of Fee Simple Interest of 50 James Everett Park, Bray

Anne Egan, the Cathaoirleach said that she would have to vacate the Chair and ask Councillor Collins to sit.

The Disposal of Fee Simple Interest in 50 James Everett Park, Bray in accordance with Statutory Notice was proposed by Councillor John McManus and seconded by Councillor Anne Ferris.

5. Update on the lease agreements for Wolfe Tone & District Youth Club

The Town Clerk gave a report on this and said that it is imminent.

The members raised the following points –

- Thanks to the Town Clerk for her report but everyone is disappointed that this issue hasn't been sorted out yet. Suggest that when the lease comes that it is dealt with immediately on the Council Agenda.
- This just seems to be one delay after another.

5. Notices of Motion

-The Town Clerk advised that the first two had been dealt with at a previous meeting.

Motion 240

Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, John McManus, Anne Egan and Anne Ferris (06/02/2007)

“That the council resurfaces the tarmacadam entrance into some houses at Woodview Drive, Kennedy Park, Boghall Road”.

REPORT:

As the members are aware the Boghall Road changed status in 2006 to a local road, therefore repairs and maintenance is charged to local roads funding.

The tarmacadam at the entrances to the Kennedy Park houses was laid in conjunction with a cycle lane approx ten years ago.

The deterioration of the tarmacadam is due to poor drainage and it is intended to improve drainage at the location in the current year.

Motion 241

Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, John McManus, Anne Egan and Anne Ferris (06/02/2007)

“That a scheme of replacement of windows and doors for Maitland Street be developed”.

REPORT:

Bray Town Council will consider the development of a scheme for replacement of doors and windows at Maitland Street will be considered especially in view of the number of elderly tenants living there.

Motion 242

Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, John McManus, Anne Egan and Anne Ferris (06/02/2007)

“That traffic calming measures be introduced outside Fairgreen Terrace”.

REPORT:

BTC have no evidence of speeding here however we have complaints that traffic has difficulty getting through due to the amount of parked cars on each side of the road and on the paths also obstructing pedestrians.

Motion 244

Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Déirdre de Búrca and Ciaran O’Brien (06/02/2007)

“That Bray Town Council in conjunction with Wicklow County Council introduces a policy of replacing 50% of ordinary Portland cement with GGBS cement in all its concrete purchasing for Council work”.

REPORT:

Bray Town Council's procurement of materials, goods and services is governed by National and EU legislation and BTC cannot unilaterally discriminate between procedures of similarly performing products.

Competition laws generally favour procurement on a performance basis and the trends recently are biased towards this rather than a particular product specification. Notwithstanding this there are methodologies being considered at EU level which are geared towards sustainable procurement and it is expected that BTC will be considering the application of these ideas in our EU procurement process.

However, there is no guarantee that this will produce a 50% decrease in the use of Portland Cement in favour of GGBS cement.

Motion 245

Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Déirdre de Búrca and Ciaran O'Brien (06/02/2007)

“That Bray Town Council recognises that climate change is likely to be one of the key drivers of change within our community this century. That Bray Town Council prepares a plan with local communities and works with Wicklow County Council and central government to address the causes and effects of climate change”.

REPORT:

It is agreed that climate change is likely to affect our community in the remainder of this century. However, there is still disagreement within the scientific community as to the effects that climate change will have on communities on the east coast of Ireland.

It is suggested that when more definite trends in the local effects of climate change are discussed that BTC in co-operation with Wicklow County Council and National Government work towards mitigating these effects.

Motion 246

Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Déirdre de Búrca and Ciaran O'Brien (06/02/2007)

“That Bray Town Council publicly declares its commitment to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from its own local authority operations in regard to energy sourcing & use, travel & transport and the purchasing of goods and services and that it monitors its progress against the actions needed and publishes the results”.

REPORT:

Bray Town Council is always committed to try to achieve maximum efficiencies in all operations, of which a corollary is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. If staff are provided for the measuring and monitoring of the totality of greenhouse gas emissions this can be considered.

Motion 247

Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Déirdre de Búrca and Ciaran O'Brien (06/02/2007)

“That Bray Town Council would register with EMAS and run an environment management system, and report on its environmental performance through the publication of an independently verified environmental statement”.

REPORT:

Having examined EMAS it would seem that this type of accreditation is more suited to laboratory type operations.

Local Authorities have a regulatory and statutory function with regard to environmental management. EMAS accreditation would be of no benefit.

Motion 248

Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Déirdre de Búrca and Ciaran O'Brien (06/02/2007)

“That yellow lines be set down from the entrance to O'Byrne Road Lane on the right hand side opposite the Vevay Inn as when cars (frequently) park there the traffic cannot gain access to this lane which causes more restrictions for other traffic on the Vevay Road”.

REPORT:

Lines were placed at this location a year ago.

7. Correspondence

- The Town Clerk said that she just wanted to mention the upcoming visit from the Chinese Ambassador on 23rd of April. She said she had no further details as of yet but would notify all upon receipt of additional information.
- Councillor Vance said that it will be good to renew the relationship with the Chinese Ambassador and thanked the Cathaoirlach for making herself available.

8. Any Other Business

Wall at Wolfe Tone Square & O'Byrne Road

The members raised the following points –

- Referring to the residents of Wolfe Tone Square and O'Byrne Road and the state of the adjoining laneway the question was asked if there is any update on the matter.

- Glad ownership of the lands had been established and asked when work would be starting.

Sean O'Neill replied that all the land had been purchased by Bray Town Council a number of years ago and that the lands surrounding O'Byrne road also belong to Bray Town Council. He has written to all the residents giving the date when it was intended that the wall would be built, this date could be a bit flexible if it suited the residents.

Decision Concerning Pizarro

The members raised the following points –

- Things had now changed and the emergency flood plan has to be looked at urgently now. The right decision on the application was made with regard to the Flood Plan and that another big problem was going to be traffic management. Overall broadly welcome this decision although understood that some people were disappointed.
- With regard to the emergency plan, a number of people attended a meeting with the OPW recently and they didn't realise how bad it was. The decision was, at this point, knocked back for a year and that he thought the ABP would have put this back a few months anyway. A letter should be drafted to the Minister and that Planning Legislation should be consistent between counties – Bray seems to be the only town that can't get anything from the ABP.
- Disappointed that the decision was made to refuse the development and that the ABP did not previously object to where the green space was.
- Two Senior Inspectors spent a week inspecting the area with regard to the flood plain. There were other flaws with the plan including the Traffic Management aspect of the plan, as there was no way the N11 would be able to handle the extra volume of traffic and it also gives a better chance of the Luas coming to Bray.
- It was a disappointment and it affects important individual developments such as the schools that were supposed to be built.
- The grounds under which the development was refused were fair but thinks the possible over use of the N11 is startling and needs to be looked at before another development proposal is submitted.

Des O'Brien said that it makes sense to have this kind of development in towns and that traffic objections are inevitable. He continued to say that something must be done and that public transport seems to be the way forward. Some of his suggestions included

- An improved bus service
- Widening the N11
- Another Bray Road although it is not something Bray can afford

He continued to say that the NRA needs to be lobbied by officials and public representatives.

Sean O'Neill said that the drawing up of a new emergency plan is being undertaken in conjunction with Wicklow County Council.

- Councillor McManus said that he wants this done urgently and does not want it to slip away.

Des O'Brien suggested that the MPC take this on board

- Councillor McManus said that it had already been discussed at the MPC meeting.

Des O'Brien replied that they would do a plan and take on board matters such as turning single storey house into two storey houses.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

TOWN CLERK

Dated:
