

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 20th May at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Ciaran O'Brien, Leas Cathaoirleach
Councillor John Brady
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Anne Egan
Councillor Michael Lawlor
Councillor John McManus
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 Brid Collins, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Anne Ferris
Councillor Steve Matthews

Not In Attendance: Councillor David Grant

The Leas Cathaoirleach, Ciaran O'Brien opened the meeting by extending a vote of sympathy to the family of Mr. Frank Darcy, a prominent member of the community of Bray who passed away recently.

1. **Re: Section 140 (8) (b) Local Government Act 2001 "This Council looks with dismay at the continuing and repeated failure of Ballymore Properties to begin their development of the Florentine Centre over 12 years. We recognise the blight that this has caused in an important retail and trading area of our town.**

If by the end of April 2008 the development has not commenced we instruct the Town Manager to cease all negotiations with Ballymore Properties and initiate the process to retrieve our property with a view to providing much needed car parking in the town centre."

SIGNED: Councillors John McManus, Anne Egan, Ciaran O'Brien, Steve Matthews, Caroline Burrell, Pat Vance, John Brady, Brid Collins.

The Leas Cathaoirleach Ciaran O'Brien asked the Town Manager, Mr. Des O'Brien to give the members an update on the Florentine Centre before discussions on the Section 140 Notice commenced.

The Town Manager informed the members of the following:

- The circumstances haven't changed tremendously since I last spoke with you all.
- An Bord Pleanála made a mistake in advertising the Compulsory Purchase Order, as a result we lost time.
- The 8 week judicial review period expires mid June.
- We are trying to buy a right of way from a person living in the vicinity of the proposed centre, but we don't foresee any problems with this.
- I share your frustrations with the delays.
- I suggest that the members defer this until the Judicial Review period expires.
- The period expires on 18th June. I recommend waiting until after this date.

The members raised the following points:

- Given that it has taken An Bord Pleanála five weeks to change one number on the confirmation of the CPO, we don't have much choice in the matter.
- We have to give the 8 week period the go-ahead.

- When I signed this motion [Section 140] I was as frustrated as anyone but we have to be realistic. My point of view is that we take the Manager's suggestion on board and deal with this in a few weeks time.
- This is the biggest issue in the town. People are angry, frustrated and annoyed due to the lack of parking.
- We have to be practical. If this means waiting until the middle of next month, we should postpone it not drop it.
- We need to make our points clear to Ballymore.
- Traders have suffered and this has had a major impact on the town.
- Businesses are closing down and Ballymore are responsible for this.
- There was a car park there 7 years ago and now we are left with a rat infested hole in the centre of the town.
- Ballymore have shown contempt.
- I agree that to proceed with this is premature, we need to wait until all procedures regarding An Bord Pleanála have been carried out.
- We have been waiting 13 years – 5 more weeks will not make much difference.
- [Councillor John Brady] I propose a Special Meeting in June to deal with this. If we don't see action on this by Ballymore on 18th June, we should hold a Special Meeting on 24th June to deal with this alone. We should have a single agenda item.
- I agree that this is a big issue for the town, but it is not the only issue.
- I don't hold the view that this is the only reason that businesses are closing down.
- We need to make a decision about taking back the site.
- I ask Ballymore to look at the hoarding – there is graffiti and also people are begging there.
- The door to the site at the Main Street was open yesterday and there were no workmen visible – a child could have gone in.
- We need to make a decision what route to take on this.
- I am not too sure about this motion. I'm sure Ballymore are aware of it and have taken legal advice.
- I don't want to see this dragging on like the Southern Cross Road did.
- Ballymore have let us down badly, but we don't want to end up in litigation with Ballymore.
- Has the Manager gotten legal advice?
- I voted for this project 13 years ago. One Councillor at the time voted against it and wanted us to go with a different developer – who knows if it would have worked out?
- People understand delays in major projects, 13 years beggars belief.
- The delays have been due to planning permission appeals and poor management by Ballymore.
- Mr. Mulryan and Ballymore are responsible for this disaster in the town.
- People and traders were promised that cranes would be on the site in September 2007. I was sceptical then and I regret that I didn't put this motion in then. We will face the people next year (local elections).
- The traders are 'live horse, eat grass' ie they believe it will happen.
- We have been told that the contractors and tenants are on board. I know that an anchor tenant has withdrawn.
- Our premier retail and trade centre has been blighted and downgraded.
- We need to activate the CPO on this site. We need to get the whole site into the ownership of Bray Town Council and open it up as a car park.
- This is a lesson for the council. The time has long gone to call a halt to this. We should do so now. Waiting another 5 weeks after 13 years will not make much difference. We should go ahead with this motion if nothing has been done by this time.
- We should take the pain and come up with a different solution.
- This end of the town has been regenerated. The Council has not been inactive, we have the Shopfront Grants Scheme and Town Rejuvenation – the hanging baskets look great.
- The decline of retail is not solely traffic or Florentine related. It is also due to access.
- We should have done this long ago, but I am happy to wait until the Special Meeting in June or the first meeting in July to enact this.
- We are at the end of our tether. 5 weeks is not too long to wait until the judicial period is over.
- If a Special Meeting is required to put pressure on Ballymore, so be it.
- There have been a lot of positive things done by Bray Town Council. I would like to thank Dermot Dwyer, the Chair of the Rejuvenation Committee. He gave his time freely and did

