

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 9th December, 2008 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present:

**Councillor Ciaran O'Brien, Cathaoirleach
Councillor John Brady
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Brid 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**

Apologies:

**Councillor Anne Ferris
Councillor John McManus**

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated 11th November, 2008

Councillor Brid Collins proposed confirmation of the minutes of 11th November, 2008 and Councillor Caroline Burrell seconded the proposal.

2. Disposal of Fee Simple Interest in John Temple Sports Field, Sugarloaf Crescent, Bray, in accordance with Statutory Notice

Councillor John Byrne informed the members of the following:

- All clubs using the sports field had been approached with a view to taking it over. Only one club expressed an interest – Wolfe Tone & District Youth Club.
- The owner of the field is the Brabazon family and Bray Town Council holds the lease.
- All users of the field will be involved in this project.
- I am glad to see representatives of the users of the field here tonight.
- The responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the field will be on the users.
- There will be a legal agreement drawn up to protect the users of the sports field.
- The present condition of the ground is appalling and needs urgent assistance. Wolfe Tone & District Youth Club is talking of spending €1 million on this over time.
- If the disposal is agreed, public liability and staff will be the full responsibility of Wolfe Tone & District Youth Club.
- Bray Town Council must fence off the field to secure it. Provision has been made in the estimates for this. The money is there.
- On the map you were given, Kilruddery will give the coloured area to Wolfe Tone & District Youth Club – this will be freehold. The rest of the ground will be leased.
- I'd like to recommend this, we can provide a facility for the youth of Bray.

It was proposed by Councillor Brid Collins and seconded by Councillor John Brady to proceed with the disposal of Fee Simple Interest in John Temple Sports Field, Sugarloaf Crescent, Bray, in accordance with Statutory Notice.

The members raised the following points:

- This has been going on for a long time. Will this be it after tonight?
- I'd like to complement the users and Councillor Byrne, he has done so much hard work on this matter.
- A lot of hard work has been done over the years. I am glad this is being dealt with tonight.

- Facilities such as this are very important for the community.
- I am delighted to hear that there is money put aside to re-invest. I look forward to seeing the building upgraded in the future.
- This first came before the council in 1994. I would like to commend the Wolfe Tone & District Youth Club Committee for their patience. I am delighted for them and wish them every success.
- Well done to Councillor Byrne. I support this proposal. I agree that it needs to be fenced off.
- These people have given a lot of their free time to kids. They get nothing but satisfaction. There is a good calibre of players in Wolfe Tone & District Youth Club – one being James O'Connor who is playing for Sheffield Wednesday.
- The people involved with this never gave up hope and should be congratulated.
- Congratulations to Councillor Byrne. This wouldn't have happened if not for him.
- This is a testament to the club, they have a great commitment to sport and should be commended.
- The old building is still standing and should be removed.
- The committee have put up with a lot over the years. I want to assure them that there is 100 per cent support that this project will advance quickly and wish them well.
- I'd like to congratulate the work done by the club. This will be great for the future of the club. Bray Town Council continues to provide sporting facilities – the new swimming pool was opened recently. I'd like to congratulate management in getting to this stage.

Councillor John Byrne thanked the officials, Town Clerk, Town Manager and the Law Agent for their assistance in this matter.

The Town Clerk called for a vote on the Disposal of Fee Simple Interest in John Temple Sports Field, Sugarloaf Crescent, Bray, in accordance with Statutory Notice and the members voted in the following manner:

	For	Against
Councillor John Brady	✓	
Councillor Caroline Burrell	✓	
Councillor John Byrne	✓	
Cathaoirleach Brid Collins	✓	
Councillor Anne Egan	✓	
Councillor Anne Ferris	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Councillor David Grant	✓	
Councillor Michael Lawlor	✓	
Councillor John McManus	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Councillor Steve Matthews	✓	
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien	✓	
Councillor Pat Vance	✓	
Total	10	0

The Town Clerk then deemed that the vote was carried unanimously and thanked Councillor Byrne and the members of the Wolfe Tone & District Youth Club for their patience in this matter, adding that there had been complex legal issues to be resolved. She stated that she hoped the lease would be signed in the near future.

3. To Receive a Presentation from Mr. David Forde, Finance Officer, Regarding the New Budget Format

Before inviting Mr. David Forde to present the new budget format to the members, the Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien stated that the presentation was for information purposes only.

Mr. Forde then proceeded to give his presentation, outlining the following key facts:

- I have given you this years Budget in the new format.
- The Programme Groups have now changed to divisions. Programme Groups are now known as Divisions A, B, C, D etc.

