



Bray Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF BRAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7:30PM ON MONDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2018 IN BRAYWOOD MEMORIAL HALL, FIFIELD ROAD, FIFIELD, BERKS.

PRESENT:

Alexander Ward:	Cllr J Glover
Dedworth Ward:	Cllr N Pellew
Bray Ward:	Cllrs C Graham, S Kiely, B Millin, M Pierce
Holyport Ward:	Cllrs F Hattey, L Kneen (Chairman), L Walters, Cllr D Wilson arrived late
Oakley Green & Fifield Ward:	Cllrs N Marsh, C Yates 1 - The Press 10 - Members of the public The Clerk - Mrs S Cook

117/2018 Chairman's request

The Chairman requested that all mobile devices were switched off for the duration of the meeting.

118/2018 Apologies for Absence, Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Apologies were received from Cllrs K Elvin and S Dudley.

The following declarations of interest were made;

Personal

Councillor	Agenda Item	Interest
Cllr C Graham	123.2	Bray Allotment tenant

119/2018 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 provided a summary report on the Play Areas reports for October and November 2018 advising that there were two high risk items, both of which the Clerk had arranged to have dealt with. There were no items in the accident book.

120/2018 Minutes of previous meeting

Cllr Walters asked for a spelling error of his name to be corrected, for which the Clerk apologised. The signing of the minutes for the meeting held on Monday 8th October 2018 was approved.

121/2018 Public Question Time

It was agreed to bring forward item 121.2 as the presentation from Kier Highways would be shorter than that from Cllr Coppinger.

Report to Councillors from Kier Highways on works to the M4 Bridge where it crosses the A308.

Cllr Kneen welcomed Andrew Winson from Highways England, Project Sponsor for M4 Windsor Road, to the meeting and he introduced his colleagues; Kathryn Blofield Communications Co-ordinator from Kier Highways who will be responsible for providing the Clerk with monthly updates on the project and Greg Stone from Highways England Route Sponsor Team, Stakeholder Engagement.

Mr Winson then explained the reason for the work to the bridge. The steel within the concrete deck needs corrosion protection from chlorides along with repairs to the concrete which has spooled off, exposing the steelwork. He explained the phasing of the work; contractors are currently working on the concrete over the centre lane of the A308, which is taking place overnight as it is too dangerous for this to be done with traffic passing either side. The next phase will be the closing of the eastern lane to allow encapsulation and will take place during the day to allow for faster working, there is also more work involved for both the eastern and western lanes than there is for the middle lane. The final phase will be closing of the western lane for encapsulation works. During the works there will be narrow lane working to keep traffic moving.

The team have been working closely with RBWM Highways team on the best way to keep traffic moving. There will be a diversion in place via Stafferton Link Road and Braywick Road for traffic that normally turns right out of Upper Bray Road. Mr Winson mentioned that a request from the public for

a signalised junction was turned down by RBWM. It is appreciated that the project will cause some unavoidable traffic delays.

Cllr Yates raised his concern about the use of the mini roundabout at Holyport Road as the diversion for local traffic unable to turn right out of Upper Bray Road, mentioning that he believes that the lack of turning space will further impede traffic flow. He asked why Hibbert Road could not be used as a diversion route.

Cllr Walters asked if the right hand turn into Upper Bray Road was to be kept open and this was confirmed.

Cllr Kneen spoke about how traffic gridlocks the area when there are accidents on the M4. She asked what the backup plan is if the current plan does not work. Mr Winson replied that their usual experience is that there are delays for about a week whilst residents get used to the changes, residents then use alternative routes or change their journey times and things smooth out. If this does not work then the team will liaise with RBWM to see if there are any alternative plans that can be put in place, Mr Winson further explained that the project team are constrained by what RBWM will allow them to do. Cllr Kneen then asked who the Clerk should contact if there continue to be problems and it was confirmed these should be raised with Highways England at info@highwaysengland.co.uk or by calling 0300 123 5000 to ensure issues are logged. It was confirmed that there is a 10 working days response time, although in reality a response will usually be made within 2-3 days. In an emergency situation the Clerk is to contact Kathryn Blofield directly.

A member of the public asked if the quality of the concrete in the structure reflects the state of the concrete in other structures that form part of the original Maidenhead bypass, now M4 as this could be a concern. Mr Winson replied that the construction of the bridge is unusual, that there are no other bridges like it in the area but a lot of the other bridges in the area will be dealt with as part of the M4 Smart Motorway works.

