

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 17th June 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 Michael Lawlor
Councillor John McManus

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 David Grant
Councillor Steve Matthews
Councillor Pat Vance

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting dated 20th May 2008

Councillor Caroline Burrell proposed confirmation of the minutes of 20th May 2008 and Councillor John Byrne seconded the proposal.

2. Reports and Recommendations

AO Smith Site

The Town Clerk gave the following report from Triona Irving, AO Planning to the members:

"The property known as AO Smith site, Bray was entered in the derelict sites register on the 28th November 2007. Works have been carried out recently on behalf of the owners to render the site non-derelict. Inspection carried out by Stephen Fox, Executive Engineer on the 3rd June and report received from him dated the 13th June, he is satisfied with the works carried out. He further recommends that the entry be removed from the Derelict Sites Register with effect from the 3rd June 2008.

In accordance with the Derelict Sites Act the Council served Notice of Determination of Market Value on the owners on the 12th February 2008, this valuation has been appealed to the Valuation Tribunal, the hearing was scheduled for the 10th June last but has been adjourned until the 27th June next."

The members raised the following points:

- Welcome the works at the AO Smith site.
- We need assurances that the site will be maintained now that the Derelict Site status has been lifted.
- We need to continue to review this matter.
- Are there any long-term plans to develop the site for an Enterprise Centre?
- Measures should be put in place to secure buildings and sites at the beginning. The Dell site continues to have 24 hour security and is well maintained.

The Town Clerk advised the members that if the site is not maintained that the Council can re-enter the site on the Derelict Sites Register quickly. Council officials met the owners of the site who are aware of their responsibilities. She also confirmed that there is an issue regarding the IDA lien on the site.

Councillor Brid Collins stated that the IDA must take responsibility.

Report On Separation Of Foul Water and Storm Water

The Town Clerk gave the following report from Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer to the members:

"A scheme for separation of the stormwater from the foul sewerage was designed by RPS Consulting Engineers.

The design proposals were advanced to tender stage and prices were received during summer 2007. The value of the contract was €326,000 and it was felt that this was very expensive for the gain involved.

The gain consists of the removal of the rainwater from the sewer system and this will reduce the load on the overall network and the cost of treatment in the wastewater treatment works. The Council engineers were of the view that the benefit can be achieved more cost effectively. However due to the protracted delays in replacing the engineering staff this project has not been advanced as speedily as we would like.

However it is proposed that an engineer will be tasked with advancing projects and that this will be receiving priority."

The members raised the following points:

- When will this work be carried out?
- Ramps were promised as part of this scheme.
- Double yellow lines at O'Byrne Road and works at the Tennis Club were promised – when will this take place?

Sean O'Neill confirmed that the new engineer would be taking over this scheme and expects to start in the next six months. He further stated that he would compile a report on the totality of costs.

Angels Plot/Urn Wall

The Town Clerk gave the following report from Eoin Heslin, Executive Engineer to the members:

"Having visited Springfield Cemetery and Glasnevin Cemetery where urn walls already exist and having spoken with the caretaker of Springfield Cemetery, a number of suitable locations were discussed. The following is a list of the areas discussed:

- A. *An area at the south of the cemetery behind the factory was considered. This area has the advantage of having some mature trees and of being secluded.*
- B. *An area on the northeast (to the right hand side of the footpath as one enters the cemetery) was also considered. This area can get very wet during the winter months and, therefore, is not an ideal location for graves. It could, therefore, be used as a location for the urn wall(s) and Angel's plot. However, it's quite a public and exposed location and the introduction of walls at this location, up to a height of six to seven feet, might not sit well with the height restriction of the headstones of three to four foot high for the rest of the cemetery. It may, however, be a possibility.*
- C. *And, an area at the northwest was considered. This area was previously reserved for nuns and priests. Again, tall walls at this location might look out of place from the lower surrounding headstones.*

Recommendation:

Having visited Glasnevin Cemetery, it was felt that the trees there contributed to the 'at one with nature' and peaceful atmosphere of the cemetery. Therefore, while location B is possibly a better location from a practical point of view, it is felt that location A is the best location because of the trees and its secluded nature of the location. Location B could possibly be used at some time in the distant future.

With regard to the actual design, enquiries are being made from those who designed the urn walls in Glasnevin. Some consideration may need to be given in the design of the wall(s) for the inclusion of shelves for flowers and plants etc. At this stage, it is proposed the Angel's plot should contain some form of a monument with a stepped waterfall (possibly solar-powered) and that seating (possibly granite) could be located adjacent to both the wall(s) and the Angel's plot."

The members welcomed the report and Councillor Brid Collins complimented the engineer on dealing with the issue sensitively. Councillor Anne Egan requested that work would commence immediately.

3. Notices of Motion

294. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Ciaran O'Brien & Steve Matthews (08/04/2008)

"That Bray Town Council calls on the Department of Environment to introduce a compulsory Micro-chipping & Neutering/Spaying Scheme to curb unwanted dogs (unless breeding them and a Special Licence could apply), a Licence Scheme that would be a one-off fee for the life of the dog (rather than an annual one), and allow older people over the age of 65 to receive a free Dog Licence, particularly in light of the 2006 statistics where over 14,500 dogs were put to sleep by local authorities which does not include dogs put down by individuals (whereas in UK, up to 700 dogs are put down annually). That this Motion, if passed, would be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email."

Report

This is a matter for the Department of the Environment.

Councillor Caroline Burrell requested that a letter be sent to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding this motion.

Councillor Brid Collins stated that people should pay an increased annual fee for a dogs licence and old age pensioners should receive theirs free of charge.

295. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Ciaran O'Brien & Steve Matthews (08/04/2008)

"That Bray Town Council calls on the relevant Government Department(s) to provide defibrillators and training to all schools, also in other areas and organisations namely shopping centres, nightclubs, sports clubs - including the newly built swimming pool and leisure centre in Bray. That this Motion, if passed, would be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email."

Report

The council is supportive of the sentiment of this motion and it is proposed that the new Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre will supply a defibrillator and have trained staff in situ.

The members welcomed this.

296. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Ciaran O'Brien & Steve Matthews (08/04/2008)

"That Bray Town Council request that the Minister for Justice continues to oppose any move by Bookmakers to Gaming Machines placed in their offices. That this Motion, if passed, would be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email."

Report

This is a matter for the Department of Justice.

It was proposed by Councillor Anne Egan and seconded by Councillor John Byrne that a letter is sent to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform regarding this motion.

It was noted that Bray Town Council have restricted gaming areas.

297. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Ciaran O'Brien & Steve Matthews (08/04/2008)

"We propose that Bray Town Council should plant trees in the town each time a Councillor or Official flies abroad to offset the carbon emissions. Many carbon-offset programmes include paying a fee to an organisation or NGO that decides on the appropriate way to offset a person's carbon footprint. We believe that if the Council planted trees for each flight taken we would be thinking globally but acting locally and the people of Bray would benefit. That this Motion, if passed, would be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email."

Report

The council would have no objection provided that the foreign travel budget is re-aligned to take account of the costs involved.

After some discussion, it was agreed that this was a matter for each member.

298. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (08/04/2008)

"That this council would produce a newsletter on a quarterly or biannual basis, containing relevant information on projects and issues that the council is working on."

Report

Agreed subject to budgetary constraints.

After some discussion the members agreed that the motion be re-examined in the estimates.

299. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (08/04/2008)

"As an associate member of Nuclear Free Local Authorities Organisation (NFLAO), this council reiterates our opposition to the Nuclear Industry and also to the goals of the Euratom Treaty which promotes the industry and offers special funding as well as facilitates the supply of Nuclear fuels."

Report

Bray Town Council is one of ten associate members of NFLAO in the Republic of Ireland. Louth County Council has already unanimously opposed the promotion of the nuclear agenda by Euratom. Two fundamental objectives of the Euratom treaty are to ensure the establishment of the basic installations necessary for the development of nuclear energy in the Community, and to ensure that all users in the Community receive a regular and equitable supply of ores and nuclear fuels. The Euratom Treaty came in to force in 1958 at the same time as the EEC. Although the membership and organisation is now fully integrated with the European Union by virtue of the Merger Treaty, it remains a separate legal entity.

Councillor Caroline Burrell stated that she was surprised to see this motion and asked why it was put down.

Councillor John McManus stated that Ireland may depend on nuclear energy in the future.

Councillor Ciaran O'Brien confirmed that he is the representative on the NFLAO and that they are lobbying with the British Government regarding Sellafield. He added that he is pleased with the efforts of the local authority.

Councillor John Brady reiterated that we should oppose Euratom Treaty.

300. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (08/04/2008)

“That this council notes the increase in agency workers throughout this state. We are aware that many workers from home and abroad are being redirected to agencies before they can find employment and that these agencies offer less money and fewer entitlements than the workers would receive if directly employed.

We understand that trade unions have raised concerns about agency workers being exploited by employers to undercut current wage and entitlement agreements. We acknowledge that 30 years of workers’ rights legislation is under threat because of this practice.

We note that legislation is long overdue in this area and we call on the Houses of the Oireachtas to introduce legislation, based on the principle of the equal treatment, as a matter of urgency. In addition we call on the government to support the introduction of the long promised EU Directive on Temporary Agency Workers.”

Report

The contractors employed by the Council must declare that their employees are properly registered and paid in accord with union norms. In relation to legislation this is a matter for the Dáil.

After a lengthy debate the members decided that this was a matter for the government and the trade union movement.

301. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (13/05/2008)

“That a Pilot Scheme of Solar Panels be installed in one Bray Town Council estate with the agreement of the tenants.”

Report

Bray Town Council have no objection to this Notice of Motion. However, there are financial issues to be considered. The members will need to consider the provision of funding for this scheme with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and also at the Annual Budget Meeting in January 2009.

The members welcomed this motion and raised the following points:

- We need to develop a proposal and send to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.
- It costs €4,000 plus to install and within two years you make your money back.
- The Greener Home Scheme is still available.
- Disappointed that there are no solar panels in the swimming pool.
- We should employ a Building Energy Regulator assessor to examine one estate.
- We should look at this for new housing schemes also.
- Public lights are still turned on during the day in Richmond Hill.
- Would like to see this included in the proposals for Carrigoona.
- All new homes are being conditioned to have a renewable energy source.

The Town Engineer stated that this is a good idea but he is unsure of the financial implications. In relation to the swimming pool he confirmed that solar panels were considered at design stage but the Consultant Engineers recommended a combined energy system at the time.

Councillor Caroline Burrell requested a cost report for the installation of solar panels at the swimming pool at this stage.

4. Correspondence

IBAL Report

The Town Clerk informed the members that she had written to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, the Greystones Area engineer who is responsible for the Greystones approach road, the manager of Tesco's and the station master of Bray Daly Station. The Town Clerk confirmed that CIE are planning to upgrade the area outside the Dart station and she would hope that the maintenance in the area would improve. She added that the inspection took place in February / March and since then the council have acquired a street cleaning machine suitable for footpaths.

The members raised the following points:

- Bray Daly Station is private and the condition of the area is disgraceful.
- IBAL should print the results immediately and not months later.
- Tesco's have since upgraded the recycling facilities.
- Senior management in Iarnrod Eireann should be brought before the council to answer.
- This issue should be raised with at the joint committee Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.
- The Litter Taskforce needs to meet as soon as possible.
- Who is responsible for the Dublin Road from Wilford junction to Fassaroe?
- The Vevay traders clean the area and maintain it constantly.
- The flowerbeds put down by the Beautiful Bray Association have now become dumping grounds.
- Community effort is needed.
- Suggest hiring mobile CCTV to monitor the situation.

The Town Manager confirmed that from Old Conna northwards is under the jurisdiction of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

5. Any Other Business

Temple Vevay Sportsfield

Councillor John Byrne informed the members a serious fire occurred in the changing rooms of the clubhouse. Councillor Byrne asked if the council intend to repair or replace the building, if any alternative accommodation had been identified for the users and will the council be fencing off the field for safety reasons? He expressed his frustration and concern at the lack of progress regarding the handover of the premises to the Wolfe Tone and District Youth Club. Councillor Byrne stated that he wants to see this on the agenda in September.

The Town Manager shared Councillor Byrne's frustration. He suggested that Bray Town Council would organise a meeting between all parties and their solicitors to address the issues.

Riverwalk

Councillor Anne Egan stated that she had received a number of complaints regarding the condition of the riverwalk.

It was agreed that this would be investigated.

* * * *

This concluded the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed:

TOWN CLERK

Dated:
