



Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bray on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

**Present:**

- Councillor Melanie Corrigan**
- Councillor Malachai Duddy**
- Councillor Ian Neary**
- Councillor Caroline Winstanley**
- Councillor Dermot O'Brien**
- Councillor Joe Behan**
- Councillor Ned Whelan**

**Also in Attendance:**

- Ms. Jackie Carroll, District Manager.**
- Mr. Brian Wildes, District Administrator.**
- Mr. Stephen Fox, A/District Engineer.**
- Mr. Merlin Ovington, Administrative Officer, Housing**
- Mr. Simon O'Carroll, Minute Taker**

**Apologies:** **Cathaoirleach Councillor Erika Doyle**

Cllr Melanie Corrigan opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees, paying special note to the number of new appointees in Wicklow County Council, namely Jackie Carroll incoming District Manager, Brian Wildes transferring to District Administrator and Merlin Ovington incoming Housing Officer. Cllr Corrigan spoke highly of their proven track records, looked forward to working with all and wished them well in their respective roles. All members unanimously echoed the positive sentiments. Tributes were also paid to Garvan Hickey for all his endeavours while at Wicklow County Council and he was wished well in his future role also.

Votes of Sympathy were passed for Fr. Brendan Scully, Thomas Manly and Fran Berry.

Members paid condolences to their families, friends and loved ones. The elected members held a minutes silence to pay their tributes.

### **Item 1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025**

Cllr. Ian Neary proposed the confirmation of the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Bray held on the 1st July 2025. Cllr. Dermot O'Brien seconded the proposal and they were unanimously agreed by the members.

### **Item 2. To nominate two members for membership of the Local Community Safety Partnership**

Cllr. Dermot O'Brien proposed Cllr Joe Behan for the first position. Cllr Malachai Duddy seconded the proposal. Cllr Joe Behan accepted the nomination and it was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Melanie Corrigan proposed Cllr Ned Whelan for the second position and Cllr Joe Behan seconded the proposal. Cllr. Ned Whelan accepted the nomination and it was unanimously agreed.

### **Item 3. To consider the Housing Report**

Merlin Ovington advised the members of the current housing figures and invited any questions the members may have.

Currently 68 units in stock. 6 are pending acceptance. 16 are vacant with 7 of those ready to allocate. The other 9 of those require refurbishment and work has already commenced on 5 of the 9.

- Members again welcomed Merlin to his new role and thanked him for the report.
- Members cited the planned development at Lauderdale. They acknowledged that there was a legal delay, but questioned if this was simply the legal process being slow or if there was in fact some opposition to the plans.
- Members noted that the planned development at the Central Garage on Bray Main Street is under review. It was planned and zoned by the previous Council for elderly people due to its central location and proximity to the town. Members urged that the review board maintain this zoning allocation as it was originally agreed.
- Members expressed their disappointment that nothing has been done to progress developments at Kilbride Lodge and Sutton Villas. Could they get any response or comment from the planning department?
- Members noted that the construction of 4 new dwellings in Fassaroe is progressing well and complimented the speed of work being carried out.

Mr. Ovington responded with regards to the Kilbride Lodge, that it is currently being considered to use the Approved Housing Body for this development and that there is no update at this time.

The Rehills land development is coming in at a higher initial cost due to the necessity of a bridge. It is under review and further details will be provided.

**Item 4. To consider District Engineer's report on Roads, Transport, Public Realm projects within the Bray Municipal District. (Report to follow).**