a marvellous job. We have the hanging baskets in place, painting has commenced. We also have mechanical sweeping in place. We are doing more than any other Town Council.

- I would also like to thank Mary McDermott-Roe for all her work on the Rejuvenation Committee.
- This should be the last chance for Ballymore.
- [Councillor Anne Egan] I second Councillor Brady's proposal.

The Town Manager informed the members of the following:

- The tendering process has been done. The contactor has been lined up.
- I will follow up on the issue of the door to the site being open.
- I didn't get legal advice on this as I'm optimistic that this will happen.
- We are having a meeting with Ballymore on Thursday.
- There doesn't seem to be anyone driving the project.
- We will have a full and frank discussion on Thursday and take your views to them.
- I recommend that we take this at the July meeting – to take a few days after the judicial period does not give much time.
- Ballymore have let us down.
- Disposals have been passed a number of times.
- The contract gave agreement to give a lease and kicked in when a certain point has been reached.
- The contracts are not finalised and we are not exposed.
- I can take legal advice for the next meeting.

Councillor John Brady asked if there would in fact be a Special Meeting convened in June. The consensus amongst the members was to wait until the first meeting in July and put the Section 140 on the agenda again.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated 8th April 2008

Councillor Anne Egan proposed confirmation of the minutes of 8th April 2008 and Councillor Caroline Burrell seconded the proposal.

3. To Receive a Deputation from Comhairle na nÓg

The representatives of Comhairle na nÓg were not present at the meeting. The members asked the Town Clerk for some background information. The Town Clerk informed them that Comhairle na nÓg is a national initiative and that Ms. Mary Mooty had recently been appointed Comhairle na nÓg Co-coordinator for the county.

She added that the work of Comhairle na nÓg is similar to that of the Junior Council and stated that it is proposed that the current members of Bray Junior Council join up with Comhairle na nÓg.

4. Disposal of Fee Simple Interest of Shop at Richmond Hill, Fassaroe, Bray

The Town Clerk informed the members that she had sought the advice of the Law Agent and his response was that a long lease e.g. 500 years could be drawn up. He also stated that there was no barrier to placing a restrictive covenant in the lease.

The Town Clerk informed the members that this had been communicated to the solicitor acting for the proposed tenant. It was also communicated that due to the proposed change from a disposal to a lease, the Law Agent advised that a new notice be issued. A new notice will be issued and the matter will be addressed at the Special Housing & Planning Meeting of June 10th 2008.

