



Bray Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF BRAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7:30PM ON MONDAY 14th January 2019 IN BRAYWOOD MEMORIAL HALL, FIFIELD ROAD, FIFIELD, BERKS.

PRESENT:

Alexander Ward:	No Councillor present
Dedworth Ward:	No Councillor present
Bray Ward:	Cllrs K Elvin (Chairman), C Graham, S Kiely, M Pierce
Holyport Ward:	Cllrs F Hattey, L Kneen
Oakley Green & Fifield Ward:	Cllrs N Marsh, C Yates
	1 - The Press
	5 - Members of the public
	The Clerk - Mrs S Cook

134/2018 Chairman's request

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

135/2018 Apologies for Absence, Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Dudley, J Glover, B Millin and N Pellew. Cllr D Wilson had advised he would be late for the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest made.

136/2018 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 Annual Play Areas reports for December 2018 advising that there were no high risk items. There were no items in the accident book.

137/2018 Minutes of previous meeting

Cllr Elvin asked for a change on page 35 of the minutes to read; 'contractors are currently working on the concrete over the centre lane of the A308'. The minutes of the meeting on Monday 19th November 2018 were then approved.

138/2018 Public Question Time

Cllr Elvin welcomed Ian Motuel, RBWM Principle Planner to the meeting. Mr Motuel gave a presentation to Councillors on the upcoming Traveller Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation.

Mr Motuel described the three separate types of Travellers in the RBWM community; Gypsies and Travellers, Travelling Show people and boat dwellers all of whom experience inequalities and bad outcomes citing employment, health, longevity and education. He gave a brief history of the groups within the Royal Borough and provided details of existing sites.

Following this he spoke about the Councils vision to "build a borough for everyone – where residents and businesses grow, with opportunities for all" and spoke about the Governments aims to ensure fair and equal treatment for Travellers, in a way that "facilitates their traditional and nomadic way of life while respecting the interests of the settled community", to ensure Traveller sites "enable provision of suitable accommodation from which Travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment" and to "reduce tensions between the settled and Traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions"

Mr Motuel explained that the Council has a legal responsibility to assess and plan for the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and as with the Borough Local Plan needs to ensure the provision of a sufficient supply of good quality pitches, plots and moorings for Travellers to help to address the inequalities that they experience as well as to reduce the number of unauthorised sites and encampments, which are a frequent source of tension between the Gypsies and Travellers and settled communities.

He then went on to explain what the Traveller Local Plan (TLP) is; that it is a local plan that sets out local planning policies, identifying how land is used and what can be built where. It will identify how RBWM will meet the future needs of Gypsies and Travellers, Travelling Show people and boat dwellers and will include issues such as site design, type, tenure and mix. To date RBWM have; identified the

accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, Travelling Showpeople and boat dwellers, published the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) (June 2018), prepared a Sustainability Appraisal Report and prepared a Traveller Site Assessment Methodology.

To produce the TLP, RBWM needs to go through a number of formal processes the first of which is to consult on the Issues and Options Paper. Its purpose is to help the Council identify the full range of issues that it should address through the TLP, set out a series of potential options to address these issues, and seek views from the Traveller and settled communities and others on the range of issues and options identified and their implications. The Issues and Options Papers includes a context section, including history of Travellers in the Borough, a section on the vision and objectives for the plan and separate sections covering Gypsies and Travellers, Travelling Showpeople and boat dwellers. Each section details issues, options and questions which are supported by an evidence base.

Having explained the next steps for the process, which are, alongside various appraisal works, publishing the Local Plan for consultation in Autumn 2019, publishing the proposed Regulation 19 submission (Spring 2020), submitting the Traveller Local Plan for examination (Summer 2020), undergoing examination hearings (Autumn 2020), and adoption (Winter 2020), Mr Motuel invited questions from Councillors.

