

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillor Brid Collins, Cathaoirleach  
Councillor Caroline Burrell  
Councillor John Byrne  
Councillor Anne Egan  
Councillor Michael Lawlor  
Councillor John McManus  
Councillor Steve Matthews  
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

**Apologies:** Councillor John Brady  
Councillor Anne Ferris

**Not in Attendance:** Councillor David Grant

Prior to the council meeting, a presentation to Senator Deirdre de Burca was held. The Cathaoirleach, Brid Collins congratulated her on her elevation to the Senate and remarked that she would be missed on the council.

Councillor John McManus congratulated Senator de Burca on behalf of the Labour Party and stated that it is not often that you have two members of the same Council elevated to higher office in the same year. He wished her all the best in her new position.

Councillor Caroline Burrell extended her congratulations to Senator de Burca and stated that she had worked very hard for the past eight years as a member of Wicklow County Council. She remarked that Senator de Burca would be missed both on Bray Town Council and Wicklow County Council and that she's sure we'll see her doing great things on the Senate.

Councillor Ciaran O'Brien also congratulated Senator de Burca and remarked that she had challenged many things during her time on Wicklow County Council. He added that people like her are needed both on a local and national level and wished her the best of luck.

Councillor Pat Vance congratulated our new Senator on behalf of Fianna Fáil and remarked that it was the first time that anyone had gotten the Taoiseach's nomination. He stated that no doubt the Senator would use her new position for the benefit of Wicklow County. He said that things were never dull when Senator de Burca was sitting on Wicklow County Council and Bray Town Council and wished her well.

The Cathaoirleach requested that Senator de Burca doesn't forget Bray as a town and Wicklow as a county. She also requested that Senator de Burca highlight that 2010 for works on the N11 is too late and that it is a dangerous stretch of road.

Senator de Burca responded by thanking the members for the invitation and remarked that it was very strange not to be sitting on the council anymore. She promised not to forget the county, as there were a lot of issues to be addressed. She thanked the officials of Bray Town Council for being courteous and helpful during her time on the council. She also thanked the previous Town Clerk Catherine Halligan for being helpful and supportive to her during her time as Cathaoirleach of Bray Town Council.

She remarked that the coming of the LUAS to Bray is a very positive thing and will contribute greatly to the commercial centre of the town. She added that if there were anything she could do at a Government level, she would be willing to help.

The Cathaoirleach requested a full-time fire service for Bray.

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien expressed his good wishes to Senator de Burca and remarked that we need politicians to lift stones and that the Senator had done her share of this. He stated that he has known her since her days in Wicklow County Council and that while they might have had their disagreements, a lot of good work was done by her. He added that she would be missed and remarked that he was sure she would continue plugging for Bray.

The Town Clerk, Christine Flood congratulated Senator de Burca on her own and on the behalf of the staff of Bray Town Council. She requested that she keep in touch and added that she looked forward to continuing to work with Senator de Burca.

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting dated 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007.**

Councillor John Byrne proposed confirmation of the minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007 and Councillor Ciaran O'Brien seconded the proposal. At this point Councillor John Byrne welcomed our new Councillor, Steve Matthews and stated that he looks forward to working with him.

It was added at this point that Mr. Liam Bourke had informed the members that the public convenience on the Main Street would be removed to the seafront at the meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2007. It was noted that Councillor Brady was in attendance at this meeting.

The Cathaoirleach remarked that she had forgotten to welcome the councillors back after the summer recess the previous week and that she hoped everyone had a nice summer. She extended her congratulations to Aughrim on winning the Tidy Towns, Eamonn Gilmore as the new leader of the Labour Party, Lisa Marie Berry for putting Bray on the map in the Rose of Tralee and the Arklow Pipe Band on winning the World Championship.

## **2. Reports and Recommendations**

### Shopfront Renewal Scheme Applications

The Town Clerk circulated a report on the above to the members and stated:

- There is a budget of €300,000 for the scheme, of which €83,000 for shopfronts will be administered through the Chamber of Commerce.
- Twenty four applications were received.
- A pointing system is proposed – Colum O'Broin Architect had advised the Rejuvenation Committee on best practice, and had provided his services free of charge.
- The cost of work ranges from €1,800 to €64,703. This second figure refers to a joint application by three businesses.
- It was agreed by the committee to award a 50% grant for works costing less than €6,500 and a 37.5% grant for works costing more than €6,500.
- It is recommended that the total amount of grants to be awarded is €88,496.
- The number one priority is to have shutters removed. The use of laminated glass is to be encouraged. Protruding signs are to be removed. Facades to be painted if necessary and windows to be lit at night.

Councillor John Byrne proposed and Councillor Anne Egan seconded the above.

### Wall At Glendale Drive

The Town Clerk informed the members that Mr. Liam Bourke (Senior Executive Engineer) & Mr. Dominic Gillan (Roads Technician) have examined the wall at Glendale Drive and their report & recommendation states:

*“Having regard to the particular risk to cyclists using the adjoining cycle lane, the safest option in relation to the above would be to remove the existing wall completely and to lower the footpath at rear. This will entail an expenditure of about €45,000, for which there is no current budget provision.”*

The Town Clerk stated that provision for this could be made in next year’s estimates if the councillors were in agreement.

The members raised the following points:

- This wall and path are in very bad condition – I think we need a railing there.
- I would like to see something sketched out before we agree to it.
- Could we have this as an item on the next Agenda?

Cathaoirleach Brid Collins proposed that this item be placed on the next Agenda and Councillor Caroline Burrell seconded the proposal.

- Can we have a look at the capstones on the wall – can they and any loose stones be removed, as it is extremely dangerous for cyclists.
- We need some interim arrangements.
- We need to be very careful – removing this wall could undermine the Tennis Club wall. We need the engineers to have a look at this; it could be a bigger job than we think.

The Town Engineer said that he would have a look at it.

Councillor Pat Vance requested a report on the Road Surface Dressing Programme and raised the following points:

- There are a sizeable amount of complaints regarding the surface used, the sweeping etc.
- We should have a policy regarding reinstating roads.
- Cars are throwing up loose chippings and damaging parked cars.
- I don’t think we should go down this route again.

### **3. To Consider Nominations to The Following, Resulting From The Nomination of Deirdre de Burca to Seanad Eireann:**

#### **a. Twinning/Protocol Committee**

Councillor Steve Matthews proposed the nomination of Councillor Caroline Burrell to the Twinning/Protocol Committee and Councillor Pat Vance seconded the proposal.

#### **b. Greystones/Bray Cliff Walk Management Plan Sub-Committee**

Councillor Caroline Burrell proposed the nomination of Councillor Steve Matthews to the Greystones/Bray Cliff Walk Management Plan Sub-Committee and Councillor John Byrne seconded the proposal.

#### **c. Bray Local Drugs Task Force**

Councillor Pat Vance proposed placing this item on next month’s agenda and Cathaoirleach Brid Collins seconded the proposal.

#### 4. To Discuss The Greater Dublin Water Supply – New Major Source Development Strategic Environmental Assessment Interim SEA Statement

The Town Engineer, Sean O'Neill informed the members of the following:

- The Greater Dublin Region is very tight in relation to available water supply versus demand.
- In April and May demand exceeded supply.
- The wet summer helped to reduce demand and there was no rationing.
- Other sources of supply have to be considered.

The members raised the following points:

- What is our role feeding into this?
- How does it affect Bray and Wicklow as a county?
- Where will the funding come from?
- What are the long term effects of this?
- I'm concerned that any interference with the water supply will affect Little Bray.
- Conservation very important – leakage needs to be cut down to a minimum.
- This report states that we will get water from the Shannon and desalination – we have a special arrangement regarding water from Roundwood, we get it extremely cheaply. What impact will this have on cost?
- We need to encourage the people of Bray to conserve water.

The Town Engineer responded:

- We are at 101% of demand of resources – if it comes to pain we all suffer equally.
- We are tackling leak detection at the moment.
- We are looking into a pressure management system – we have found the higher the pressure, the higher the consumption.
- We are looking into replacing leaking watermains.
- Bray Town does not have a lot of input into where Dublin gets their water supply from.
- Cost – never considered what we pay as a criteria for conservation.
- It costs approximately €750,000 to produce water that Bray uses every year.
- There is 25% - 28% leakage – if we can reduce that figure we can save circa €200,000 per year.

It was asked of the Town Engineer if leaking pipes are going to be repaired and areas of Bray are going to be dug up could he identify when and where these works will take place?

He responded that:

- It is unknown where the leaks are until they are found. He added that the area from the Boghall, Vevay, Main Street and Novara Avenue down to the pumping station would require new pipes.
- There are problems identifying areas that need to be targeted – more meters will need to be installed.
- It will be 2009 when digging for new mains will commence.

The members raised the following points:

- The Town Engineer said about cutting down pressure, I'm concerned about this move during the day – showers, in event of a fire etc.
- I object to non-commercial premises such as schools and parish hall having to pay for their water.
- This is a massive infrastructure project – we need a secure source of water.
- We need to address wastage and encourage use of reusing water.

The Town Engineer responded:

- An advertising campaign was run during the summer encouraging people not to water their garden, but the wet summer re-focused this.
- There are a number of campaigns to promote conservation of water (e.g. taptips.ie)
- Water metering is not for commercial premises – it is for non-domestic premises.

## 5. Notices of Motion

### 256. **Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, John McManus, Anne Egan and Anne Ferris (17/04/07)**

*“That the Council take in charge the access roads behind Lauderdale Estate and upgrade the local services (these roads are only access to residents homes)”.*

#### **REPORT:**

Lauderdale Estate was designed with the front of each house accessed from a footpath only around the perimeter of a green space. A vehicular access was provided to the rear of the houses but a bound macadam roadway of an approved standard was only constructed for a portion of the vehicular access. It appears that this was acceptable at time of construction. Only the fully constructed roadway was taken in charge by Bray Town Council.

The unpaved area providing access to the rear of 19-22 Lauderdale Estate is in a particularly bad condition, which is exacerbated by the poor drainage in the area. An area of approximately 500m<sup>2</sup> would need to be drained and paved to a suitable standard to provide a roadway, parking and turning area. This would cost in the region of €70,000. Further work would also be required on access to rear of 15-18 (cost not estimated). These works would be essential before the council should take in charge these accesses and declare them to be public roads. Due to the age of the development, there is no prospect of seeking costs from the developer and there is no provision in this year's budget for these works.

The members responded:

- Lauderdale is one of the oldest estates in Bray and it's an unusual design in that people can't drive their car near their homes.
- There are certain sections where there is no road at all and only a rear road to service homes – the sewers, shores etc do not work.
- This is unacceptable, we have a duty to provide reasonable services.
- We are elected to serve people and solve problems.
- No other estate in Bray puts up with a situation like this.
- During the heavy rains, people's properties got flooded.
- I don't accept that report and I want this back on the Agenda.
- There is a precedent whereby we took a private road in charge in this town and did upgrade works in the East Ward.
- This needs to be addressed – I support that we have a look at this again.
- There are elderly people up there and a number of houses have no vehicular access.
- We should look at this as a once off – it would really benefit people.
- I second Councillor John Byrne – can we please have a look at this again.
- I'm 100% behind this resolution – we have to have this back on the Agenda.

The Town Engineer, Sean O'Neill stated:

- There are some roads in Lauderdale in charge – the area in question is private. We won't look at this again.
- If we receive an application from the residents to take this area in charge, we will look at it again. It needs to come from the people affected.

The councillors replied:

- That's very fair, I'll get the residents to send a letter in.
- That was done in the other instance. We must make it clear that taking in charge and commencement of works are completely separate. We don't want the residents to assume that we're going to commence works on foot of a letter.
- If the residents applied to have the estate taken in charge why was this section of road left out?

Sean O'Neill replied that the green areas were taken in charge – roads and services are different. He added that when they apply for taking roads & services in charge the money will have to be found for these works.

## 6. Correspondence

### River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme

The Town Clerk read a letter out to the members, received from the offices of the Tánaiste and Minister of Finance informing her that her original correspondence has been forwarded to Mr. Noel Ahern TD, Minister of State at the Department of Finance. She promised to keep the members up to date on this.

The members responded:

- I hope they are not passing the buck – I hope pressure is put on the OPW for funding.

### LUAS

The Town Clerk informed the members of a letter received from the RPA in relation to the LUAS. The letter stated that the LUAS would meet up with the DART at Bray Daly Station and that there would be a link to Fassaroe also.

The members responded:

- This is a very welcome announcement on foot of the scare mongering that had taken place recently.
- Development Levies will go some way to paying for this.
- We should be thrilled with this – we will have a mainline train, DART, bus and now LUAS servicing Bray.
- We should do everything possible to speed this up.
- Hope this frees up the seafront from parked cars.
- This was always in Transport 21 – it was always envisaged that the DART and LUAS would join up – erroneous reports in the newspapers.
- With the developers coming on board it's a great help as the State is not funding the LUAS to Fassaroe and Bray.
- Great to see Bray serviced in this way – this will help with the traffic situation. People will have a choice of train, DART or LUAS and will have the choice of leaving their cars at home.
- Great news.
- The RPA said the priority was a line to Fassaroe and less of a priority to the town.
- I welcome this – there will be planning difficulties and density problems.
- This needs the very definite support of members of the council – we need to make a lot of changes in the way we do things.
- I'm absolutely delighted – this is great news for Bray.
- We are lucky to have Pizzaro in such a prime location – we need to get parked cars off the seafront.
- I love the LUAS.

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien responded:

- The developer was never against the LUAS going through the site – they had a big planning application in at the time and couldn't scrap it and start again.
- We are meeting with the RPA on Friday next (14<sup>th</sup> September).
- This will have to be paid for – I've asked the RPA for a quantum of funds required.
- We don't have a Section 49 in place – the developer will have to make another application for this.

## 7. Any Other Business

### Unapproved Development Works At Mount Herbert

Councillor John McManus brought to the attention of the members the unauthorised felling of trees on this site. He stated that this site had applied for planning permission, but this was refused due to the presence of the trees on site. He added that there were hardwoods and quite rare trees felled within two days and remarked that the fauna were affected. He stated that representatives from the Planning Department did visit the site, but that there was no-one for them to speak with.

He also made the following points:

- The Development Plan contains Tree Preservation Orders and that not one has been acted up – this was a failure on the part of officials and the Planning Department.
- There are no tree preservation orders anywhere in this town.
- A tree felling licence from An Garda Siochana is required if felling trees in a rural area – but this is not the case in an urban area.
- Trees have been knocked down to make way for planning applications.
- Propose we act on Tree Preservation Orders.

The Town Manger responded that he was unsure of the legislation in relation to urban trees and that he took the point about the Tree Preservation Orders. He endeavoured to have a look at it and see what can be done in relation to other areas.

Councillor McManus requested a report on this for the next Planning meeting.

\* \* \* \*

This concluded the meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOWN CLERK**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_