

SPRING / SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2025



Bray
PARISH
COUNCIL

Clerk: Esther Cope

Phone: 01628 777997

clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk





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The parish office continues to be busy supporting Councillors, residents and community groups.

Arranging meetings with the preparation of agendas, papers and the production of minutes, updating the website and social media, management of land and assets are all part of the working week.

The Council owns and maintains many assets, which include Bray parish cemetery, two allotment sites, three playgrounds, two car parks, two village greens, a field, a slipway, a tennis court, three war memorials and multiple benches, notice boards, waste bins, streetlights and more!

Hope you enjoy our newsletter.

Esther Cope
Clerk and RFO

THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN ELVIN



Our Clerk's Assistant, Dawn Hampshire, resigned her position at Bray Parish Council and left us at the end of 2024. Dawn had worked with us for just under three years and was predominately involved with the administration of the parish allotments, the Windsor Road cemetery and the production of our newsletter. I am sure we all wish Dawn every success in her new venture and thank her for the sterling work she has done for Bray Parish Council.

I am pleased to report that we have recently recruited two new parish councillors. Mike Parkinson has filled one vacant position representing Holyport Ward and Steve Eginton has filled the vacant position in the Bray Ward. Both gentlemen have lived in the parish for a number of years, and we wish them every success representing the residents of Bray Parish.

The parish still has two councillor positions vacant so if any of our readers would like to find out more about volunteering to become a parish councillor please contact the Parish Office for more information. Anyone who lives or works in, or near, the parish can be eligible.

Unfortunately, there will be no Fifield Fun Day this year due to the sad passing of David Buck, who kindly hosted the event. I'd like to thank the family for all their support over the years.

We are still waiting for a ruling regarding the "Studio" planning application. The matter is now with the Deputy Prime Minister – Angela Rayner – and we await her decision.

The Windsor Road speed limit reduction I referred to in our last newsletter has been implemented but for some reason the section of the road from the Holyport Road mini roundabout to the Braywick Roundabout has not been included. This makes no sense and Bray Parish Council is taking the matter up with RBWM with a view to including this section of road in the scheme.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

The parish council consider payment of grants to voluntary or not for profit organisations that operate either within the parish or for the benefit of local residents.

Or a contribution to the funds of any charitable body in furtherance of its work in the United Kingdom from which local residents may benefit.

Priority is given to:

- Contributions towards sports equipment
- Supporting local community activities, contributions to small local organisations that support local residents, such as the village halls
- Delivery of services to local residents, including emotional and practical support, social, sporting and activity clubs
- Project funding dependant i.e., dependant upon grant support to undertake the project

GRANTS AWARDED 2024/25

- Braywood Memorial Hall – £175
- Bray Village Hall – £175
- Holyport Memorial Hall – £175
- Bray Enhancement Committee – £2,000
- Bray Village Fete – £1,000
- Citizen's Advice Berkshire – £400
- Fifield Fun Day – £1,000
- Holyport Community Trust – £300
- Holyport Community Trust – £700
- Mr James Camplin – £205
- Royal British Legion (RBL) – £500
- Thames Valley Hospice – £500

Are you representing a local community group who could benefit from a grant?

If so, then please contact the parish office for an application form clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk or by phone 01628 777997 or download from the website. <https://brayparishcouncil.gov.uk/services/finance/>



CLLR STEVE EGINTON

I have lived in Bray village for nearly 28 years . After working for BA in agency account system design and support, in 2000 I became a management consultant working mostly in London for an eclectic range of businesses, mostly on financial systems and reporting.

My main pastime has been contract bridge since I was at university and I have served on the London Association Executive committee for nearly 40 years, including as Chair and as Treasurer.

Since I retired three years ago, my interests and social life has been more closely on Berkshire, and I am now Chair of the Beks and Bucks CBA. I also felt that I might be able to contribute to the parish if needed and so applied this year to be co-opted to one of a number of vacant councillor positions and was honoured last month to be accepted.

My primary concern will be around the quality of life in the village. I think that all residents have concerns about traffic and parking issues, and, of course, these have been concerns for some time. There have been some improvements in recent years, but hopefully the parish can use its influence to build on these.

Like many rural areas, social and cultural change has resulted in a loss of local facilities, particularly in Bray village where there are no longer any shops, with only Paula's hairdressers and the restaurants remaining. But Holyport retains its little shopping centre, so it can be done and I think it would be a benefit if we can find ways to encourage small retail back to the village.