- Members thanked Mr. Stephen Fox for the detailed report and commended the amount of work being both undertaken and completed in the District.
- Members raised concerns about staffing, in particular the number of Engineers in Bray MD. There is so much work being undertaken that it is important to ensure that BrayMD are fully staffed in order to carry out these works successfully.
- Members again asked if data from the new Moby Bike scheme would be made available. It was noted that anecdotally the initial feedback has been negative, but the members would like to see the figures to inform any opinions.
- Members asked that they be given a breakdown of the discretionary fund project and who is the point person for each one. They would like more transparency and a point of contact if possible.
- Members raised concern that the CE Order from the Local Planning Framework had no specific date. They questioned if the pre-draft consultation would expire or become obsolete if left idle for too long.
- Members discussed the situation surrounding the proposal from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown to restrict access and planned bus corridor along Old Connaught Avenue. Members expressed disappointment and annoyance that there was no communication forthcoming from DLR. They agreed that the members of this council have a responsibility to the people of Bray and questioned if there was an official channel they could use to voice concern over these proposals or in deed if they as councillors of BrayMD had any say at all? It was noted that there was a significant investment from Wicklow County Council into sports facilities in the area and this plan to further restrict access would have negative impacts on both existing facilities and any future plans.
- Members expressed frustration that other options to improve access/egress from the town were not being explored properly.
- Councillors mentioned that the Board of Education had stated it was happy with the allocation of land for schools in that area, but the members were not convinced by this.
- Members questioned when the first meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee would be set.
- Members asked that the footpaths in need of "dishing" at Fran Ó'Toole Bridge and Kilmaintain Park be added to list of works.
- Members raised concerns about the recent influx of camper vans into the Harbour area in Bray. They cited an injunction that had been sought in the 90's and asked if that was still viable? Members asked if there was anything being done, or if there was anything that could be done to move them on or restrict access in the future?
- Members questioned how the Tánaiste was able to cite a report on the Cliff Walk but the members of this council were not given access to it. They asked how it got into the public domain. If the findings are to be believed it makes for unsatisfactory reading. They noted that if the report was correct, the funding needed would exceed what Wicklow County Council would be in a position to contribute and that funding would need to come from Government Level.

- The members asked if there was a timeline on trimming the hedgerow along the Upper Dargle Road.
- They commended the work of the MD in getting the public lighting fixed in Glenlucan and asked if priority could be given to the lights at Putland Villas.
- Members raised concerns regarding signage in Kilmananogue, Kilmurray and the Log Hill. While the resurfacing work on the Old Long Hill was commended.

Mr. Stephen Fox replied with the following;

- He would ask a colleague for the Moby Bike data.
- He would provide an update on the discretionary funds and that the works planned for the People's Park were close to going out for tender.
- He will set a date for the Traffic and Transport Committee meeting.
- The footpath works would be added to the list and completed subject to funding.
- The situation with the camper vans is being monitored; the Gardai are dealing with it. There is no injunction in place that he was aware of.
- That he had attended a meeting with Iarnrod Eireann and the contractors involved with the Cliff Walk works. He was under the impression the report was incomplete and was with Wicklow County Council for review. He was unaware of how it would have come into the public domain at this stage.
- That he could not comment on the Old Connaught Avenue access, he will research it further and revert back.
- Mr Fox stated that hedge trimming is scheduled to take place September to October. The public lighting in Putland Villas will be addressed. He is in the process of procuring the signs for the Kilmurray area.

#### **Item 5. Notice of Motions:**

1. **Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. Joe Behan (01/08/2025)**

*That this Council invites the four organisations who expressed an interest in using/leasing the vacant Harbour premises to attend a future Council meeting and make a public presentation on their reasons for expressing interest. The elected Councillors should then decide on a way forward to making a recommendation to the full plenary Council at a future date "*

The notice of motions was read by Mr. Brian Wildes and was seconded by Cllr Ian Neary.

Members discussed and agreed that it was a shame for the premises to be lying idle and that a fair and transparent way of deciding the new occupants should be devised.

It was unanimously agreed that the 4 interested parties be invited to make presentations in favour of their claims.

The members along with District Manager Jackie Carroll committed to having open dialogue in devising the fair and impartial system with which they will make the decision of who would successfully occupy the premises.

#### **Item 6. Correspondence**

There was none

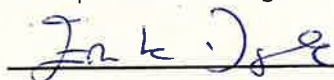
#### **Item 7. Any Other Business.**

Cllr Joe Behan proposed a motion that the Council would write a letter to the Garda Superintendent asking if he was contacted for the opinion of An Garda Síochána with regards to the closure of the Herbert Road. And, what is his opinion on the matter. Cllr Malachai Duddy seconded the motion. Ian Neary suggested that the letter also be sent to the Fire Service in Bray and all members unanimously agreed.

Brian Wildes gave details of the Bagatelle Bench unveiling on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> of September at 4pm.

That concluded the September Meeting.

Signed:



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**Cllr. Erika Doyle  
CATHAOIRLEACH**

Signed:



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**Brian Wildes  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

Dated: