



Bray Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2012 IN THE BRAYWOOD MEMORIAL HALL, FIFIELD ROAD, FIFIELD, BERKS.

PRESENT:

Alexander Ward:	Cllr H Howard (arrived at 7.15pm)
Bray Ward:	Cllr G Graham (Chairman) Cllrs M Pierce, D Mellor
Dedworth Ward	Cllr M Airey
Holyport Ward:	Cllr A Monks Cllr P Janikoun (arrived at 7.25pm) Cllr M Smith-Lyons
Oakley Green & Fifield Ward:	No Cllr present Mrs J Eden-Bagley – The Clerk 3 members of the public

Cllr Graham opened the meeting with a welcome to the new councillors, Michael Airey for Dedworth Ward and Mark Smith-Lyons for Holyport Ward.

182/2012. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Kneen, Cllr Walters, Cllr Foulger, Cllr Elvin, Cllr Adams, RBWM Cllr Coppinger and Mr G Hayes & Cllr Yates

The following declarations of interests were declared:

Personal:

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Cllr Graham	4.0 Britain in Bloom presentation	Member of the Bray Enhancement Committee
Cllr Howard	6.3 Camusfearne	The owners are known to the councillor
Cllr Mellor	8.2 Fifield Open Space 6.2 The George	Director of OGFDCA The landlord is known to the councillor

Pecuniary:

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Cllr Graham	5.11 Payments List 6.4 Parish Allotments	Recipient of expense payment Bray Allotment Holder

183/2012. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Chairman gave a reminder to all in attendance of the fire safety regulations for the venue of the meeting.

The Clerk gave a summary report on the Play Areas which is taken from ARD's inspection report for August:

Springfield Park was satisfactory with no priority 1 items.

Aysgarth Park was unsatisfactory with one priority 1 item, car tyre debris in the area which has been removed by the Parish Contractors.

Jubilee Fields was unsatisfactory with one priority 1 item, loosing paving slabs. Cllr Graham is going to meet with ARD on 24th September to review the situation.

184/2012. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

The Chairman made one amendment to minute number 154/2012 of the General Meeting held on the 23rd July which was to correct the date of the next meeting. The Minutes of the General Meeting held on the 23rd July and 6th August were then approved and signed as a true record.

Cllr Graham introduced Mrs Jules Graham who gave a very informative presentation on the Bray Britain in Bloom project and submission.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Graham reported that Mrs O'Shea, owner of Camusfearne was in attendance and suggested that agenda item 6.3 Sale of the land at Camusfearne should be brought forward which was generally agreed.

Sale of the land at Camusfearne (please refer to Appendix A)

Cllr Graham gave a brief explanation to remind members of the history of the land and leases.

Cllr Graham then invited Mrs O'Shea to address the committee who spoke in support to vary the conditions and expressed in her view this had already been agreed at a previous council meeting. Cllr Graham responded this was not the case and that approval had been given for agreement in principle for the sale of the land, subject to the appropriate legal agreement, which is now in the process of being drawn up by the boroughs legal team. The borough has sent a draft copy of the agreement to the O'Shea's solicitor who has raised a number of questions on their behalf. Cllr Graham referred to the document sent out with this agenda and the questions that had been put to the Parish Council:

1. Could there be an exception made to the covenant for the existing shed which has been on the land for some years? After a debate Cllr Janikoun proposed this exception to allow the existing shed or any future replacement shed of similar size & construction in the same location. This was seconded by Cllr Pierce and unanimously AGREED.
2. Request to relax the building prohibition to allow for a summerhouse or extension to the existing dwelling? Cllr Howard proposed relaxing the building prohibition with the view that the planning process would control any development. This failed as no member was prepared to second the proposal. Cllr Janikoun proposed the building prohibition should be maintained and the request to relax the condition should not be permitted. This was seconded by Cllr Pierce and AGREED on a vote of 6 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.
3. Clarification that the existing fence will be maintained by the O'Shea's and no new additional fencing is required? The boundary fence borders another property 'Gays Cottage' and therefore this should not form part of the agreement. This was proposed by Cllr Graham, seconded by Cllr Monks and unanimously AGREED.

Mrs O'Shea left the meeting at 8.00pm.

185/2012. PARISH FINANCE

5.1 Finance Working Group FOWG (please refer to Appendix B)

The notes from the meeting which took place on 10th September had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

5.2 Finance Report Q1 to 30th June 2012 (please refer to Appendix C)

Cllr Graham referred to the summary report and confirmed the detail figures have been reviewed by the FOWG and there are no anomalies to report.

5.3 Investment Bond (please refer to Appendix B)

Cllr Graham reminded members that approval was given at the main council meeting on 23rd July 2012 to re-invest £50k (and interest earned) in a one year fixed term bond and to add a further £50k to the bond. Following the meeting a number of members raised concerns at the level of investment with one financial institution, particularly as this would not be covered by the government guarantee scheme. Therefore, the FOWG were asked to look at this again and to suggest a different approach to help mitigate any risk to the parish council funds. Cllr Graham outlined the proposal by the FOWG to invest the second £50k in a Lloyds bond to spread the risk. This was seconded by Cllr Mellor and unanimously AGREED.

Agreement was sought for delegated approval of the following projects. Details of the expenditure can be found on the Spending Decision Report (Appendix C)

5.5 Cemetery Hedge

The Clerk requested delegated approval to incur expenditure up to £900 (as per the budget) to cut both side hedges at the cemetery. This was proposed by Cllr Mellor, seconded by Cllr Janikoun and unanimously AGREED.

5.6 Manor Grove

Cllr Howard reported that a further £40 is required for the re-submission of papers to the Land Registry in connection with the adoption of the land at the entrance to Manor Grove and proposed the expenditure. This was seconded by Cllr Janikoun and unanimously AGREED.

5.7 Manor Grove

Cllr Howard reported that whilst we are still in the process of adopting the land at the entrance to Manor Grove the area is very overgrown and needs to be cleared. Therefore, Cllr Howard proposed expenditure of £500 to carry out the work. Members generally agreed this should be subject to the normal process of obtaining quotes and submission of a formal proposal to main council for approval. Cllr Mellor seconded the agreement in principle to the expenditure, subject to quotes and a proposal, which was AGREED on a vote of 7 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

5.8 Fifield Open Space

In response to concerns about the states of the grass, the Chairman of the LMWG and the Clerk has carried out a site visit to see what improvements can be made. The Clerk requested delegated approval to incur expenditure up to £200 to relay a strip of grass which is in a particularly bad state. As some members did not agree with this approach it was generally agreed to defer this item back to the LMWG

5.9 Fifield Open Space

In connection with the above item the Clerk requested delegated approval to incur expenditure up to £160 to weed/feed and re-seed the main areas of grass. As some members did not agree with this approach it was also generally agreed to defer this item back to the LMWG.

5.10 Fifield Open Space

Cllr Howard requested delegated approval for the Clerk to incur expenditure up to £150 for additional shrubs and plants for the rose bed and border of Fifield open space. This was seconded by Cllr Pierce and unanimously AGREED.

5.11 Approval to pay accounts on the Payments List (please refer to Appendix D)

The Payments List had been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting. The Clerk circulated a revised list with a total of £10,734.88 plus VAT £76.36 with a grand total of £10,811.24. Cllr Monks proposed approval of the payments list, which was seconded by Cllr Pierce and AGREED on a vote of 7 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

Cllr Graham had declared a pecuniary interest and therefore did not take part in the vote. The BT charges relating to the Parish Office were discussed and Cllr Howard agreed to review the BT rates to see if a more favourable package is available.

186/2012. REPORTS FROM OTHER WORKING GROUPS

OPERATIONS WORKING GROUP FOWG (please refer to appendix B)

The notes from the meeting which took place on 10th September had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

LAND MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP (please refer to Appendix E)

The notes from the meeting which took place on 26th June 2012 had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

The George (please refer to Append F)

Cllr Graham referred to the licence for the use of tables & chairs which had been circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. It was pointed out there was a discrepancy in the reference to the number of tables and it was agreed that clause 3.6 should be changed to reflect 2 tables as stated elsewhere in the document. Cllr Graham proposed approval of the licence, subject to the above change, which was seconded by Cllr Mellor and AGREED on a vote of 5 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

Parish Allotments (please refer to Appendix G)

Cllr Graham referred to the proposal by the FWOG to increase the allotment rents from £4.50 per 25sqm to £4.80 per 25sqm with effect from the 1st October 2013. Cllr Howard proposed the increase which was seconded by Cllr Janikoun and AGREED on a vote of 7 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstention. Cllr Graham had declared a pecuniary interest and therefore did not take part in the vote.

