

## Minutes of the Annual Electors Meeting held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 at 7:05pm at Bray Village Hall

### Present:

Bray Ward:	Cllr S Cross, Cllr K Elvin (Chairman), Cllr J Korczak, Cllr M Pierce
Fisheries Ward:	None present
Holyport Ward:	Cllr D Wilson
Dedworth Ward:	Cllr N Pellew (arrived at 7:16pm)
Oakley Green & Fifield Ward	No Councillor present
Speakers:	Cllr E Larcombe & Cllr G Hill
Clerk / RFO:	Ms E Cope
Thames Valley Police:	Sergeant P Collings and PC T Taylor
Members of the public	9

### Introduction and Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend.

### Annual Report presented by the Chairman, Bray Parish Council

Chairman Ken Elvin presented the Annual Report for the year 2023-24, noting that a year ago the borough elections led to a major change in the makeup of the borough's administration. In addition to taking over the reins the new the council found that they had inherited a large debt that would constrain their actions and restrict their plans.

One downside of this situation is that the Borough Local Plan (BLP) has been reluctantly adopted by the new administration. RBWM Councillors have publicly referred to the BLP as a "cage" that restricts their actions.

Nevertheless, Bray Parish Council (BPC) will continue to lobby RBWM on topics dear to the hearts of our residents.

Throughout the Borough Local Plan (BLP) process, BPC has highlighted the lack of concrete infrastructure improvements in the plan. You cannot overload infrastructure with more population and get away with it for long. Recent national publicity regarding raw sewage discharges into our rivers highlights this fact. Is it Climate Change or Increased Population? Probably a bit of both. Our own air quality monitoring in the parish has produced some alarming results with figures, in our semi-rural parish, approaching the WHO limits.

A number of developments included in the BLP for our parish are in the final planning process and soon to be under construction.

AL26 the 99 dwelling Bray Lake development has been approved.

AL21 South – West Windsor is in the final detailed planning stage and a decision is expected shortly.

Warehousing on the A308M/A330 Triangle Site has yet to come forward for consultation. It is difficult to see the need to build warehouses on this flood prone site when we live only a few miles away from what the largest industrial estate in Western Europe namely Slough Estates.

The Golf Course site is not in the parish but the site that runs from Harvest Hill down to the A308M is. Vehicles from this Bray Parish site and the Golf Course will use Harvest Hill and no doubt the Braywick Roundabout. Attempts to engage with RBWM regarding planned modifications to improve the Braywick Roundabout have failed.

Other large speculative developments in the parish include the Holyport Film Studio and BPC will continue to resist further unnecessary incursion into the local greenbelt.

In order to gain more traffic information, the parish council has purchased another two SIDS – Speed Indicator Device – These are portable devices that will be sited at various locations in the parish to deter speeding and collect offender’s data.

A number of Community Speed Watch groups are active in the parish, and, with the help of Thames Valley Police, these groups are monitoring local problem areas.

With the increasing traffic in our parish, Bray Parish Council has embarked on a third year of Air Quality Monitoring. This initiative was started just before Covid 19 hit us in March 2020. We delayed the start due to Covid as the pandemic reduced traffic numbers significantly.

The results of our Air Quality Monitoring can be found on our website or can be provided by our office on request.

For comparison RBWM has five air quality monitoring sites in the whole borough. Your parish council currently monitors thirteen points in the parish, as last June additional monitors were sited on Harvest Hill and the Bray Village Throat.

The parish Newsletter was another thing affected by Covid 19. Our band of delivery folk was depleted, and newsletter editions suffered from incomplete coverage of the parish. Not everybody has a computer, and it is our aim to make a hard copy available to every resident.

We continue to build up our delivery team and our thanks go out to all our newsletter delivery volunteers.

We have received positive feedback from residents regarding the Newsletter and thank Dawn Hampshire our Clerk’s Assistant who produces the publication.

Flooding is a potential problem in our area and the Parish Council is conscious of the problem and is working with the Environment Agency and the RBWM Flood Group to improve the situation in our area.

The general day to day business of the parish continues with regular grass cutting, playground inspections together with maintenance of our various assets. The parish council maintains St Michaels Churchyard and the outdoor war memorials in the parish together with the Windsor Road Chapel and Cemetery.

Other projects undertaken in the last 12 months include.

An additional entrance to the Gays Lane Allotments – This facilitated the removal of 20 tons of allotment waste and the commissioning of five additional plots. Tree work on Holyport Green and at St Michael’s Churchyard and refurbishment work at Bray Parish Chapel.

Cllr Elvin advised Council plans for this year which included, upgrading Parish Play Areas, relaying the Parish Cemetery Path, a new central spine path for Bray Allotments and a new surface for the Bray Tennis Court, along with inspection and testing of all parish lamp post and painting where required.

