

Minutes of the Special Housing and Planning Meeting of Bray Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 4th December 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

**Councillor Brid Collins, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Caroline Burrell
Councillor John Brady
Councillor John Byrne
Councillor Anne Egan
Councillor David Grant
Councillor Michael Lawlor
Councillor John McManus
Councillor Ciaran O'Brien
Councillor Pat Vance**

Also present:

**Mr. Des O'Brien, Director of Services
Ms. Christine Flood, Town Clerk
Mr. Sean O'Neill, Town Engineer
Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer**

Apologies:

**Councillor Anne Ferris
Councillor Steve Matthews**

The Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins opened the meeting by extending a vote of sympathy to Senator Shane Ross on the death of his brother Connolly Ross.

Councillor John Byrne remarked that he'd like to second the vote of sympathy and added that he knew that Councillor Bríd Collins had a very good relationship with Senator Ross.

Councillor Pat Vance and Councillor Ciaran O'Brien added that they'd like to be associated with the vote of sympathy.

Councillor John Byrne stated that he'd like to raise two items in committee. The Cathaoirleach agreed to this.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting dated 6th November, 2007

Councillor Caroline Burrell proposed confirmation of the minutes of 6th November 2007 and Councillor Anne Egan seconded the proposal.

2. To Consider The Housing Progress Report

The members raised the following points -

Central Heating in Local Authority Rented Dwellings

- Glad to see good progress in the installation of central heating in Fassaroe.

Silverbridge Halting Site

- I know there have been difficulties with this. I would encourage Bray Town Council to get onto Wicklow County Council in relation to getting everything into the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government so we can move forward.
- This has been on the agenda for many years. There is need for a major refurbishment schedule. The site is very old and in bad condition – we need to inject money into it. We need to get the plans in, get them approved and get them out to tender.

Waltrim Grove

- We were told there was a tract of land under Part V of the Planning & Development Act off site. Can we have more information in relation to the size of this site and when it will be on stream?
- What is the location of this site?

Oldcourt

- Dublin Bus have carried out a scheme of raising the footpaths at the bus stops to facilitate the kneeling buses. The bus shelter in Oldcourt needs to be upgraded. Dublin Bus have been in contact with Bray Town Council in relation to raising the footpath but nothing has happened. This has been going on for months.

Deerpark

- The name stone at the entrance to this estate has been knocked down for two or three years. The residents raised the issue with the Estate Development Officer. Can we please get this stone re-instated?

Transfer List

- A tenant wanted a mutual transfer and was told to go to the Transfer List to identify a suitable person to arrange the transfer with. They got in contact with a person who had been on the list for ten plus years who told them that they didn't want to transfer anymore. How often is this list updated?
- Can a letter be sent out to everyone on the Transfer List again please?

Riversdale

- There are problems in Riversdale with dampness. Five to six tenants have this problem. Floors have needed to be lifted. The management company told the tenants that it was not their responsibility. Bray Town Council are not giving the tenants a response on this – who is responsible for interior issues? There is also a broken pane of glass in the front door and the management company are not doing anything to replace this.
- Who is responsible for internal works – Bray Town Council or the management company?

Sutton Road

- How long after the contracts are signed will the units be ready to hand out?

Carrigoona/Cycling Club

- We saw drawings on this about three years ago and told that it has to go to the Department. The site is lying idle. A temporary engineer has been appointed but this report is much the same as last month.

Maitland Street Doors & Windows Replacement

- This report states that one house will be done by Christmas. How many windows are in these houses? It's taking very long to replace these.
- I hope this is a typographical error.
- Can the new doors have safety chains and a peephole?
- This is unacceptable – there are elderly residents here. The contractor has let us down.

Disabled Persons Grant

- The HSE agreed to have an extension built with a family in Casement Park. Plans were drawn up. Bray Town Council told the family that as there was no over crowding an extension could not be built.

Ard na Greine

- There is a sculpture here that is very badly decayed and it is an eyesore – it doesn't improve the appearance of the area. Can we get the agreements of the tenants and remove or transfer it?

Landbank

- This is the most important item in the Housing Programme and it's not progressing.
- When will we be able to go out for tender on Kilbride Lane?
- There is a need for Local Authority housing as there are hundreds on the list – more urgency is needed as there are long delays.

House Purchases

- Have we used up all our funding?
- Have we made all required purchases?
- If the allocation is not completed can we get a further allocation from the Department.
- There are a number of good quality houses in local authority estates coming up for sale. Can we get permission from the Department to buy new houses?