Ms. Flood finished by stating that there are possible difficulties regarding the entire site regarding registration of it and that Bray Town Council are investigating the possibility of a caretaker agreement in the interim.

Councillor John Brady expressed concern that as the keys to Richmond Hill are due to be handed over on Friday and the hoarding around the site will be removed, this could lead to anti social behaviour around the vacant shop.

5. To Discuss The Proposed Parking Bye-Laws 2008

The Leas Cathaoirleach opened the discussion by asking the Town Engineer, Mr. Sean O'Neill to go over the map provided to the members.

The Town Engineer informed the members of the following:

- In answer to the opinions expressed by the members at last weeks' meeting, we have decided to bring in Bye Laws to cover the whole town.
- They will be implemented in the areas that they are currently in.
- People can opt in to have the Bye Laws extended to include their estate/road. This is in deference to my original report, the intent of which was to revitalise the town.
- We have made changes to the seafront parking proposals.
- We will also have a longer stay option – 8 – 9 hours.
- People working in Bray will have the opportunity to park on the seafront. This option will not be as attractive to DART users.
- We want to give people who work in the town the opportunity to park.
- We will deal with the car park on the seafront separately as this is covered by different legislation.
- The Bye Laws are not changing very much from what is already in place.

The Town Clerk added:

- We have revised the proposed charges slightly. There are very few overall changes.
- Appendix 3 sets out the procedure for the opt in clause.
- This procedure is operational in other Local Authorities.
- The main changes were made to Appendices 1 & 2.

The members raised the following points:

- Point of Clarification – I presume the reason that these Bye Laws will cover the whole town is so that estates can opt in?
- This is a very good idea. If parking is a nuisance in estates they can opt in. This is a good way of doing it.
- I welcome this clause – it has to be purely in consultation with the residents.
- I don't welcome the charges. Last week it was proposed at €1.50 per hour. It is proposed this week at €1.30 per hour, which is going in the right direction.
- I will be easier to get €1.50 per hour than €1.30 per hour.
- [Councillor John Brady] I propose €1 per hour.
- Seymour Road is marked as green and blue – will it be 50c an hour or €5 per day?
- Will there be free parking on the seafront at weekends? I don't think we should charge on Sundays.

The Town Engineer informed the members that it was originally intended to have parking on Seymour Road as 2 hours, but it had been decided to leave it at 3 hours.

The Town Manager added that the times these charges are in operation will be clearly displayed on the signposts in the areas.

The members responded:

- This is starting to shape up. We can discuss fees later.
- It is proposed that we charge €1.30 per hour on the Main Street and also €1.30 in the 2 hour zone. Is this fee per hour also?

- If people park on the Main Street, perhaps you should pay a higher fee. We want to keep traffic flowing.
- [Councillor Caroline Burrell] I propose that the fee to park on the Main Street is higher than €1.30 per hour.
- Allowing estates to opt in is a great idea.
- Zone B should be €1 per hour.
- Zone A should be higher – perhaps €1.50 per hour.
- [Councillor Ciaran O'Brien] Are we proposing that parking on the Main Street be charged at €1.50 per hour and other areas be charged at €1 per hour?
- [Councillor Caroline Burrell] Yes, I propose this.
- [Councillor Pat Vance] I second the proposal.
- What about disabled parking?
- That's catered for.
- Having parking on the Main Street more expensive will mean that turnover will be greater. If people are backing into spaces, traffic will be affected.
- We have agreed to go to public consultation with this. I hope the public will take this document on board. We are acting on information from the Town Engineer.
- This is a fairly good document and we will take on board all submissions made.
- I suggest that we leave the car park on the seafront as free parking, as we are taking away a huge amount of free parking. This will be a gesture of good faith to the commuters.
- If we put controlled parking onto the seafront there will be difficulties. We should convey this to CIE.
- CIE will not provide parking for commuters if they are getting free car parking on the seafront.
- We should double up on our attempts to improve public transport. Some people travel great distances to work.
- This will bring existing private car parks into use.
- We got through this very quickly. There is an issue of lack of car park spaces. The Town Clerk said at a previous meeting that the officials are actively looking for other car parks. Can we have an update?