Also, the five, parish council provided, Defibs continue to be serviced and our thanks go to John Poynter who undertakes this task. An additional Defib will soon be installed in the telephone box adjacent to the Olde Red Lion thanks to OGAFCA.

The Bray Parish Fire Pump, which dates back to 1737, has been restored and is now a significant exhibit in the Maidenhead Heritage Centre.

In the last financial year, the parish council has given £10,000 in grants to various organisations in the parish including.

Bray Enhancement Committee, OGAFCA Fifield Fun Day, Bray Senior Citizens Club, Bray Village Hall, Braywood Memorial Hall and Holyport Community Trust.

The Council continues to be concerned about potholes and recently uncut grass verges have added to the problems. The Chairman advised that problems like these should be reported to RBWM, who are the local Highways Authority, and the best method is to use the RBWM Report It system.

The Chairman advised that the parish council is made up of 15 councillors representing the various wards in the parish. Currently there have 12 councillors and are looking to co-opt three new members.

Two councillors for Holyport

One councillor for Fifield.

If you would like to be considered for co-option, please contact the Parish Office. Potential candidates must live or work in or near to the parish

The Chairman then introduced the two invited speakers, inviting Cllr Larcombe to speak first

#### **Presentation by RBWM Councillor Ewan Larcombe**

National Flood Prevention Party and member of RBWM Flood Liaison Group

- **What does the lead local flood authority do**

Cllr Larcombe advised that RBWM are the lead local flood authority with a responsibility for managing flood risk from ordinary watercourses, surface and groundwater and for investigating all flooding incidents where deemed necessary

- **Riparian rights, what responsibility do landowners have**

Cllr Larcombe referenced the RBWM watercourse responsibilities factsheet, copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting, noting that if a landowner has a watercourse running along the boundary, it is usually assumed that they are responsible for maintaining up to the centre, along with the other adjacent landowner.

Watercourses running through landowner's land, the responsibility falls to the landowner for all maintenance, whereas alongside the highway rules differ where the adjacent landowner is responsible for all maintenance

- **Brief roundup of flood liaison meetings and ongoing projects**

Cllr Larcombe reported that RBWM hold flood liaison meetings four times per year with the aim to reduce the impact of flooding within the Borough, they include up to five Councillors from flood affected Wards, the Environment Agency and Thames Water

He noted that residents would need to be proactive and monitor their watercourses at the minimum annually as the Borough have extremely limited funds. Responsibility for ordinary watercourses on private land falls to the landowner. The Clerk advised a handout available at the meeting

Cllr Larcombe invited those present to ask questions

[Presentation by RBWM Councillor Geoff Hill on highways concerns within Bray Parish](#)  
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Customer Service Centre and Employment

The Chairman introduced Cllr Hill inviting him to speak.

Prior to the meeting Bray Parish Council submitted a list of topics to allow Cllr Hill to prepare suitable responses

- **A308 RBWM approved reduction in speed limit from 40mph to 30mph**  
Cllr Hill explained that traffic regulations are causing delay in implementation of the approved speed limit, advising that the legal process would take another 4 weeks, with public consultation to follow of around 8 weeks  
Cllr Hill confirmed he is committed to this project and will continue to push for completion considering the area to be built up and noting several approved large developments due for completion  
The reduction in speed limit on this stretch of the A308 may influence
- **Fifield/Oakley green road crossroads, proposed roundabout**  
Cllr Hill confirmed that RBWM intend to improve the junction, but the current financial strain caused by adult and children social care services prevent them from moving forwards at this stage
- **A308 Holyport roundabout improvements**  
Cllr Hill advised that the layout of the roundabout will be modified, with no plans to add traffic lights  
Unfortunately lack of action by utilities companies are the main cause of delay.  
RBWM is waiting on information to allow the project to move forward, a budget has been approved, work is expected to commence Autumn 2024
- **A308 Braywick roundabout improvements**  
Cllr Hill advised that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 income would be used by the Borough to pay for improvements to the roundabout.  
Work is due to commence summer 2024 starting with resurfacing and repairs
- **Grass cutting and visibility displays on key junctions within the Borough**  
Cllr Hill encouraged the Parish Council and residents to use the online RBWM Report it portal  
The Clerk advised several areas of concern, agreeing to email Cllr Hill where a response had not been received. Cllr Hill agreed to escalate these
- **Faded road markings on many roads within the parish**  
Cllr Hill again advised the Parish Council and residents to use the online RBWM Report it portal  
Any reports not actioned should be emailed for escalation

- **Pothole repair – sustainable road repair technology trialled by the Borough**

Cllr Hill noted that RBWM continue to tackle necessary road repairs, and have the ability to fine utility companies when they fail to reinstate surfaces damaged by works

Cllr Hill then invited those present to ask questions

#### Open Forum

The Chairman invited those in attendance to ask questions. As there were no questions those present were invited to partake in the light refreshments provided.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:35pm.

Unapproved