Cllr Graham thanked Mr Motuel for providing the start of the process for something which the Parish Council had been waiting for a long while, and asked whether any sites had at this time been allocated. Mr Motuel replied that proposed sites would be included in the Local Plan in the autumn. Cllr Graham then asked about the impact proposed sites would have on the two temporary sites in the Parish, how they would be included in the plan and managed in the long term. He was advised that there were a number of options which could include providing full permission for existing sites, extending existing sites, or provision of sites from larger planning applications. Cllr Graham then asked about the relationship between the Environment Agency and RBWM with regard to the boating community and for further information on moorings in the area. Mr Motuel advised that this was an area that was currently being investigated further.

Cllr Yates asked what would happen in two years when Travellers park on Holyport Green. Mr Motuel advised that if a transit site was allocated, there would be more power for the council to move travellers on more quickly. Cllr Coppinger followed up on the question advising the Police would be able to use Section 62 Powers to move travellers immediately, with travellers being forced to move to the transit site, to pay a deposit along with rent.

Cllr Marsh asked if there were a legal number of pitches that needed to be provided and was advised that there is a need for 21 pitches and beyond that would be up to RBWM to decide whether they wished to provide any additional pitches. Cllr Pierce asked how the number of 21 had been arrived at and was advised that it was based on survey work. RBWM only needs to provide for travellers who are still travelling, which reduced the number of travellers who had to be consulted.

Cllr Kiely asked if travellers would have to register for a pitch, Cllr Coppinger advised that two legitimate sites owned by RBWM are managed by the Housing Association who control the waiting list in the same way as for standard housing. He further advised that the pressure for pitches comes from the families of existing residents. Cllr Pierce asked if rent and utilities have to be paid by the traveller community living in the Borough and was advised that this was the case. Cllr Kiely asked about when Travellers stopped being travellers and was told that it was a cultural option and that they are a defined ethnic group.

Cllr Kneen advised that in her view the major requirement was for a transit site and alluded to problems experienced by the Parish Council mentioning that travellers trespassing on private land caused the most harm to local communities.

As there were no more questions Cllr Elvin thanked Mr Motuel and wished him luck.

2 members of the public left the meeting.

Cllr Elvin welcomed Rob Noble, RBWM Community Warden to the meeting. Rob told Councillors there are 18 community wardens who cover different areas of the borough and that he was privileged to cover the parish along with Larcham Estate, Oldfield, Stafferton Way and Maidenhead Town Centre. He explained that wardens work closely with the police to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and also tackle various environmental issues such as litter, fly tipping, graffiti, dog mess, and informally deal with parking issues. They look to provide information to residents; if wardens are unable to solve an issue they usually know who can. They also undertake environmental protection work dealing with dog barking complaints, garden bonfires, building works issues such as builders working outside

prescribed times and early hours patrols to deal with licencing problems of loud music in pubs and clubs.

Rob gave an example of three different jobs he had undertaken in the past week which included cleaning graffiti off a Virgin media box at Larchfield, arranging for the removal of fly-tipping on a footpath near the Drift Road and a tree that had come down at Braywick Park. He then advised how residents can contact him, which includes typing in 'Wardens' on the RBWM website.

Cllr Graham thanked him for his help getting rid of a number of cars that had been parked for a long time in the Parish Car Park in Bray. Cllr Kneen also thanked him for his help whenever she has contacted him and said she was grateful for his support, mentioning that the work of the community wardens reduced the angst experienced by residents. Cllr Pierce asked about his hours and Rob explained that they work a number of different shifts.

Cllr Elvin asked him to take away the message that Councillors were very grateful for the work of the wardens and Councillors applauded Mr Noble.

1 member of the public left the meeting.

139/2018 Clerks Report

The Clerk updated the Councillors. (Please refer to Appendix a)

140/2018 Parish Finance

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on 4th January 2019. (Please refer to Appendix b)

Cllr Pierce asked about the transfers that had been made and the Clerk confirmed these were to meet items on the payments lists that had been approved by Councillors at the last Council meetings.

Accounts to December 2018

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

Cllr Graham assumed that the Council would not spend the 2018/19 budget and asked for the rationale based on the fact that the proposed budget for 2019/20 was for an additional £20k. The Clerk explained that unspent monies would be accumulated in the balance sheet with the permission of FOWG and that future year budgets would look more closely at budgeted projects, particularly for Land Management. The Clerk also commented that income was higher than budgeted due to additional fees received for the cemetery and that the budget for 2019/20 reflected the consistency of cemetery income over the last few years.