The Town Clerk responded that Bray Town Council are actively looking at 2 – 3 potential sites for car parks and are exploring the various options. She added that it is not really appropriate to say any more at this time.

The discussion ended with the members thanking the Town Engineer for his work on this document. Councillor John Brady asked if the amendments discussed would be made before the document went on public view. The Town Clerk responded that this would be the case. Councillor Caroline Burrell remarked that as nothing was set in stone, she hoped the community would submit their opinions.

6. Reports and Recommendations

1.78 Acres

The Town Clerk informed the members of a draft email received from Lorraine Lynch, Head of Finance Wicklow County Council in relation to the lands at Southern Cross. The Town Clerk confirmed that monies received would be divided 50/50 between Bray Town Council and Wicklow County Council.

Councillor Caroline Burrell expressed her satisfaction that this query had been resolved.

Bray Harbour

The Town Clerk read out an email received from Sean Quirke, Director of Services, Special Projects in Wicklow County Council. The email stated:

“As you are aware the interim findings of the Client Representative have indicated that difficulties exist regarding the viability of progressing the objectives of the Bray Town Development Plan for the harbour by means of a self-financing PPP.

One of the outstanding items remains that of access to the lands north of the harbour which is envisaged under the development plan as being through the former golf club lands. The absence of any certainty regarding the development of these lands i.e. a valid planning permission, has meant that discussions with the developer cannot be progressed or concluded.

I understand that you have received a request for an update on the harbour development for a Town Council meeting. However, I am of the opinion that this would be premature pending the conclusion of the aforementioned discussions.

In common with the members of the Council I am anxious that the matter is progressed and that these take place as soon as possible”

The members raised the following points:

- I asked for this to be an agenda item. I am not surprised this has come back to us. There are issues regarding equity and access to the harbour.
- There is no provision in the Golf Club plans planning application for access into the harbour.
- That's not correct – there is access in the plans.
- We should actively look at the harbour area. It is in a state of dereliction and there is a build up of silt.
- We need to build up the area as a public amenity.
- The old municipal dump landfill is practically falling into the sea. We need to act on this.
- We also need to review our strategy in regard to Public Private Partnership.
- I think this council should look at how it is advanced.
- It depends on the economic climate and the developers. When doing this in the future, public interest should take precedence. May be there are other options instead of PPP?
- We have the perfect opportunity to look at this next year with the Development Plan.
- PPP in Greystones is doing very well, it is a great amenity.
- No developer will come in and build for the good of Bray alone. They want to make profit. PPPs are not all wrong.

7. Notices of Motion

283. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Ciaran O'Brien & Steve Matthews (04/03/2008)

“That Bray Town Council will introduce an open and transparent Housing List. The Housing List should be made ‘live’ so applicants can view their position on the Housing List via the council website, using their individual Reference number issued to each applicant on approval of their application. For those Applicants able to view their position, they should also be able to see their overall priority. Priority should be granted in the order shown and subject to the availability of suitable accommodation at the time. Alternatively, applicants would still be able to contact the Housing Department directly by phone and if necessary arrange an appointment. That this Motion, if passed be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email.”

Report

Points are awarded to housing applicants in accordance with the Scheme of Letting Priorities as adapted by the Members of the Council, details of the Scheme are available on the Council's website. Positions on the list change regularly as applicants needs/circumstances change. It is not recommended that lists are put on the website as other matters as outlined in the Scheme of Letting Priorities are taken into account when allocating a vacant property that would not be reflected in the points awarded.

The members raised the following points:

- Individuals would be looking at their own case. They won't be looking at where others are on the housing list.
- Other councils are doing this – we need to demystify the housing list.