Giltspur Heights

- Have we carried out an assessment on the cost of conversions? People don't want to move.

Triona Irving, Administrative Officer informed the members of the following:

- The central heating programme will carry on into 2008.
- Wicklow County Council Senior Engineer is preparing the tender documents for a framework agreement for the procurement of a panel of architects. This is in accordance with the new procurement regulations. An architect will then be selected from the panel. The architect will have to come up with plans which will then go to the Department for approval.
- If you call into the office we can discuss Casement Park.
- I will talk to the engineer about Sutton Road and the bus shelter.
- There was a delay in sorting out the Carrigoona site as there was a problem with the alignment of the road. I have spoken to the architect and the structural engineer and impressed the urgency of this.
- I have no details about Waltrim Grove with me – I will pass them onto Councillor Brady.
- We have made the required number of purchases.
- We have the costings for Giltspur Heights and will be looking at a Programme of Works for 2008.
- The Transfer List was updated eighteen months ago. We contacted everyone on the list and not everyone came back to us to say if they wanted to be kept on the list or not. We left these people on the list.
- We had meetings scheduled with the tenants of Riversdale, the Estate Development Officer and the Clerk of Works which the tenants cancelled.
- One person contacted Bray Town Council from Riversdale and the Clerk of Works is looking after this. If we get the names of the tenants affected I will get the Clerk of Works to investigate.
- I will talk to the Housing Department in relation to Riversdale.
- The contractor has to visit each house in Maitland Street to measure up. I have told the contractor that he needs to get moving as soon as possible. He can only guarantee that one house will be completed as the windows and doors have to be made individually.
- I will discuss the name stone at Deerpark with the Estate Development Officer.
- We will continue to look at any land up for sale or auction. If we find anything of interest, we contact the Department – this is a lengthy process. We are also competing with developers and there have been occasions whereby we have been outbid by developers.
- We have no resources to send out a letter to the people on the Transfer List before Christmas. There are also time constraints.

3. To Consider Planning Matters

The Administrative Officer reported that no planning files were requested.

The members raised the following points:

- When will the final decision be made on the Superquinn site? Has it to come back to the members as a Material Contravention?
- It's great to see Superquinn are developing on the Southern Cross. Please take the submissions of the Mountainview residents on board. We will need a new pedestrian crossing and to address traffic issues here.
- What is happening in relation to the Florentine Centre?
- [Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins] there is a finish date of 2009 on the Florentine site.
- The new shopfronts in the town are welcome – I hope people applying for planning permission are paying attention to the new variation to the Town Development Plan.

Planning file reference 07/205

- I would like to recommend this family for planning permission, they have been on the Affordable Housing list since its' inception.

Planning file reference 07/169

- Planning permission has been granted to Ark Housing. This development is for homeless people. I would ask Bray Town Council to approach Ark Housing to work closely with the residents of the area in order to get this off the ground properly and have it work well. There are a lot of elderly in the area.
- [Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins] I have been working closely with Triona Irving and the Housing Officer – we've been trying for this for a long time. The Housing Officer will liase with the residents.

Planning file reference 07/175

- I would like to look at this file – this is a sub-division of a house in Sugar Loaf and an extension from the back outwards. I am a bit worried and a bit cautious. I have reservations regarding the sub-division and extending. I want to bring this to the attention of the officials.

Planning file reference 07/164

- This is for 24 units on the Soldiers Road. I am very very worried about that development. If it gets the go-ahead it would be detrimental to the area. The road is not wide enough to accommodate more than one car at a time. Cars have to mount the pavement to pass each other. There are also problems in that area regarding inadequate sewerage pipes. I totally oppose this development – it should be thrown out. The road needs serious attention, the traffic is a nightmare here.

Planning file reference 07/195; 07/205; 07/164

- I would request that these developments be in keeping with the area. Traffic issues will need to be addressed.

Planning file reference 07/193

- This is a welcome development. I went to the presentation – it is intended to have open space for GAA pitches, presumably the site for the pitches is separate?
- Sixteen classrooms seems very small.

Triona Irving, Administrative Officer responded:

- The Material Contravention on the Superquinn site will be on the agenda next week. The decision will then be made either on Thursday or Friday of next week, depending on when the Manager is in the office.
- All your comments have been duly noted.