Cllr Walters asked if the M4 Smart Motorway works would preclude another junction being created between J8/9 and J10 and was advised that the work would not preclude this; that any constraint could be due to the limit of how close junctions can be but that there are no current plans for an additional junction.

Cllr Kneen thanked Highways England and Kier Highways for attending the meeting.

3 Members of the public left the meeting.

Report to the Parish Council by Borough Ward Councillor David Coppinger on questions raised by the Traffic and Highways Working Group in regards to traffic concerns within the Parish.

Cllr Yates as Chair of the Traffic and Highways Working Group gave an introduction saying that in his view Bray Parish is under siege from developers, residents feel their concerns are not being listened to and this was an opportunity for RBWM to answer resident's concerns.

Cllr Coppinger touched on his willingness to speak at Parish meetings; the opportunity offered by the Parish Stakeholder meetings and refuted the implication that infrastructure issues have been ignored during the BLP process. Cllr Coppinger explained that all potential development in the Borough was put through a strategic model to be absolutely certain that the roads could cope after changes and improvements and an infrastructure delivery plan had been developed, which is on the RBWM website.

Cllr Coppinger was clear that RBWM want to work closely with the Parishes. He also mentioned that although he had spoken to officers, he had not spoken with fellow Ward Councillors about some of the topics he wanted to cover at the meeting and that further conversations with them would need to take place.

He went on to discuss the different areas that had been highlighted by the Traffic and Highways Working Group, mentioning the A308, where as part of the strategic review it had been found that there were 4 junctions with major issues, two of them in Bray. The A308 review had not yet started as funding had only just been received by Government, therefore the commissioning process had only just commenced; following a query regarding when the meetings with the Parishes would start he replied that he expected this would be in about a month.

Cllr Coppinger responded to the concern regarding environmental health and air quality, claiming that this has improved significantly and of the four areas of concern, only the area in Bray on the Windsor Road where the M4 crosses remains an area for concern. The impact of the Smart Motorway is expected to reduce this further as there will no longer be traffic queuing on the M4 once works have

been completed, which was why the Secretary of State did not include air quality concerns in the Control Order.

Cllr Coppinger felt that there should be some caution regarding the proposed developments in the Parish. The proposed move of the Maidenhead Golf Club to Fifield was mentioned, with Cllr Coppinger commenting that as members had voted against it and that no planning permission had been sought, it would be difficult to approve planning based on what is underneath the area so no assumptions should be made for its approval. Cllr Coppinger then said that Monkey Island Lane, Wyevale Garden Centre and HA11 will not happen until the BLP is approved. He also mentioned the Summerleaze proposal for land in Fifield, for which there will be no net increase in traffic. The Phoenix Gym has not yet raised the money needed but that the traffic effect will be neutral. Cllr Marsh disagreed with this assessment, commenting that the reason for the bigger gym was to increase the number of competitions and members.

Cllr Coppinger then turned to speed issues at the far end of the road at the junction with the Oakley Green Road, agreeing that speed actually is an issue and that he would be happy to support an appropriate reduction in the speed limit to 40mph there, if Parish Councillors wished him to follow up on that. Cllr Yates challenged this comment asking why, when this had been requested previously the Council had been told the police would not enforce it, Cllr Coppinger said he would return to that point later.

Following on to other things, Cllr Coppinger mentioned the A330 and the increase in traffic due to additional traffic from Bracknell. He advised that Highways England do not consider the A330 from Bracknell through Holyport to be a strategic route, that the A329 and A322 is considered to be the route for further development along with the A404 from Junction 8/9 to High Wycombe which is expected will be increased to motorway status. He believes the answer for the future is a bypass for Holyport but does not know where it will go or where the money will come from.

The Bailey Bridge at Bray was discussed, with Cllr Coppinger mentioning the ambitions of the Maidenhead Waterway Group to see a waterways link from Maidenhead to The Cut and if this is to be achieved the whole shape of the bridge would need to change, therefore as the current bridge does its job at an annual cost of approximately £10k per year and a full bridge replacement will cost approximately £1.6million there are no immediate plans to change the bridge.