For me the councillor role is, at present, a steep learning curve. I was unaware of the scope of activities of what our council does. It's a lot more than hanging baskets . Planning applications are assessed – traffic recommendations, grants and maintaining properties like the car parks, cemeteries and allotments. Of course, in many of these areas, the parish only advises, but it is able to have considerable and constructive influence with the Royal Borough.

Although I and some other councillors do hold political views, the Parish council is about the resident's voice and is not really a forum where they should bring an influence on decisions. Volunteers are always hard to find, as I know from Bridge administration, but I believe it would be a good thing for the parish if there were a full complement of councillors.

CLLR MIKE PARKINSON



Mike lived in the parish from the age of 5, went to school at Desborough, played cricket for Maidenhead and Bray, junior rugby for Maidenhead and occasionally sampled the interiors of the many great pubs that the Parish has to offer!

After university he moved to London and then returned to Bray 15 years ago to start a company with his late Father. During this time Mike has become Chairman of the Maidenhead and Bray Sports Club and of the Fisheries Residents Association. He had revitalised and developed the workings , purpose and engagement of both these organisations and becoming a Parish Councillor is the logical next step and something he has wanted to do for a while

Mike will bring a deep connection to their area, energy and commitment to the role and will look to protect, maintain and where possible improve the unique character of the parish as well as to engaging with residents to make sure their concerns and observations about the parish and where they live are listened to and if warranted quickly acted upon.



HOLYPORT – 1 SEAT OAKLEY GREEN & FIFIELD – 1 SEAT

What does a Parish Councillor do?

Parish Councillors work together to serve the community. They come from different backgrounds and bring a diverse range of skills. Team work is important as no individual councillor can act in isolation.

Here are some of the things Bray Parish Councillors are currently involved with:

- Attending Council and Committee meetings
- Representing the Council at meetings of local organisations
- Planning – commenting on planning applications, supporting the neighbourhood plan
- Finance – budget setting, governance and accountability, risk assessment
- Management of Parish Council owned facilities and open spaces.
- Special projects – for example new community facilities.

You don't need to bring any specific skills. Enthusiasm and a willingness to work as a team to support your community are all that is needed!

Expressions of interest are invited from residents who may be interested in joining Bray Parish Council.

Further details regarding the role of Councillor are available from:

<https://brayparishcouncil.gov.uk/co-option-form-for-prospective-councillors/>

VACANCY - CLERKS' ASSISTANT

Required Skills:

- Good general standard of education and numeracy.
- A good standard of IT literacy (knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook) and other packages used by the Council.
- Ability to communicate (both written and verbal) with other staff, Councillors and the general public in a pleasant and effective manner both orally and in writing.
- Self-motivated and work with minimum supervision.
- Strong organisational and time management abilities, and the ability to multitask and prioritise tasks effectively.
- A flexible approach to hours of work and day to day duties and responsibilities.
- Accuracy and thoroughness in all tasks, including data entry, document preparation, and correspondence.
- Maintaining the privacy of sensitive information.

Office Administration:

- Assist in the manning of the Parish Office and provide support to visiting councillors and members of the public.
- Deal with telephone enquiries and record details in an accurate manner.
- Deal with correspondence, including opening post, drafting letters and responding to email.
- Liaise with RBWM, logging new enquiries and following up on existing matters, at the direction of the Clerk.
- Update the five parish notice boards as required, website and social media
- Deal with record keeping and stationery ordering.

Key tasks:

- Manage tennis court bookings.
- Manage bookings for Bray and Holyport Village Greens.
- Management of two allotment sites, including co-ordinating the waiting & tenants list, inspection, monitoring and reallocation of plots and annual tenancy agreements on a yearly basis.
- Management of burials in the Parish cemetery.
- Production and distribution of the bi-annual parish newsletter.
- Attending training sessions, workshops or seminars as deemed appropriate.

Other Responsibilities:

- Assist in the preparation of the Annual Parish Meeting (meeting of the electorates) and carry out duties at the meeting
- Occasional requirement to attend evening Parish Council meetings in the absence of the Parish Clerk & Deputy Clerk in order to record Parish Council decisions.
- Carry out other various administrative duties as required by the Parish Clerk, or in their absence, the Chair.
- Must hold UK driving licence and be willing to travel around the Parish

Place of work and hours

- You will be based at the parish office at The Jubilee Room, Braywood Memorial Hall, Fifield Road, Fifield, SL6 2NX, hours to be agreed at interview
- Hours: 20 per week
- Pay scale: NJC Scale point 14 (FTE £28,624.00) in addition to this you are entitled to Outer Fringe Allowance currently (FTE £706.00 per annum)
- The pro rata salary for 20 hours per week is £15,443.60

Applying for the role

- Please visit <https://brayparishcouncil.gov.uk/vacancies/> and complete the application form
- Alternatively, email clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk or phone 01628 777997
- Or call into the offices Bray Parish Council, The Jubilee Room, Braywood Memorial Hall, Fifield Road, Fifield. SL6 2NX between 9:30am and 12:30pm Monday to Friday

WHAT IS A PRECEPT?