The Town Manager Des O'Brien informed the members that while there was no start date on the Florentine Centre, he was optimistic that it will be very early in the New Year.

The members raised the following points:

- I'm concerned that there is a completion date but no start date. Everyone in the town is concerned. There has to be a start very early in the New Year or else we'll have to look at this again.
- When will a decision be made on the Florentine CPO's?

The Town Manager Des O'Brien informed the members that there were two CPO's on the Florentine site. One of the CPO's concerned Bray Town Council and Ballymore Properties and there were no submission received, which means this can go ahead. In relation to the CPO regarding the other land required for the build, he stated that a date had been proposed for the oral hearing 14th January 2008 but added that this was unconfirmed as yet. He added that he thinks works will start in January not February and that Ballymore Properties are currently going to tender.

The Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins asked of the manager if Ballymore Properties had an anchor tenant for the Florentine Centre. Mr. Des O'Brien responded that the information could be commercially sensitive but that his understanding was that Ballymore Properties had a line of large tenants.

4. To Discuss The Fire Safety Audit Report

The members raised the following points:

- I welcome the publication of this report, even if it is 1 ½ to 2 years after commissioning – it is very damning.
- I am disappointed we were not given full access to this report. We only got Volume 1 of 4 – I request full access.
- Does this report cover St. Claire's Terrace also – there is no mention of it.
- It doesn't contain a lot of new information. It vindicates the views of the residents of Oldcourt, views that they've held since the refurbishment in the 1980's.
- There is some startling information here regarding bitumen felt on the flat roofs and in the cavity walls.
- There are no firebreaks in the cavities in adjoining houses, there are holes in the attic walls in the dividing space.
- There were a series of fires in Oldcourt in 2005 and smoke was visibly seen to travel from house to house. There was a report given at a previous meeting in relation to this - this report calls that report into question. I'd like to see that report again.
- The Chief Fire Officer Jim Dunphy attended a meeting in February 2006 and was asked if he thought there was a problem with the houses in Oldcourt. He stated that there wasn't. He presided over numerous investigations into fires in Oldcourt. He should be aware of the problems. I call for all fires to be re-investigated.
- [Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins] you have mentioned Jim Dunphy enough. Let's move on and deal with the massive problem in Oldcourt.
- All fire cases in Oldcourt particularly the fatalities need to be re-investigated.
- A statement was issued by Bray Town Council that it would take €1,000,000 to rectify the problems. How did this figure arise? Every recommendation should be carried out. This works out at €4,000 per house in Oldcourt.
- When was this statement issued by the Council?
- The statement was given to RTE news.

The Town Clerk informed the members that RTE news had been in touch with her to check the figure for works which may need to be carried out as a result of the report. At the time, she did not have the figures from the consultants. RTE news then asked if the figure would be in the region of €1,000,000 and she replied at least €1,000,000. RTE made a second telephone call to check the figure but the Town Clerk did not receive the message until after the item had been broadcast on the news.

Councillor John Brady then asked how much works might cost on houses in Oldcourt and the Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins responded that it would be in the region of €20,000 per house.

- People have bought houses in Oldcourt in good faith from the Council, will these be looked at too?
- There are terraced houses here and the full block could go up if there is a fire.
- What programme of works is envisaged? How long will it take and how much will it cost?
- I'm very disappointed – we were given this report to read and peruse but it has been discussed in all media.

The Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins raised a point of order and stated that if a public meeting is organised by any Councillor, manners/protocol dictate that the Councillor should come through the Cathaoirleach. She further stated that if a building that is associated with the Council is used for such a meeting that it is needed to inform the Council.