Cllr Coppinger then focussed on Holyport and school traffic, explaining that the school role at Holyport Primary is falling, and that it already has an informal one way system along with a kiss and drop scheme. He agreed that although there is congestion it is for a limited time and that the bigger issue is the empty shop on the parade, which could lead to further reduction in trade for other shop owners. Having spoken to officers he is happy to consult with residents on a total one way system if that is what Councillors want, although he does not believe that is what residents want.

Speaking about Fifield and the Forest Green Road Cllr Coppinger agreed it is a problem and that the Fifield Crossroad is a difficult junction, but he reported that there has only been two injury accidents recorded in the last five years. Cllr Coppinger has asked officers to put together a redesign for the junction but it will not be the sort of roundabout that residents want. He does not consider the speed on Forest Green Road to be an issue but does accept that with more cyclists and horses than before that they cause a problem. Thames Valley Police are not prepared to support a 40mph limit and will not undertake any speed checks. He is however happy to support a speed reduction there if that is what Councillors wish but it will have the caveat that it is not supported by the police.

An issue not raised by the Parish Council but that Cllr Coppinger wanted to speak on concerned Bourne Bridge; RBWM Officer Tony Carr put in a new system with 'Give Way' on both sides and a narrowing of the bridge which reduced the worst accident spot in the area to nothing at all. A local resident recently asked if one side could be given a priority, but having discussed this Tony Carr, it was agreed that having both sides stop and think remained the best solution.

Finally Cllr Coppinger spoke about the 7.5tonne weight limit in Holyport and agreed that HGVS have caused damage in Oakley Green but that the only two route choices are Holyport or Oakley Green, which explains why a bypass for Holyport is the only long term solution.

Cllr Walters spoke about the Newbury bypass saying that although the bypass initially reduced traffic problems eventually the traffic builds back up to high levels.

Cllr Pellew spoke about the claim that there would not be any net increase in lorries for the Summerleaze works mentioning that this could not be correct; he spoke about the high number of lorries in the area and the damage to drains on the Oakley Green Road. Cllr Millin understood that the Summerleaze works currently taking place in Taplow would stop once the work in Fifield commences.

Cllr Kneen reminded Councillors that Summerleaze will be attending the planning meeting and so the issue could be discussed with them then.

Cllr Millin had attended the OGFRA AGM and mentioned the concerns raised by residents regarding the number of lorries going through Oakley Green and had taken the time to look at the issues raised by the Oakley Green residents which included those outside the school. He had taken a look at the signs by the school which included the usual statutory school sign and the 20mph flashing sign, but had noticed that there are no bollards by the school as there are at Altwood School, which encourage traffic to slow down and felt that RBWM has not looked after the Parish in this matter. He felt that the pinch point in Holyport could be relieved and that the rest of the A330 is more suitable for HGV traffic. He had spent 12 minutes sat outside the school during which time 8 lorries had driven past, they could barely get past on the road and he felt they drove too fast. He believes that the issue will need to be re-examined at some stage with proper studies for the safety of the children and the condition of the road. Cllr Kneen advised that there is also a school in Holyport with more students and traffic. Cllr Walters advised that a number of studies had been completed prior to the setting of the weight limit. Cllr Marsh pointed out that the A330 due to its designation has better foundations than the Oakley Green Road, which is a B road which is why the drains and footways are collapsing putting the children in danger, she also mentioned that parents at Holyport College are able to turn off the road to drop their children at school but Braywood parents have to drop at the side of the road and she was amazed that nobody had been seriously hurt.

Cllr Millin asked about the A308, mentioning that as Cllr Coppinger was on record saying the BLP would be approved, the possibility for congestion in the area could not be dismissed. Cllr Coppinger responded advising that it may be that there will be changes to the plan.

Cllr Kneen asked about the Fifield crossroads, asking that if there cannot be a roundabout what else could be done. Cllr Coppinger felt that changes to the angles of the junction could improve vision but admitted he was no expert. Cllr Yates advised that it was possible that if a plan for the junction was put forward, there was a probability that land adjacent could be put forward for the benefit of junction improvements. Cllr Coppinger replied that he was looking for ideas from the Traffic and Highways Group, to which Cllr Yates asked if it would be possible for RBWM officers to help him to come up with a new plan, which Cllr Coppinger felt was fine and would program a meeting. Cllr Kneen mentioned that Cllr Yates as Chair of the Traffic and Highways Working Group would approach local residents to discuss the proposed scheme. Cllr Yates also mentioned the frustration experienced by the Chair of the Council and the Clerk at the lack of response to emails from Officers, to which Cllr Coppinger asked to be advised when this happens. Cllr Kneen replied that the initial response from Highways is now better than it was.

Cllr Yates asked for further information about the Parish Stakeholders Group and asked Cllr Graham for his thoughts as he was an attendee. Cllr Graham advised that he had attended 4 Parish Stakeholder meetings, for which the principle aim and brief was to consult the parish councils on aspects of the Borough Local Plan as they emerged, at the last meeting he asked if it was the intention ever to bring to the forum any aspect of the Borough Local Plan, but as he did not get a sensible answer left the meeting as his rationale for being there was not being supported. He agreed that the Terms of Reference had been expanded to include other planning topics but as he was neither Chair nor Vice Chair of planning felt it should be those people who should attend the meeting; his only interest was the Borough Local Plan and nothing had come forward in the sense of new information material to consult or give an opinion on. Cllr Coppinger gave the opinion that other attendees at the meeting felt it was useful and should be continued, with which Cllr Graham disagreed.

Cllr Walters asked which other Authorities would be included in the review of the A308, to which Cllr Coppinger confirmed that Surrey County Council, Runnymede and South Bucks were included.

A member of the public asked how long the A308 infrastructure study would take, to which Cllr Coppinger replied that he did not know but expected it would take three or four months. The resident then commented that if the BLP went through and developments along the A308 were approved, they would be dependent on the results of the A308 study as existing traffic levels, particularly in the rush hour are not sustainable and that there needed to be an infrastructure solution before development could take place. Cllr Coppinger replied that all new development proposals were run through a high level planning tool, which indicated that planning would work but had highlighted that there were a number of areas where specific work had to take place and that would be expectation of the next study. The first study had shown that houses could be built in the places proposed subject to some highways amendments. The resident then said that the proposal for 650 houses on HA11 with twice the number of cars would gridlock the area.

Another member of the public mentioned that a year ago, residents had been told that the two garden centres included in HA11 had been taken out of the BLP, and that they would remain as garden centres so there would be no extra traffic, yet Squires had closed and a planning application was expected very shortly from Beaulieu Homes and Wyevale had been sold to Wates, which if planning permission is granted will create a lot more traffic pouring out onto the Dedworth Road and then A308 and so was concerned about that. Cllr Coppinger did not recall the document and was told it had come from 4 Borough Councillors, Edward Wilson, Michael Airey, Hashim Bhatti and Nicola Pryor.

Cllr Kneen thanked Cllr Coppinger for his time, that it had been much appreciated and that she was sure Councillors would be in touch with him with more questions, Cllr Yates also gave his thanks.

It was agreed that the actions to be undertaken would be forwarded to Cllr Coppinger.

1 member of the public left the meeting.
Cllr Yates left the meeting.

122/2018 Clerks Report

The Clerk updated Councillors, particularly on the meeting with Officers from the Planning Department regarding the Pre-App for works on Holyport Green. (Please refer to Appendix a)

123/2018 Parish Finance

Accounts to September 2018

A copy of the accounts for the year to September 2018 had been provided to Councillors (Please refer to Appendix b)

Councillor Graham did not take part in the following item due to his interest as declared.

Allotment Fees Review

Councillors discussed the request from the FOWG to approve an increase in allotment fees to £6.90 per square metre from October 2019.

Cllr Pellew proposed acceptance of the proposal; Seconded by Cllr Millin; Vote; 9 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained.

Cemetery Fees Review

Councillors discussed the request from the FOWG to approve an increase of 7% for cemetery fees from January 2019

Cllr Pellew proposed acceptance of the proposal; Seconded by Cllr Millin; Vote; 7 For, 2 Against, 1 Abstained.

Spending Decision Report

Details of the following expenditure can be found on the Spending Decision Report. (Please refer to Appendix c)

Replacement Trees

Cllr Graham proposed the expenditure by the Clerk of up to £450 to replace five trees across the Parish; Seconded by Cllr Glover; Vote; unanimous

Oakley Green War Memorial

Councillors discussed the proposal for a rose bed at Oakley Green Cemetery to prevent further erosion of the hedgerow alongside the Memorial. Cllr Marsh suggested that it would be more appropriate for the rose named 'Remembrance' to be planted as it includes a donation to the British Legion for each rose sold.