All local councils set a precept. Every Council has a budget, the amount of money required to fund its operations. A precept is the shortfall of money after a Council has deducted its predicted income from its planned expenditure for the upcoming year.

Parish Councils do not receive any direct funding from central government and rely on their Precept, plus any other income they generate from services or facilities they provide.

Bray Parish Council approved the precept for FY 2025/26 at the meeting held Monday 20th January 2025

2024/25 - Precept £228,492.62 (Band D equivalent £51.17 per year)

2025/26 – Precept £255,806.00 (Band D equivalent £56.29 per year)

During August 2024 The National Association of Local Councils published analysis of Local Council Tax levels for 2024/25, based on data provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

Key headlines from this year's analysis include:

- The total amount raised by precepting local councils is now £781 million, an increase of £75 million or 10.62% on the 2023/24 figure of £706 million.
- The average Band D precept charged by local precepting bodies (including local councils) for 2024/25 is £85.89, an increase of £6.76 or 8.5%.
- 124 local councils now raise a precept of at least £1 million, an increase of 20 on the 2023/24 figure of 104.
- 33 local councils started raising a precept for the first time in 2024/25.
- The county area with the largest precept income is Yorkshire, where 852 local councils collectively raise £32 million, while the county areas with the smallest precept income are Cleveland, where 52 councils collectively raise £1.8 million and the Isle of Wight, where 33 local councils collectively raise £6.5 million.



PLANNING MATTERS - CONSERVATION AREA

The maps show the areas of Bray and Holyport that have been designated Conservation Areas.

A conservation area is an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance (Planning[Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas] Act 1990, Section 69). The responsibility for designating conservation areas lies with the Local Planning Authority.

The aim of conservation area designation is to protect the wider historic environment. Areas may be designated for their architecture, historic street layout, use of characteristic materials, style or landscaping. These individual elements are judged against local and regional, rather than national, criteria. Above all, conservation areas should be cohesive areas in which buildings and spaces create unique environments that are irreplaceable.

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to review all their Conservation Areas regularly. English Heritage recommends that each area is reviewed every five years.

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/conservation>

EVENTS LISTING

Bray Village Green

Date: Sunday 7th September 2025

Event: Bray Village Fete

Bray Village Hall

Date: Saturday 26th April 2025

Event: Spring Market

Date: Saturday 10th May 2025

Event: VE Day Anniversary

Date: Saturday 28th June 2025

Event: Fund raising in aid of Thames Hospice

Date: Tuesday 7th October 2025

Event: Octoberfest

Date: Friday 31st October 2025

Event: Halloween Trail

Braywood Memorial Hall

Date: Friday 25th April 2025 7PM

Event: St George's Day Quiz

Date: Thursday 8th May 2025 7:30PM

Event: OGAFC A General Meeting

Thank you for taking the time to open this edition of the Bray Parish Council BPC Newsletter. If you have interesting stories you'd like to share then we invite you to send them in. If there are topics you'd like us to cover then please let us know.



Bray Village Hall, High Street,
Bray SL6 2AR

Tel: 01628 627651



Braywood Memorial Hall,
Fifield Rd, Fifield SL6 2NX

Tel: 0772 400 5688



Holyport War Memorial Hall,
Moneyrow Green, Holyport
SL6 2NA

Tel: 01628 200 500

EVENTS LISTING

Holyport Green

Date: Saturday 7th June 2025

Event: Holyport Village Fair



Date: Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th June 2025

Event: Steam Fair and Games

Date: Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th August 2025

Event: Lee James Children's Fair

Date: Thursday to Sunday 11th to 15th September 2025

Event: Circus

St Michael's Church

Date: Friday 18th April - Good Friday at 3.00 pm, Liturgy of the Cross

Date: Sunday 20th April - The first Eucharist of Easter at 8.00am, and Parish Communion at 10.00am beginning with the lighting of the Paschal Candle.