- We need to progress technology wise.
- If other councils are doing this, there is no reason why we shouldn't.
- If others are doing so, it doesn't mean it's right. Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council are doing this and people are not happy with it.
- If we do this, it will do away with the flexibility the Housing Officer has regarding allocations.
- Certain people will not fit into certain areas. There has to be flexibility for the Housing Officer.
- In my experience, no one has ever disputed an allocation. If it is not broken, don't fix it.
- 75% of representations that people make to me are in relation to where they are on the list.
- This is a very good proposal. People have a right to know where they are on the list.
- No one is saying that we should scrap the points system, it is a good system.
- There was a detailed list circulated to councillors previously showing where people were on the list – can we get this again?
- We should take this issue, look at it seriously and do. However, there will be privacy issues also.
- If it goes on to the website, we must make clear that positions on the list can change.
- We need to make clear that if you are number 13 on the Housing List you won't necessarily get the 13th house.
- [Councillor John McManus] I suggest that this come to the MPC for discussion.
- I'm glad to hear that most of the councillors support this. It will save people calling into the council. We can ask other councils how it is done.

The Town Manager informed the members:

- I introduced the points system for auditing purposes. At the time the councillors gave approval to the Housing Officer having flexibility.
- It might work well in Dublin, but I know that if you are on the Fingal list and refuse an allocation, you are removed from the list. You have no preference of area you would like to live in.
- In Bray there is a lot of flexibility in where people get to live.
- I like the idea of transparency and I think it should go to the MPC for discussion.
- I would suggest that the list is put in bands of 50 – 100.
- I found the list that was issued previously to be intrusive. There is Data Protection now, which we must adhere to.
- Any Councillor is welcome to pay a visit to the Housing Department to look at whatever they want.

The members responded:

- Most people on the Housing List know the situation. We need flexibility regarding emergency accommodation.
- I have no problem with opening up.
- Councillor John McManus has agreed to look at this at his MPC. If we can improve, we will improve the system. There might be software issues however.

284. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Ciaran O'Brien & Steve Matthews (04/03/2008)

"That this Council would carry out a Carbon Footprint Audit on itself and present the results to the Members to see if this can be reduced and look at areas that can be improved upon. That this Motion, if passed be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email."

Report

Clarification of the brief would be needed, as this would have to be carried out on a contract basis. There is no money available in the 2008 budget for this Audit.

The members raised the following points:

- We can look at this and start the ball rolling.
- If Bray Town Council carried out some method of audit, the people in the town could look at it, to see how it is done.
- We will have Building Energy Regulations coming on board soon.
- Perhaps we can get a BER person to have a look at Bray Town Council.
- We could look at ways to say 'this is how the Council did it – you can do it too'.

285. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors Caroline Burrell, Ciaran O'Brien & Steve Matthews (04/03/2008)

"That Bray Town Council call on the Department of Social and Family Affairs to set up a national Waiver Scheme System for Refuse Collection paid for by central funding and administered by the Local Authority (as requested by Combat Poverty Agency) for the benefit of the elderly and the unemployed. That this Motion, if passed be circulated to all other Local Authorities by email."

Report

This is a matter for the Members of Bray Town Council.

The members raised the following points:

- There is a need for a National Waiver Scheme.
- There are a number of Local Authorities who operate a waiver scheme.
- This is needed particularly for people on Social Welfare – it is very difficult for them.
- This came up at Wicklow County Council and the members passed it.
- There is no harm in bringing it up again and sending a letter off.
- I agree, send a letter. If there is one concerted effort, it might have an impact. I'm happy with that.
- Can we also send the letter to the ALAI?
- We could request a voucher scheme and we could subsidise it ourselves.
- There is a need for this. Writing a letter won't have any impact. This is a Green Party motion. The Green Party is in government. Please use your influence.
- I brought forward a suggestion a number of years ago that Bray Town Council buy bins for people in Local Authority estates and they could pay for them in their rent. I was told at the time that as there was only one operator in Bray that it couldn't be done as it would not be fair. There is more than one operator now, so we should do this.
- This council was the first in the country to bring in a waiver scheme. The waiver works well.
- Privatisation is working. There have been no complaints. It is working out a lot cheaper now.
- If the Government want to fund a scheme, I would support it for certain categories of people.
- I am sure that there are other parts of the country where the scheme is not as good as ours.
- We need to be careful that if there is one for the whole country, it will be less generous than the one we currently have.
- If this scheme is implemented nationally, we need to be aware that a lot of schemes go into the Local Government Fund, and it could be reduced.

286. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (04/03/2008)

"That the Council consider to provide public lighting in the Harbour, along the walkway from the Sailing Club to the Promenade."

Report

This would involve the installation of public lighting from the car park at the North Promenade to the Harbour. This will cost in the region of €40,000, based on providing lighting in harmony with the existing promenade lighting. No provision was made for

this in the 2008 Budget. The members will need to consider provision of funding in the 2009 estimates.

The members raised the following points:

- I have been approached by people who use the area. It is a very dark spot and extremely dangerous. We should provide lighting in the interests of public safety.
- I walked the area recently, it is full of seaweed and very dark.
- This is a very dangerous corner and should be considered in the estimates.
- I am surprised at the figure of €40,000.
- I brought the Donegal County Council scheme before the council previously. They are using solar powered lights. There is no need for wiring as they are battery operated. The figure will be no where near €40,000.
- I know of Local Authorities in Europe who are using solar powered lights and they have encountered difficulties in the winter with lack of electric light. I know these lights only need daylight, not solar light, but this is a difficulty that has been encountered.
- Bray Town Council should provide public lighting. More people are using the Sailing Club and we need to make the area safe.
- We need to put a plan in place for the harbour.
- We should look at the lease on the harbour – we might find a few surprises.
- This is a good resolution and should be passed. There should be lighting at the end of both piers also.
- Nothing has been done in the harbour in recent years. Seats have rusted and they are razor sharp.
- I support this motion, there should be lighting.
- Can Councillor Brady do some research on the solar lights and present to the council?
- [Councillor John Brady] Yes, no problem.

The Town Engineer stated that the estimates provided were based on keeping in line with the lighting that is already in place along the seafront. He remarked that cheaper lighting can be put in and that some ducting is already in place. He added that he liked and supported the motion.

Councillor Caroline Burrell remarked that the lights don't have to be the same. The Leas Cathaoirleach asked the members is the consensus was that lighting was needed in the harbour. The members responded that this was indeed the case.

287. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (04/03/2008)

"That this Council would erect a barrier on the grass verge in front of the Ballywaltrim Community Centre, to stop children running out onto the road."

Report

The grass verge outside the Ballywaltrim Community Centre between the footpath and the road is quite wide (6 metres from the footpath to the road).

There is a concrete path across the grass between the road and the footpath opposite the entrance to the centre, which was installed specifically at the request of elected members to facilitate access from the Centre to the road.

It is not proposed at this time to erect a barrier across this pathway.

The members raised the following points:

- This motion was tabled on foot of a serious near accident. Children ran out the door of the Community Centre onto the road and into the path of a car.
- There is a pedestrian crossing 10 – 15 metres from the door. We should be directing people down to use this crossing.
- I object to this reply. We should have a safety barrier there.
- I support this.

288. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (04/03/2008)

"That this Council would install a beeper system in all traffic lights to aid blind and visually impaired people to cross the road safely."

Report

At present, most of the traffic lights in Bray are installed with the requirements of the visually impaired in mind.

It is not possible to install audible warnings on all lights especially those with split pedestrian phases.

Most of the crossing points have already been made disability friendly using ramps and tactile parking.

While there is some improvements being made in technology in relation to directional control of the audible signal element, this is not yet satisfactory for split pedestrian phases.