- This is standardised across all Local Authorities.
- Most of the differences in the figures refer to staffing – the income comparisons are due to charginabilities changing.
- The way the Estimates will be presented to the members will remain more or less the same.

The members raised the following points:

- I presume the Codes are aimed at streamlining across all Local Authorities.
- Will we be able to make comparisons with the Divisions and will this then feed into the Service Indicators?
- Will we be able to break down services within division as previously, and have extra lines?
- Will the information be more transparent?
- Is the Miscellaneous division taken up by Service Support?
- Is the new format more efficient? I feel it is too general. Can you explain Programme 4 Division 3 please?

Mr. David Forde responded:

- As everything is allocated over all Divisions, Service Support covers items like salaries and IT costs that can't be assigned a Division. We have followed the guidelines that the Department sent to us. We can't generate individual lines, as previously the case.
- The increase in expenditure mainly relates to salaries and some other costs. Overall, the bottom line figure is still the same.

4. Reports and Recommendations

There were no Reports and Recommendations arising.

5. Notices of Motion

331. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (07/10/2008)

That this Council would use the publicly owned land at Rehills along the Dargle for much needed social and affordable housing in an attempt to tackle the housing crisis in the town.

Report

The current site access is deficient and would require construction of a bridge; this would be reflected in the delivery cost of the units. Also, pending flood protection the site is not suitable for housing.

The members raised the following points:

- I appreciate that we are waiting on the implication of the Flood Defence Scheme, but we should investigate this. There are over 800 people on the housing list.
- Bray Town Council own this land and it could be utilised and of benefit to people on the housing list.
- Last week we spoke of the Dargle Road sites that were turned down by the Department due to the cost. Are we looking at the wrong sites?
- The sale of Affordable Housing could offset the cost of providing a bridge.
- This site is key to helping the housing list decrease. Looking at small sites is not helping.
- I am amazed that this Notice of Motion was submitted. This councillor is advising that we build on a floodplain. I don't support this Notice of Motion.
- Two other areas for housing are coming on board.
- The Development Plan states that the Council should concentrate on the town centre and high density developments.
- We should concentrate on building, but not large estates.
- There were problems with rezoning this land previously.
- We need to get the Flood Defence Scheme in place first and then revisit this matter.
- The Flood Defence Scheme is important. The cost limits may be exceeded by putting a bridge in place. It will cost a couple of million euro to install a bridge.
- The Development Plan has zoned this area as high density residential. We must keep this site in public ownership.

332. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (07/10/2008)

“That the council would install a pedestrian crossing near the entrance to Wolfe Tone from the Boghall Road.”

Report

An assessment of traffic and pedestrian movements, traffic counts, warrants etc. will be carried out and a recommendation on a location and type of crossing with costings will be submitted for consideration.

The members raised the following points:

- I ask that we move on this immediately, as there is only one pedestrian crossing for the whole of the Boghall Road. More cars are using the Boghall Road and this is needed.
- I support this, I have had a number of representations from residents about this matter. It is needed. I hope it is treated as a priority.

333. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (07/10/2008)

“That the council would advance a plan to develop a multi-storey car park on the site of the Herbert Road Car Park.”

Report

This proposal is already contained in the Bray Town Council Town Development Plan. It is council policy to develop a multi-story car park on the site. Negotiations to acquire some lands belonging to the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer are already in train.

The members raised the following points:

- I welcome that negotiations are ongoing, how advanced are they?
- We have a window of opportunity to get a multi-storey car park in place, with the Florence Road car park now on board.
- This is also part of the Rejuvenation Committee’s remit, I support this Notice of Motion.

The Town Clerk, Christine Flood informed the members that negotiations are very well advanced and is, in fact, agreed in principle. There are still some outstanding legal issues to be resolved.

It was decided to hold over Notice of Motion 340, as Councillor Bríd Collins had departed at this stage.

341. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (14/10/2008)

“That this Council would provide households in the Little Bray area which would be most vulnerable to flooding, with flood gates. Flood gates can be installed very quickly by the residents if the emergency flood plan is activated or they are threatened by floods.

This would be an interim measure taken by this Council until the flood protection scheme happens. We should contact the OPW and Department for the Environment to either fully or partially finance this scheme.

Report

This would be an interim measure taken by this Council until the flood protection scheme happens. We will contact the OPW and Department for the Environment to either fully or partially finance this scheme.