Cheque Signing (please refer to Appendix H)

Cllr Graham referred to the proposal sent out with the agenda. Members discussed the signing of cheques between main council meetings and after a debate it was generally agreed to continue with the process outlined in the 5.2 and 6.4 of the Finance Regulations. This makes provision for the cheques to be signed in between meetings and the expenditure will be reported for approval on the payments list at the next main council meeting.

IT WORKING GROUP

No meeting to report

Parish Website

Cllr Graham reported the design template for the new website is complete. The content now needs to be reviewed by the Newsletter Working Group.

STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

No meeting to report.

S106 WORKING GROUP

No meeting to report.

NEWSLETTER WORKING GROUP

Newsletter Autumn/Winter Edition

The Clerk reported the Autumn/Winter Edition will be presented to the parish council for approval at the meeting on the 1st October 2012.

187/2012. GENERAL MATTERS

Parish Cemetery, Windsor Rd

The Clerk reported on a request for a new memorial bench in the Parish Cemetery and requested approval to delegate this to the LMWG to review which was generally AGREED.

188/2012. ALEXANDER, DEDWORTH AND OAKLEY GREEN & FIFIELD

Land at the entrance to Manor Grove

Cllr Howard reported the forms for the Land Registry are ready and will be handed to the Parish Office on Wednesday.

Fifield Open Space

The Clerk reported on a request from the OGAFDCA for permission to erect a Christmas Tree on Fifield Open Space. This was proposed by Cllr Janikoun, seconded by Cllr Smith-Lyons and unanimously AGREED.

189/2012. BRAY

No items to report

190/2012. HOLYPORT

No items to report

191/2012. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Developers' Contribution Project List 2013

Cllr Graham proposed the FOWG and LMWG should review the 2013 list and submit comments to the Clerk which was generally AGREED.

192/2012. CORRESPONDENCE AND COUNCILLORS' FORUM

Correspondence (please refer to Appendix I)

The Correspondence List was distributed to the Councillors and the Clerk gave a verbal update of items on the list.

Thames Hospicecare 'Little Garden'

The Clerk reported that Thames Hospice Care have approached the Parish Council about the bulb planting scheme. The Clerk reminded members that bulbs were planted in number of locations last year. Cllr Janikoun proposed the purchase of 200 bulbs which was seconded by Cllr Mellor and AGREED on a vote of 7 in favour, 1 against and 0 abstentions. It was generally agreed to delegate the decision on the location of the bulbs to the LMWG.

Cllr Janikoun – Jewish Holidays

Cllr Janikoun made a request to not call parish council meetings on Jewish holidays.

Cllr Airey – Social Media Networking

Cllr Airey asked if the Parish Council has considered using social media networking such as Twitter. Cllr Graham responded this is not something that has been considered, however it could be looked into and suggested further discussion take place.

Cllr Smith- Lyons – Parish Communication

Cllr Smith-Lyon asked for clarification on the normal methods of communication with local residents.

Cllr Mellor – Clay Pigeon Shooting in the vicinity of Monkey Island Lane.

Cllr Mellor reported that a local resident has advised that Clay Pigeon shooting is taking place early in the morning and asked if other members were aware of the issue. Cllr Graham responded this has been raised before and whilst it's a nuisance the people operating the shoot appear to be complying with the 28 day licence.

Cllr Graham – Broadband and Crime Figures

Cllr Graham gave a short report on the delays to the rollout of broadband in the parish. Cllr Graham also reported on recent crime figures which have gone down and asked the Clerk to circulate details to members.

193/2012. DATE OF NEXT MAIN COUNCIL MEETING

The General Meeting of the Parish will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 19th November 2012.

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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