The members raised the following points:

- This motion was tabled on foot of meetings with visually impaired people who are finding it hard to get around the town.
- Paths have already been dished to facilitate wheelchairs at crossings. Credit where credit is due.
- Most other towns are doing this – we have gone some way with the paths, lets go all the way. The technology is available.
- Will these beepers be on 24 hours a day? There were problems previously with the residents of Charnwood being able to hear the beepers late at night.
- I have no problem with this being implemented in the town centre, but not in residential areas.
- I agree with the spirit of the motion.
- Where there are split crossings (such as at the Town Hall) there will be problems. There will be confusion as to what crossing is safe to use.
- There is a vibrating mechanism that can be used also.
- An access audit was carried out recently and Bray came out very well.

The Town Engineer responded:

- To the best of my knowledge, all pedestrian signals in the town have been arranged to facilitate the visually impaired.
- We have beeping and vibrating crossings.
- If Councillor Brady prepares a list, we'll investigate.

289. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (04/03/2008)

"That seating would be installed in the Ballywaltrim Recreation Park."

Report

The council previously provided seating in Ballywaltrim Park. While the seating was probably used in a proper manner by people, a certain minority used the seating as a location to loiter and cast away materials which sometimes included glass.

The seating was also set on fire by mal-intentioned individuals.

It is not proposed to reinstate the seating with the current management and opening regime which exists in the Park.

The members raised the following points:

- I acknowledge that there has been a lot of vandalism in that park.
- The previous seating was wooden and it made ideal firewood for people.

- This is a very widely used park and not replacing the seating is the wrong attitude to adopt. We should look at the different type of seating available.
- We need to look at the management of the park overall.
- We should look at this in conjunction with the swimming pool and the other playing fields.
- Just to put seats in for the sake of seats is a waste of time and money.
- A lot of money has been invested in this park and it is used by a lot of people. Unfortunately it is abused by a small amount.
- The level of security on this park is not as it should be.
- The Swimming Pool Committee should meet again to see where we are and look at Ballywaltrim Park as part of it.
- The local community have to come on board too.

290. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (04/03/2008)

"That this Council would install speed ramps on the Seapoint Road."

Report

The council will be aware that traffic control measures were proposed for Seapoint Road in 2007.

These were advertised for public consultation in October 2007 and the members on foot of a report from the Town Engineer agreed to the proposals at their meeting of 13th November 2007.

In the public consultation, one ramp was proposed for Seapoint Road and there were no submissions from the public in relation to Seapoint Road.

Consequently, in accordance with the proposal adopted by the members, the ramp was installed and no further measures are proposed.

The members raised the following points:

- This motion was tabled on foot of a number of meetings with the residents of Seapoint and Seymour Road.
- Yes, there is a ramp on the Seapoint Road, but it is only one and is totally ineffective.
- The area is being used as a rat run and there have been numerous near misses.
- It is a dangerous stretch of road, the footpaths are non-existent there.
- The residents of Seymour Road want a ramp.
- I support this. The residents wrote to the Council about this.
- The ramp that is there should have been put in a different place. There is a second one needed.
- We need to do something. Whether ramps are the option to take – I ask the Town Engineer for his guidance. Perhaps we could make the Seapoint Road one way?
- Maybe if we got a ramp on the junction of Seapoint and Seymour Road?
- Raised tables don't cut down on speed.
- To be fair, the Roads Technician Dominic Gillan had plans for Seapoint Road at the MPC which weren't accepted. These plans included widening of the footpaths.
- We should look at this again. We need to go to the Roads section to discuss this.
- We need to move on this. A bridge will be going in, in the future. This will impact on the Seapoint Road. I ask the engineers to have a look at this.

291. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (11/03/2008)

"That this council in conjunction with the ESB underground the electrical wiring on the Main Street from the junction of the Herbert Road to the Dargle Bridge."

Report

It is agreed that this objective will be progressed.