- This is a bad way to do business. The Councillors did not get a chance to discuss this report before the media got it.
- We want those people to live in proper houses.
- We asked for this report and it took longer than intended. We need to sort this out. Officials and Councillors need to work together.
- There is a lot of scare mongering. We are here to sort this out.
- Bray Town Council are to send a submission to the Department. They are working on this.
- The residents and Councillors want improved, safe houses. There is no point in fighting amongst ourselves. To go forward we need funding.
- We need to look at other options – we should examine the possible development or redevelopment of Oldcourt if necessary. We need to work with the residents on this.
- The Council officials and the Councillors have the same objective here – we need to get the houses up to scratch.
- I hope the residents trust us – the way to go is residents liase with Councillors, who then liase with officials, who then liase with the Department.
- Did the Councillors only get a copy of this report or is it in the public domain? I got a phone call from a member of the public who had a copy of the report – how did he get it?
- I'm disappointed that the engineer and architect couldn't have access to some houses.
- These houses were built 20 years ago. The party walls were never blocked up in council houses. Sockets were always scarce in kitchens in council houses. Overloading of sockets is not the council's fault.
- I'm disappointed that the felt roofs were left on during the refurbishment.
- Lets just get on with it – safety is paramount.
- I'm inclined to side with Councillor Brady, if a public body commissions a report it is in the public interest.
- How many estates in Bray would come up with a good rating if examined in the same way as Oldcourt? Not many, both private and Local Authority.
- We have a housing estate that we have tried to improve and we have improved it substantially.
- I don't believe the figure of €20,000 per house – this is too low. How will we remove the bitumen without removing the walls and roofs? I think the figure would be €100,000 plus per house.
- We need to look at this and consult with the residents. We need to see if what has been proposed can be done without too much disruption. We need a detailed report on the solution and to keep an open mind.
- There are major dangers in this estate to be addressed.
- It is despicable talking about people who are not here.
- The design and supervision of the refurbishment should have been done much better.
- If this report is carried out to the full, Bray Town Council and all Town Councils would have to abandon social housing.
- This is the first volume of four – what do the other volumes contain and when are they due to be presented to us?
- I'm disappointed that residents weren't available to the consultants – I'd like to thank the residents that made themselves available. Can these residents get a copy of the report as pertains to their house?

- Residents should take care in relation to extension leads.
- People who have extended into attics are being told they need to close them off.
- If we go down the road of the recommendations it will cost more than €20,000 per house.
- It is recommended to inspect every six months – is this just for Oldcourt or for all local authority houses? There will be privacy issues and staffing issues to take into account.
- My view is that any works that were carried out in Oldcourt since it was built met all the required regulations at the time. This was Government money and I'd be amazed if the Government was handing out money and the regulations were not met at the time. Regulations change – I would say a lot of houses in the town would not meet current regulations.
- These works will cost more than €20,000.
- People who have been doing re-wiring, extensions, attics etc are a danger to themselves and others.
- We should look at a timeframe for these works – get a programme of works.

[At this point Councillor David Grant apologised for being late and missing the start of the discussion.]

- I have spoken to the Estate Management Committee and they didn't get a copy of the report. They need this information to do their jobs. Can Estate Management Committees be included in circulations like this in future.
- I'm disappointed with the number of houses examined – we need to examine all houses.
- These houses were built thirty years ago and refurbished twenty years ago. These houses need to be future proofed against demand.
- Communication is the key, we need to liaise with the Estate Management Committee.
- We need to look at the issues with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. These issues will have a knock on effect in relation to local authority houses in the town.
- We need to adopt these recommendations for all local authority houses.
- This report is a wake up call for all of us – we have to be aware of fire prevention. Smoke alarms have been handed out but some residents have refused them.
- We want to resolve Oldcourt, we don't want the residents to be scared but they are.
- I believe these houses were built very very badly – should they be knocked down and rebuilt? What is the answer to this – can the Town Engineer tell us?
- A big concern I have is the bitumen.

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien remarked:

- This was an advance copy of the report – I'm now sorry I released it as it wasn't completed. We wanted more than analysis, we wanted recommendations. This is causing fear.
- The real losers in this scenario are people who have purchased houses in Oldcourt.
- People should not attack ordinary council officials who can't answer back.
- Generally speaking local authority houses are as good as, if not better than private sector houses. My own house had a gap in the party wall in the attic.
- You are judging works carried out in the 1980's by current standards.
- Wicklow pioneered the refurbishment of these houses – they were built in the 1970's very quickly and very poorly. There was a housing crisis at the time. They got people out of the tenements.
- With regard to the visual surveys the holes in the attics will be dealt with immediately. We will go into attics and block up any gaps as soon as possible.
- We will put smoke and heat detectors in all houses without fail.
- With regard to the bitumen in the walls, we will refer to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. We can't fund this from our own resources.
- The figure of €17,000 plus VAT seems to be on the light side.
- We will have to do house inspections.
- I examined a house that had caught fire in Oldcourt myself, there was a lot of flammable material lying around this house.
- While there have been a lot of fires in Oldcourt, there has been no fire spread from house to house.
- This report states that the wiring conforms to all requirements.

- The other Volumes relate to individual inspections – we will each resident a copy of the relevant report.
- We have a duty of care to our tenants.

Councillor Pat Vance asked about attic conversions and Des O'Brien responded that enforcement actions will be undertaken.

The Town Clerk, Christine Flood informed the members of the following:

- The report was circulated to the members only.
- There was a request from the Estate Management Committee for a copy of the report, which was then circulated to them.
- She had informed the media that it was not usual to comment on reports that had been circulated to councillors. The media then reverted saying they had a copy of the report and requested a quote. I gave them a response as it had already been feature on the national news.
- We circulated the report to the members first and after it was debated in the media, we had a request from the Estate Management Committee and the TD's for a copy which we gave to them.
- We have sent the report to the Technical Officer of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for comment and recommendation.

The members raised the following points:

- It was not professional to give this report to the press before we discussed it. It sets a bad protocol.
- I'm glad this report came into the public domain before we discussed it as it gives us time to reflect on the concerns of the public. I can understand the councillors being annoyed, but does it really matter?
- What is the furor? There is nothing in the Standing Orders to say that reports can't be circulated. If there is a problem, raise it at the Protocol meeting and change the Standing Orders.
- If anyone wants to leak a report, Standing Orders will not stop them.
- Will the privately owned houses be inspected also?
- If houses were sold by Bray Town Council, they must have been surveyed for the mortgage – some must be safe.
- A number of people in Oldcourt co-operated with the inspection. They should get a copy of the report in relation to their houses.

The Town Clerk responded that the report is presented in such a way that it might not be possible to facilitate this request. She added that she had requested of the consultants a break down by house, but that they had quoted a significant amount of money for doing so. She stated that Bray Town Council will try to break the report out and circulate it to the householders.

The councillors further added:

- We are not doing the people who have bought houses in Oldcourt any favours. Tenants have rights. Some don't want to leave Oldcourt or have their houses knocked down – their voices are being lost.
- If irresponsible tenants are putting people in danger they must be investigated.
- Have we agreed to present the report to the Technical Advisor in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, give a copy of the report where possible to the residents and wait for best advice from the Department?

The Town Manager, Des O'Brien responded that Bray Town Council will refer the bitumen lining and the chimney breasts to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government as they are better advised as to the depth of technical assessment.

5. To Receive An Update On The Proposed Amendment To The Restricted Parking Scheme In Relation To Wyndham Park

The members raised the following points:

- We discussed this last month. It didn't go to public consultation and it was discussed at the meeting of 13th February 2007. It was agreed and stated in the minutes that it would go to public consultation and it did not happen. The Council management show contempt by not following up this decision. The residents are appalled about this.

The Town Clerk remarked that the letter she had sent the councillors and which was included in the Agenda stated that the oversight was her fault and again offered her apologies on this. She added that no contempt was intended to be shown to the councillors or the residents of Wyndham Park, that the advertisement will be in the papers and that the Garda Commissioner had been consulted. She stated that it is intended to put this on the Agenda of the meeting of 15th January.

Councillor David Grant accepted the Town Clerk's apology and proposed that the changes to the restricted parking scheme be furthered. Councillor Pat Vance seconded the motion.

Further points raised by the members were:

- This is the first time I've seen an apology put in writing. Well done to the Town Clerk. I would suggest putting this item back to the February meeting as submissions can be received up to noon on 15th January – you are asking for trouble.
- The resident's are very annoyed about this.
- I feel two hours parking is adequate I feel it meets the residents' needs.
- I'm glad to see a sensible proposal for this area – I'd like to thank the Town Clerk.
- Two hours will suit the residents. I fully support this.

6. To Receive A Recommendation On The Installation of CCTV At Ballywaltrim Playground & Fassaroe

The members raised the following points:

- I'd like to query why the cameras on School's Road are linked to the Garda Station, but the cameras in Hazelwood are being relayed to Bray Town Council offices.
- It's great that this is up and running.
- If these cameras are to be monitored, they need to be monitored 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. It will be monitored in the Garda Station, but will it be monitored in Bray Town Council offices?
- We're only there [civic offices] a few hours a day. I think it's wrong that Ballywaltrim gets linked to the Garda Station but that Fassaroe does not.
- I understand that Fassaroe is not monitored constantly. We need to seek the agreement of the Gardai to link up to Fassaroe. This is a practical thing they can do to prevent anti-social behaviour. Is it not as easy to monitor two playgrounds as one?
- CCTV is a deterrent only. We need more Gardai on the ground to deal with the incidents as they occur.
- I'm delighted that this is going to Ballywaltrim and Fassaroe, it will be good for both areas.