Adoption of the Budget for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22

Councillors discussed the proposal to approve the adoption of the draft budget for the period 2019/20 and the three year budget to 2021/22

Cllr Elvin proposed adoption of the budget, seconded by Cllr Yates, Vote; unanimous

Proposal to approve the precept for the financial year 2019/2020

Councillors discussed the proposal for Councillors to approve the precept figure of £156,796. for the financial year 2019/2020.

Cllr Graham asked for the rationale for the increase in the precept and Cllr Yates replied that the aim as in the previous few years had been to work towards a balanced budget. The Clerk was asked to explain why the income for the Fisheries was not included; the Electoral Team had led the Clerk to believe that the income would be included in the financial year 2019/20, but when the tax base had not changed as expected had explored the matter further with the Council Tax Team who advised that the tax base was taken from properties on the register in October of the previous year and that income for the Fisheries would not be received until the Financial Year for 2020/21. The Clerk was able to confirm that this was the legal situation based on independent advice received.

Cllr Pierce asked if the Fisheries would cost the Parish anything in the financial year 2019/20 and the Clerk advised that the expectation of the Fishery residents was only for help with planning applications and that no budget had been put in place.

Cllr Elvin proposed approval of the precept of £156,796 for the financial year 2019/20, seconded by Cllr Yates, Vote; unanimous

Spending Decision Report

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

Modifications to upgrade Bray Car Park lighting and controls

The proposal for the Clerk to incur S106 expenditure of up to £1,300 to upgrade the light switches and associated works in Bray Car Park was discussed.

Cllr Graham proposed, seconded by Cllr Marsh, Vote; unanimous

Various horticultural works at Gays Lane field, Biffa land, Aysgarth park, Bray Cemetery and Bourne Bridge

Cllr Kneen proposed the Clerk incur expenditure of up to £1,300 for various horticultural works across the parish was discussed, seconded by Cllr Pierce, Vote; unanimous

To cut back the perimeter of Aysgarth Park twice a year

Cllr Kneen proposed the Clerk incur expenditure of up to £900 for the cutting back of the perimeter of Aysgarth Park twice during 2019/20, seconded by Cllr Graham, Vote; unanimous

To trim bushes on the bund at Bray car park

Cllr Graham proposed the Clerk incur expenditure of up to £275 for the trimming of the bushes on the bund at Bray car park, seconded by Cllr Kneen, Vote; unanimous

Various tree works at Holyport Green, Fifield Open Space and Aysgarth park

Cllr Kneen proposed the Clerk incur expenditure of up to £1,550 to crown lift and thin a number of trees and cut back various bushed willows across Holyport Green, Fifield Open Space and Aysgarth Park, seconded by Cllr Marsh, Vote; unanimous

Grant requests

Cllr Yates proposed the Parish Council pay the grant request of £800 to Bray Senior Citizens Club, seconded by Cllr Kneen, Vote unanimous

Payments List

Approval to pay accounts of £22,716.59 plus VAT of £1,636.67 making a total of £24,353.26 on the payments list; Proposed; Cllr Graham, Seconded; Cllr Kneen, Vote; unanimous

141/2018 Land Management Committee

A meeting of the Land Management Committee took place on 23rd November 2018; please refer to appendix e)

Cllr Elvin reminded Councillors that if they were not on the Land Management Committee but saw works that needed undertaking to let the Clerk know.

142/2018 Planning Review Working Group

A meeting of the working group took place on 14th December; please refer to appendix f)

Cllr Graham advised the meeting that BALC will be putting together a schedule of training courses for new Councillors, which would include Planning, from May onwards.

Cllr Kneen said the best way of learning is by working alongside experienced Councillors and so a buddy system will be put in place following the elections and this will support the training that will be made available.