The members raised the following points:

- I welcome this report, I think we are all in agreement that sandbags are not appropriate. Many residents are elderly and can’t lift them.
- I support this Notice of Motion, sandbags are of no use if the River Dargle floods.
- There are many different types of flood gate on the market and are easily installed and stored.
- Flood gates don’t come cheap but I think the residents would be open to partially funding these themselves.

- I hope to see the Flood Defence Scheme in place in the near future. We are on a priority list. Can this be placed on the Agenda when we receive notification from the Department and OPW?

342. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (14/10/2008)

“That the council in conjunction with the Vevay Traders Association carry out the following works:

- (a) *Provide a raised ramp and zebra crossing at the junction of Vevay Road and Wolfe Tone Square North (similar to those on the seafront).*

Report

The proposal will be listed among traffic calming proposals to put out to public consultation next week. If approved under Part 8 of the Planning Acts, the work will be considered in the context of available funding and other dependant road works.

- (b) *Two sets of bicycle racks.*

Report

An order has issued for the new bicycle racks

- (c) *Erect street signage at either end of the Vevay welcoming people to the area.”*

Report

The type and location of the proposed signs are still being considered. The boundary of Newtown Vevay village on the Vevay Road needs to be agreed.

The members raised the following points:

- Thank you for the report. The Vevay Traders have their own association and they employ a person to sweep the paths and they don't park in front of the shops. They leave the spaces available for customers.
- There is a need for a safe pedestrian crossing in the area.
- I am delighted that bike racks are to be provided.
- The traders might want an input on the signage – it's a good idea to get them on board.
- With regards to the raised ramp, I got a copy of a proposal in relation to this that went to the residents of the area 7 or 8 years ago. The ramps still haven't been installed.
- I ask that ramps on O'Byrne Road also be looked at, as there will be a notice in the paper next week.
- The Wolfe Tone Square North ramp hasn't gone to public consultation and also Wolfe Tone Middle.

Due to time constraints Notices of Motion 343 – 353 were not addressed.

6. Correspondence

Bray Town Council Annual Budget Meeting

The Town Clerk informed the members that the Department had issued guidelines for the 2009 Budget Meeting. The prescribed period for rating Town Councils is 24th November 2008 to 15th January 2009. The Town Clerk proposed holding the Annual Budget meeting on 6th January 2009.

As this date did not suit some of the members, it was decided by all present to hold the Annual Budget meeting on 13th January, 2009 and have the usual Special Housing & Planning Meeting on the 6th January 2009.

Charity Soccer Match

The Town Clerk informed the members of a letter received from Inspector Noreen McBrien with regard to a charity soccer match between Bray Wanderers and the Garda Soccer Club. The match

is taking place on Tuesday 3rd March 2009 at the Carlisle Grounds at 2pm. The Open Door Project in Bray and Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children in Crumlin will be the beneficiaries.

Water Supply Project

The Town Clerk reminded the members that she had circulated an email with an update on Phase 2 of the project.

Rent Supplement Scheme

The Town Clerk informed the members of a further letter received from Mr. Raymond Meade with clarification on the issue of landlords' PPS numbers. The letter stated that *'when an application for rent supplement is being registered on our computer system by a Community Welfare Officer, he/she requests that a separate form is issued to the landlord of the property. On return of completed forms the information is entered onto the computer file. This information is then forwarded to Revenue.*

A notification system to Revenue is being put in place where landlords do not return the form.'

Councillor Anne Egan suggested that a copy of the letter be sent to Councillor John McManus, as Chair of the MPC.

Electric Vehicles

The Town Clerk informed the members of letters received from the DTO and the Minister for Transport.

The letter from the DTO stated that *'the DTO is currently developing a new strategy for the GDA – 2030 Vision that will in due course consider new technological developments and the role they may play in the future. One of the technological innovations that we will consider is the future role of electric vehicles. Until such time as this aspect of our strategy development work is complete we are not in a position to offer assistance or give an informed view on the matter.*

...Your letter has been passed to the DTO Strategy Development Team to identify your interest in the promotion of electric vehicles.'

The letter from the Minister of Transport stated that the query had been forwarded to Minister Eamonn Ryan's department (Communications, Energy and Natural Resources).

Email from Jim Callery Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer Wicklow County Council

The Town Clerk informed the members of an email received from Jim Callery with information on Wicklow County Council's recent win in the inaugural Green Awards. The award received was for best County Council.

7. Any Other Business

There was no Other Business arising.

* * * *

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____