The Town Engineer, Sean O'Neill responded:

- I'm not certain of the reason why we have to go to Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001. It is either due to the fact we have radio waves or surveillance.
- School's Road was a development by An Garda Siochana to put up CCTV cameras – we gave them funding. Fassaroe CCTV was a development by Bray Town Council alone.

Ms. Triona Irving, Administrative Officer added:

- The cameras that were installed prior to Cedar Court being built were relayed to the Garda Station, hence these ones are relayed also.

- The cameras in Fassaroe were previously relayed to Bray Town Council offices and the Gardai took digital images from the films – they were able to identify people via the Estate Management Committee. We can talk to An Garda Siochana about relaying to them.

The Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins asked the members had they reached a consensus on this matter and the members responded that they had reached unanimous agreement.

7. Reports & Recommendations

There were no reports and recommendations.

8. Correspondence

Letter From An Bord Pleanála Re: River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme

The Town Clerk informed the members of the oral hearing scheduled to take place in the Ramada Hotel, Southern Cross Road on Tuesday 11th December, commencing at 11am in relation to submissions received on the River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme. She added that this hearing could take up to three days.

Councillor David Grant remarked that the Ramada Hotel is a bad location for a hearing relating to issues affecting residents of the other side of Bray and asked could St. Peter's Hall or the Royal Hotel not have been utilised?

The Town Clerk responded that she had raised this with An Bord Pleanála and they informed her that they couldn't find any other venue. The Town Clerk offered the use of a Bray Town Council facility, but the Bord prefer to avoid bias in choosing their venues.

Councillor Pat Vance remarked that if people are interested enough in the oral hearing, they will travel to the Ramada.

Bray Head Special Area Amenity Order

The Town Clerk apologised to members for not being able to inform them at the meeting held on 13th November about the oral hearing in relation to the Bray Head Special Amenity Area Order, which took place in the Royal Hotel on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th November. The board do not advertise oral hearings and the council received only very short notice.

Ethics Framework for Local Government

The Town Clerk informed the members of a letter received from the Local Government Policy Section, which had been circulated to the members the previous week.

Letter & Book of Condolence from Killarney Town Council

The Town Clerk informed the members of a letter and Book of Condolence received Killarney Town Council and stated that they had been forwarded onto Wicklow County Council, whereby it will be passed onto the families of Brian Murray and Mark O'Shaughnessy.

9. Any Other Business

Councillor John Brady informed the members that Wicklow County Council had received a deputation from the Murray and O'Shaughnessy families at their meeting held on Monday 3rd December. He expressed disappointment that there couldn't be a joint meeting of Bray Town Council and Wicklow County Council and that questions could not be addressed to the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins remarked that protocol dictates that people who attend council meetings can't address the meeting and that Councillor Brady was aware of this.

Councillor Brady proposed that a deputation be received by Bray Town Council from the Murray and O'Shaughnessy families and requested that they be allowed to address the meeting, along with members of Wicklow County Council.

Councillor John Byrne raised a point of order saying that it had been agreed at the beginning of the meeting that he could raise two issues under committee.

The members raised the following points:

- What constitutes Any Other Business? It is a question and answer session?
- We are not the Fire Authority for Wicklow.
- I don't mind questions, but I mind abuse.
- The families have lost people tragically in these fires. They are being used as a political football.
- Who gains most out of this – the families or other people?
- The families are entitled to ask questions.
- Wicklow County Council have the responsibility for this matter – to pretend that Bray Town Council do is posturing.
- The families should have the opportunity to inquire, to investigate in a public forum and have the right to a public forum, it's fooling them to bring them here [to a council meeting].
- It's about time people understood what's going on here.
- [Cathaoirleach Bríd Collins] the Town Clerk and I approached the families and offered them the opportunity to come to our offices. They are grieving.
- The families asked for a meeting – can they come to a council meeting and meet with Eddie Sheehy and Brian Doyle of Wicklow County Council.

At this point the Cathaoirleach intervened and informed the members that the meeting had run out of time. As Councillor John Byrne's items were to be discussed in committee, she requested that members of the press and public vacate the building.

* * * *

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Signed: _____
TOWN CLERK

Dated: _____