Use of delegated planning recommendation powers

The proposal for Councillors to make greater use of delegated planning recommendations as described in the Planning Terms of Reference was discussed.

Cllr Kneen reminded Councillors that the Parish Council has a lot of planning applications and that the meetings sometimes struggle to finish by the 10pm deadline. She suggested that if delegated approval was used in a more pro-active way for straightforward applications that would be approved, it would provide the Council with more time to deal with more contentious applications.

Cllr Kneen reinforced that presenting Councillors looking to delegate must converse with their fellow ward councillors and delegate prior to the meeting. Cllr Elvin reminded Councillors that training is the most important aspect and that the support of fellow Ward Councillors is vital. Cllr Marsh mentioned that delegated approval was expected to work in the same way as it currently does for applications with closing dates before the next planning meeting, with the presenting Councillor discussing

applications with their fellow Ward Councillors and bringing any that they felt should be discussed in more depth to Council.

Cllr Wilson joined the meeting.

Cllr Graham asked how Councillors could be encouraged to look at plans before the agenda is issued. Cllr Kneen said that she looks at plans as soon as they are advised to her by the Assistant Clerk to see if they can be delegated, with which Cllr Marsh agreed. Cllr Marsh also pointed out that the Assistant Clerk very helpfully notes on the email to Councillors that the application may be delegated. Cllr Yates responded that Councillors could not make sure other Councillors looked at delegating, that Councillors needed rely on each other and must work together.

Cllr Kiely asked what would happen if Councillors made a delegated recommendation and then a member of the public raised an objection, to which Cllr Kneen replied that most residents would be aware of contentious applications and so there would be early objectors, but agreed it was possible that from time to time an objection would be made after the Council had responded, which is why Ward Councillors need to work together.

Cllr Kneen reminded Councillors that there are a number of difficult applications coming up and that if this was not trialled meetings would not finish before 10pm.

Cllr Pierce asked if additional information regarding the applications such as Green Belt, Flood Plain etc. be included when advised to Councillors. Cllr Marsh advised that the website has a constraints tab which provides this detail. Cllr Kneen mentioned that the Assistant Clerk already makes considerable information available to Councillors and so this was something they should do themselves.

Cllr Marsh proposed, seconded by Cllr Kneen, Vote unanimous

143/2018 Traffic & Highways Working Group

A meeting of the working group took place on 29th November; please refer to appendix g)

Cllr Yates gave a verbal update on the A308 case study review, which had been received in the parish office, Councillors asked to receive a copy of the response made and the Clerk is to forward a copy of the draft minutes which includes the response in full.

Replacement of Councillor to THWG

Following the resignation of Cllr Bou Sreih, Cllr Graham proposed Cllr Hattey as the replacement Councillor to the Working Group, seconded by Cllr Kneen, Vote; unanimous

144/2018 IT Working Group

A meeting of the working group took place on 28th November; please refer to appendix h)

145/2018 General Matters

There were no matters to report.

146/2018 Bray

There were no matters to report

147/2018 Holyport

Update on Holyport Street Parking and Speed restrictions

Cllr Kneen advised that there was currently nothing further to report but hoped to have further information at the next meeting.

One member of the public left.

Request to use Holyport Green for parking for cycle event

Councillors were asked to approve the use of Holyport Green for parking for a cycle event within the Parish and the matter was discussed. Cllr Kneen advised that not all Holyport Councillors were able to attend but had shared concerns about the use of Holyport Green for general parking and in particular for an event that was not for the benefit of residents. During the discussion Cllr Dudley had suggested the use of Holyport College for parking subject to the agreement of the Head teacher.

Cllrs raised concerns that there was no information regarding the issue of access for residents or any mention of horse riders on the risk assessment and wanted to know if the police had been advised of the route.

As Councillors disagreed with the proposal no vote was taken and the Clerk is to let them know that the Holyport Green is not available and to advise of the concerns raised by Councillors.