The members raised the following points:

- I welcome this report. I am talking about the area directly outside the Royal Hotel. There are many wires crossing the street here.
- The Royal offered many years ago to fund this. Perhaps we could write to them to see if they are still willing to do so?

292. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor John Brady (11/03/2008)

“That this council remove the advertisement signage on the Main Street outside of Holland's Off-Licence.”

Report

The council are making efforts to have the company remove same and in the event that cooperation is not forthcoming the council will endeavour to physically remove same.

The members raised the following points:

- I welcome this report. I pass by this on a daily basis and there are constantly bottles sticking out. It is an eyesore. The main and only purpose of this is advertising.

293. Notice of motion in the name of Councillors John Byrne, Anne Egan, Anne Ferris & John McManus (01/04/2008)

“That this council look to acquire suitable land for a new public cemetery.”

Report

An analysis of the cemetery will be undertaken over the summer to assess the likely time scale during which the cemetery will be filled. Pending this analysis it is not possible to issue a recommendation on the need for a new cemetery.

The members raised the following points:

- I welcome this report. We will need a public cemetery in Bray.
- There is only about 5 years left in Springfield.
- It will be difficult to acquire a site near the town centre that has easy access and parking.
- I welcome this analysis and look forward to you coming back to us at the end of the summer for another discussion. Perhaps we could put this on the agenda?
- I agree it will be a tough one to deal with. Land is at a premium. Land for housing needs is hard to come by.
- We should look to the undeveloped land at Fassaroe.
- I have brought up the provision of an Angels Plot and Urn Wall at Springfield Cemetery. If people are being cremated and the urn placed in the wall, it will save space.

8. Correspondence

Bray Coastcare Group Award

The Town Clerk informed the members that the Bray Coastcare Group had won the Annual Award for Best Coastcare Group 2007 – 2008. She added that this is a great achievement as the Bray Coastcare Group had only been formed in the spring of 2007.

The members joined in the Town Clerk's praise of Bray Coastcare Group and commended the valuable work they do. The members also commended and thanked the officials of Bray Town Council and the Senior Executive Engineer, Liam Bourke for their willingness to liaise with Bray Coastcare. It was added that this award is a great tribute to the work that Bray Coastcare do.

Bray Town Council Annual General Meeting

The Town Clerk informed the members that the AGM of Bray Town Council will be held on the 10th of June. It is the requirement of the Standing Orders of Bray Town Council that the AGM be held on the second Tuesday in June.

9. Any Other Business

Councillor John Brady brought the issue of parking in Ballymorris estate by parents dropping off and collecting their children from Bray School Project.

He stated that the residents of Ballymorris are asking that Bray Town Council take measures to ensure that parents do not park in the estate and added that parking is at a premium for residents, as there are no driveways in the estate.

Residents can't get parking in the mornings and afternoons, as parents are parking where they like and are effectively abandoning their cars.

The Board of Management of Bray School Project dispatched letters to the parents requesting that they refrain from parking in Ballymorris, but unfortunately the plea fell on deaf ears.

St. Fergal's Church said the parents could park their cars there and bring their children to school but the uptake was limited.

Councillor Brady stated that he was aware the area was outside the town and asked the Town Engineer for suggestions.

The Town Engineer responded that there is not very much that Bray Town Council can do in the area and if people are parking illegally, it is in the remit of An Garda Siochana to ticket cars.

Councillor Brady remarked that as Ballymorris is a Local Authority estate, it is the duty and obligation of Bray Town Council to help their tenants.

Councillor Pat Vance stated that this problem is happening all over the town of Bray and that anything Bray Town Council have tried has been unsuccessful. He added that it is up to An Garda Siochana to ticket cars in this area and to appeal to people personally not to park. Unfortunately, these types of appeal usually fall on deaf ears.

Councillor Brady then asked that a letter to the Board of Management be dispatched about this issue.

The Leas Cathaoirleach closed the meeting by wishing the Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins well in her recovery. The members echoed his sentiments.

* * * *

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____