Date: Thursday 29th May - Ascension Day at 8.00pm

Date: Sunday 8th June - Whit Sunday (Pentecost), Parish Communion at 10.00am

Date: Trinity Sunday 15th June - Parish Communion at 10.00am

Date: Sunday 2nd November - All Saints Day, Parish Communion at 10.00am, followed by All Souls Day commemoration of the faithful departed at 4.00pm

Date: Sunday 9th November - Remembrance Day, service at 10.45am followed by wreath laying in Bray and Holyport, and in Braywood at 3.00pm

ADVICE ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENTS

Unauthorised encampments

An unauthorised encampment is a group of people with vehicles who are trespassing on land with the intention of residing there without the owner's permission.

When an encampment is set up on parish council land, council officers attend the site and complete an assessment of the situation. This assessment will determine the most appropriate approach to bring an encampment to an end.

The decision is kept under review by the council.

Private Property

Encampments on private property are the responsibility of the landowner.

Information can be found here

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/unauthorised-encampments/trespassers-on-private-land/>

Government guidance on unauthorised encampments recommends that if the encampment is causing 'little or no nuisance' a policy of toleration should be considered together with a negotiated leaving date.

Police

The police have discretionary powers under Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to direct trespassers to leave and remove their property. The exercise of this power is subject to meeting specific criteria, and the Human Rights Act 1998 and Equalities Act 2010 must also be taken into consideration. Report in the first instance to:

101



ALLOTMENTS

The council approved to upgrade the path at Bray allotment site. Work started during 2024, but for reasons beyond the council's control the work had been paused until this spring. Completion of the path is expected before summer, and should allow tenants easier access to their plots.

The Parish Council owns two allotment sites. Bray Village, to the rear of the Village Hall car park has 46 plots, Gays Lane Field, off Lindores Road in Holyport has 32 plots.

Each year the Parish Council awards a prize to the owner of the Best Kept Allotment and welcomes all tenants to take part in this friendly competition.

If you are interested in becoming an Allotment Tenant, please complete the Allotment Tenancy Form which can be found on the website, alternatively contact the parish office on 01628 777997.



TENNIS COURT

Council approved to clean and upgrade the old tarmac surface, work took place in October 2024, with final painting due to take place in the next month. The court is open for play and bookings can be made via the parish website

<https://venuehire.scribeaccounts.com/Bray-Parish-Council>

Cost: £6 per hour

What3Words ///jump.vibes.letter

Address: Causeway, Bray, SL6 2AD



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

St Michael's church choir meets twice a week: on Friday evenings for choir practice from 7 to 8pm, and on Sunday mornings with a rehearsal at 9.20 a.m. ready for the for the Parish Communion service at 10 a.m.

We also sing at special services throughout the Church year. The choir takes its major holiday during the school summer holidays and we take a week off after Christmas and Easter.

The church in Bray has been the centre of the village community since 1293, and it is very likely that a near unbroken tradition of choral music has accompanied the liturgy ever since.

The choir of St Michael's is proud to uphold this strong tradition.

For further information please contact our Director of Music Oliver Gooch ollie@musicatbray.co.uk

Defibrillator Training Session



If you would like to attend a **FREE** training session and demonstration of how to use an automated defibrillator, please come along to our OGAFCA General Meeting!

Everyone welcome!

Thursday 8 May 2025
at Braywood Memorial Hall

7.30pm

Community Defibrillators are available for all to access day or night in an emergency. If you are unsure how to use a defibrillator don't miss this opportunity to find out how it works and what to do.

Basic Life Support Training

Bray Parish Council are happy to facilitate Basic Life Support training for residents that are interested.

In the first instance simply email clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk and say you'd be interested to know more about any training events.

Alternatively call 01628 777997.

Apply for a road or public rights of way closure

In order to make a Road Closure application you have to give 3 months notice and fulfil the following requirements:

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/business-and-economy/licensing-and-regulation/highway-licences/apply-road-or-public-rights-way-closure>

Join us to Celebrate



VE DAY 80

1940's - Themed Party

Monday 5 May 2025

Braywood Memorial Hall

1pm

With songs from the 1940's with Anna Nightingale



Bring friends, family, decorations, food and drink and dress up for an afternoon of music and fun!



Hall tables & chairs are available for use by prior arrangement email barbarafame@btinternet.com



Walking Cricket

**Over
60's**

(no upper age limit)

**JOIN
US FOR
A FREE
TASTER**

**STAY
ACTIVE**

**NEW AND
EXPERIENCED
PLAYERS
WELCOME**

**SOFTBALL
CRICKET**

All kit provided

**RUNS ALL
WINTER
INDOORS
AND SUMMER
OUTDOORS**

**COME
AND
JOIN US!**

- **Thursdays 11am -12:30pm**
- **Winter: Windsor Leisure Centre, SL4 5JB**
Summer: Holyport Cricket Club, SL6 2NA
- **Interested?**
Please email: tristan@329marketing.com
or call 07774 243850

HOLYPORT
CRICKET CLUB

Very kindly supported by:

Frimley Health and Care





HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR FROM US?

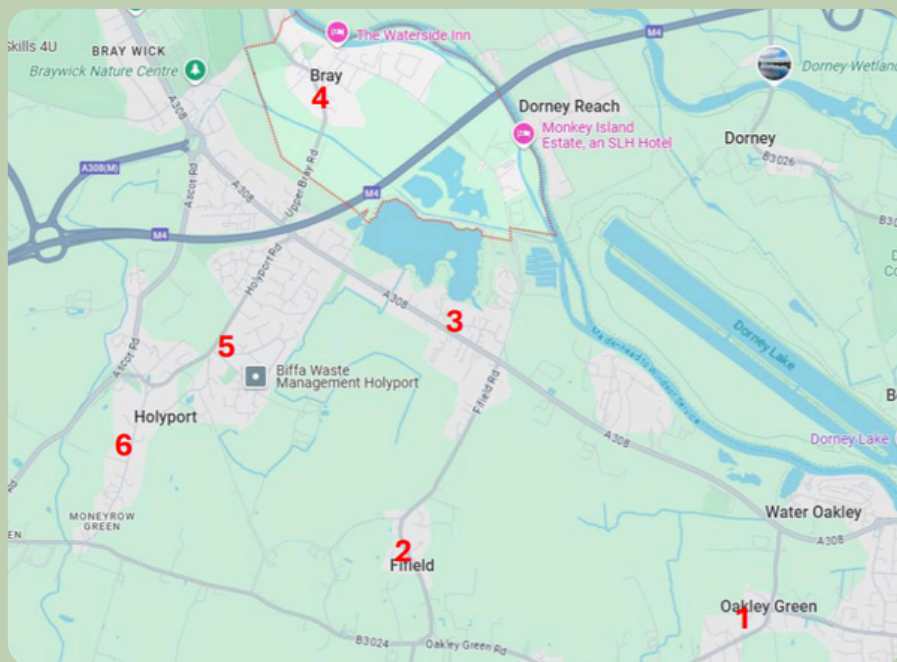
While we understand that some of our residents prefer receiving our newsletters via a more traditional medium, we are also aware that some others may prefer the option to receive it electronically.

If you would prefer for us to email you a copy of our newsletters going forwards, please do drop us an email with your details, and confirmation of permission to hold your personal data on file for correspondence purposes only.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Do you have an hour to spare to help deliver the parish newsletter? Contact the parish office to find out more

Thank you.

assistantclerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk



LOCATION OF BRAY PARISH COUNCIL NOTICEBOARDS

The notice boards are there to inform residents about future meetings, notices are usually posted 1 week before the meetings. Last year new heat resistant back boards were fitted and several have been repainted. Residents are invited to post flyers on community events.

- 1 - Oakley Green Nursery
- 2 - Meadow Way Bus Stop
- 3 - Tithe Barn Drive
- 4 - Bray Village Hall
- 5 - Holyport Post Office
- 6 - Holyport War Memorial

WARD COUNCILLORS' CONTACT DETAILS

BRAY

Suzanne Cross suzanne.cross@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Steve Eginton Steve.Eginton@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ken Elvin ken.elvin@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Joanna Filipczak-Korczak joanna.filipczak-korczak@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Margaret Pierce 01628 622289

DEDWORTH

Julie-Ann Glover julie-ann.glover@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Nick Pellew nick.pellew@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

FISHERIES

Jackie Phillips jackie.phillips@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

HOLYPORT

Louvaine Kneen louvaine.kneen@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Mike Parkinson Mike.Parkinson@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Robert Tavinor robert.tavinor@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Leo Walters leo.walters@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Derek Wilson derek.wilson@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

VACANT SEAT

OAKLEY GREEN & FIFIELD

VACANT SEAT



CONTACT US

Bray Parish Council
The Jubilee Room
Braywood Memorial Hall
Fifield Road
Fifield SL6 2NX
Telephone: 01628 777997

Esther Cope / The Clerk & RFO
clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Jon Davey / Deputy Clerk
deputy@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerks' Assistant / VACANT POST
assistantclerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk

<https://brayparishcouncil.gov.uk>