Request to use Holyport Green for Carters Fair

Councillors were asked to approve the use of Holyport Green for use by Carters Fair and to confirm the fee to be charged and the matter was discussed. A matter of concern regarding the large advertisements used by Carters Fair was discussed, which it was felt had been intrusive and Carters are to be reminded that such advertisements are not allowed in the vicinity of Holyport Green without planning permission and that they should also request permission from the Clerk before signs are erected. As the fee has not changed for a number of years a £100.00 increase was agreed.

Cllr Kneen proposed, seconded by Cllr Yates, Vote; unanimous

148/2018 Fifield

No matters to report

149/2018 Chairman's Business

150/2018 RBWM Update

As Cllr Dudley had given his apologies for the meeting, the Clerk had invited Cllr Coppinger to update the meeting.

Cllr Coppinger referred to the A308 response from the Parish Council, on which he had been included, he was very happy with it and will ensure it is followed due to the number of items that should have been included.

He gave details of the new Managing Director, Duncan Sharkey, who has experience of travellers and transit sites. He has been Managing Director of two previous Boroughs and so also has of running Children's Services as well as regeneration.

The budget is due to be finalised in the next few weeks and good news to staff includes payment of pay awards and staff and Councillors will not be charged for parking.

Cllr Coppinger referred to the homeless issues, advising that rough sleepers have had access to accommodation since October and this will remain in place during the winter, but a number of rough sleepers are still living in bus shelters despite being offered accommodation and so RBWM are now working with the police to move them on.

Cllr Coppinger advised that building work has now started on the new hospital at Heatherwood which should be finished by the end of next year; there will not be any accident of emergency facilities.

He also brought forward a petition to full council on plastics to move the Borough towards being a plastic free Borough, but also to put pressure on businesses to move in the same direction which has become a cross party promotion, which will include reverse vending machines in schools which will pay 5p for each plastic bottle returned up to a total of £2,000.

Cllr Coppinger gave further details of the survey of residents undertaken by the LGA, which followed on from the review of the Council undertaken in 2017, which had been quite critical of the Borough the survey found that residents on the whole were satisfied with the Council, and felt it gave value for money.

The next cabinet meeting will include details of the Cycling Action Plan, the removal of development rights for commercial premises as the Borough has lost 18,000m² with a further 9000m² of office space lost to housing and finally a proposal to publish a design guide.

Cllr Elvin asked Cllr Coppinger about the plans for Maidenhead shopping centre and was advised that a number of new shops are opening, but that he hoped that the new MD would help with the redevelopment.

Cllr Elvin mentioned the stinging nettles along the river walk and was glad to see them cut back as they were out of hand.

Cllr Graham asked about the status of the design guide within the BLP document set and was advised that it would be a supplementary document, it is due to be approved at the next cabinet meeting and submitted to the Inspector in due course. Cllr Graham then asked when it would have force and was advised by Cllr Wilson that it can be implemented in advance of the BLP for current planning applications. Cllr Graham asked if Parish Councils would have the opportunity to comment on it and Cllr Coppinger said he would ensure they would although this wasn't currently in place.

Cllr Hattey asked if there any plans to replace the Bowling Alley and Cllr Coppinger replied that he was not the person to ask.

One member of the public left the meeting.

151/2018 Action List

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

152/2018 Correspondence and Councillors Forum

Cllr Pierce asked if she could see the CPRE publication, which the Clerk lent to her.

Cllr Hattey advised that an unpleasant accident had taken place at the junction with Moneyrow Green and Holyport Road, and asked if there was any signage that could be put in place. Cllr Kneen advised that additional signs would not stop speeding. Cllr Yates mentioned that speeding is an issue in general and prophesised that there would be an accident on the Drift Road in the next few days.

Cllr Wilson also spoke about the accident in Bray that had taken out the bridge. Cllr Pierce asked when repairs will take place and whether the Clerk had any news, to which the Clerk replied that she had not heard anything further. Cllr Graham will log it on the RBWM website.

153/2018 Local Government Act 1972

Exclusion of the Public

Councillors resolved to close the meeting so that the Part II meeting could take place.

154/2018 Date of next Main Council Meeting

The next Meeting of the Council will be held at 7:30pm on Monday 25th February 2019.

The meeting finished at 9:45pm

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