Cllr Graham proposed that the Clerk investigates the additional cost if any to purchase 'Remembrance' and substitutes for 'Trumpeter' if appropriate; Seconded by Cllr Glover; Vote; unanimous

Payments List

Approval to pay accounts of £15,073.32 plus VAT of £541.31 making a total of £15,614.63 on the payments list; Proposed; Cllr Pierce, Seconded; Cllr Glover, Vote; unanimous

124/2018 Traffic & Highways Working Group

A meeting of the working group took place on 15th October; please refer to appendix d)

125/2018 General Matters

Cllr Kneen sadly advised that Cllr Bou Sreih had resigned and mentioned that Cllr Bou Sreih had contributed a lot to the Parish Council during her time with the Parish Council. Councillors were asked

to consider if they wished to Co-Opt a replacement Councillor until the elections on 2nd May 2019. The matter was discussed, it was felt that it took too long to get to grips with being a Councillor and so Cllr Kneen proposed that the Council does not fill the vacancy by co-opting. Seconded by Cllr Hattey; Vote; unanimous

126/2018 Bray

There were no matters to report

127/2018 Holyport

Update on Holyport Street Parking and Speed restrictions

Cllr Kneen advised that RBWM are looking at residents parking and that the next stage will be an opportunity for residents to vote.

128/2018 Fifield

Request for a power point to be installed on Fifield Open Space

The request to approve the fitting of a power point to allow the Christmas Tree to be lighted was discussed.

Cllr Kneen proposed the request be approved subject to the fitting being on a lamp post, not on a stake in the ground; Seconded by Cllr Walters; Vote; unanimous

One member of the public left the meeting.

Request for a contribution towards the cost of installing a power point at Fifield Open Space

The request to consider a contribution towards the cost of installation of the electric supply at Fifield Open Space was discussed.

Cllr Marsh proposed that the Parish Council make a contribution towards the cost of the installation of £225.00. Seconded by Cllr Pellew; Vote; unanimous

129/2018 Chairman's Business

The Clerk went through the report that had been provided by Cllr Elvin on meetings he had attended since the last Parish Council meeting, which included attending the AGM for the Fisheries; the Battles Over Ceremony run by Sunningdale Parish Council; a presentation to the Bray and Holyport Guides on the work and structure of the Parish Council; the Stakeholder meeting at RBWM, and the OGFRA AGM.

Cllr Wilson arrived at the meeting.

130/2018 RBWM Update

As Cllr Dudley was not at the meeting it was not possible for an update to be provided. Cllr Graham asked how many meetings it had been since an update had been provided by Cllr Dudley and asked for confirmation of this to be provided. Cllr Graham asked if it would be possible for Cllr Coppinger to be formally invited to provide an update on ward matters at future meetings if Cllr Dudley was unable to attend. The Clerk agreed to put this in place.

131/2018 Action List

The Action List was discussed and the Clerk will update the report.

132/2018 Correspondence and Councillors Forum

Various items of correspondence were discussed.

Cllr Pellew registered with Councillors that he was uncomfortable about the withdrawal of the BPNP and the serious financial implications. Cllr Graham suggested that if Cllr Pellew wanted to bring it back up with Council in 6 months in accordance with standing orders he should do so.

Cllr Hattey spoke about a 'bridge' that has been built across a ditch on a footpath onto the Biffa Land which is being used by cyclists and motorbikes. Cllr Walters advised this Cllr Hattey takes the problem up with enforcement.

Cllr Millin provided an update on the website working group, advising that a lot of work has been put into the project, and that it was currently 'parked' due to other commitments, which had proved fortunate as following a discussion with the Clerk it became apparent that ICT systems in the office need to be fixed first. This would give a better secure area for Councillors at a more reasonable cost than putting it through the website.

Cllr Graham updated Councillors on the BALC AGM advising the trial period with HALC had been extended whilst a proper agreement is negotiated, that Jonathon Owens the CEO of NALC had given a

presentation and how pleased he was that they had been given the authority to appoint an external auditor for Councils which had not gone as well as hoped and the situation was being reviewed.

Cllr Kneen told Councillors that 46 trees are due to be planted by the end of the month at Lodge Farm and wanted to thank the enforcement officer for working with the Parish Council.

133/2018 Date of next Main Council Meeting

The next Meeting of the Council will be held at 7:30pm on Monday 14th January 2019.

The meeting finished at 9:25pm

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