

BRAISHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield 15th May 1997

PRESENT:-

Mrs M Balchin
M Edwards
T Howkins
A Lalonde
M Prince
Councillor M Hatley (representing Test Valley Borough Council)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs P Melbourne & Ms P Saunders

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED -

That A Lalonde be appointed Chairman of the Parish Council for the current municipal year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED -

That Ms P Saunders be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the current municipal year.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 1997 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. TREE PRESERVATION

It was reported that the Borough Arboriculturalist had still not contacted Michael Edwards about the inclusion of trees off Braishfield Road in a tree preservation order. Councillor Martin Hatley agreed to contact the Borough Council about the meeting.

5. TREES - BUNNY LANE

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter from the County Surveyor concerning diseased trees on Bunny Lane. He confirmed that urgent action had been taken to prevent branches falling from the trees. The County Arboriculturalist had inspected the site and concluded that there were no clear reasons for the failure of the trees although there was no evidence of gas migration from the Bunny Lane landfill site nor that old tip excavations may have affected soil moisture in the area. The current proposals to recontour Casbrook Common were subject to planning conditions which required landscape and planting proposals.

RESOLVED -

That the position be noted and the site manager be requested to consider replanting oak trees.

6. APPOINTMENT OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

RESOLVED -

That the following appointments be made:

Test Valley Association of Parish Councils - Meryl Balchin and Mike Prince

Twinning - Meryl Balchin

Village Hall Management Committee - Michael Edwards

Footpaths - Jill Fahy

Planning - Pauline Melbourne

Parish Transport - Pam Saunders

Recreation Ground - Mike Edwards and Mike Prince

Village Pond - Tim Howkins

Electricity Liaison - Tim Howkins

7. PLANNING

(a) TVS5786/2 - Use of shop and post office as residential annexe

The Chairman referred to a letter from the Borough Council's Director of Planning which referred to the Parish Councils serious concerns about the possible closure of the last remaining store in the village. The letter informed the Parish Council that Policy S4 of the Borough Local Plan sought to prevent the loss of village shops if such facilities benefitted the social and economic well being of the local community. He therefore sought clarification as to whether the Parish Council wished to raise an objection on these grounds.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That in the light of the information provided by the Director of Planning the Parish Council revises its original comments and objects to the above proposal on the grounds that the loss of the shop would be detrimental to the social and economic well being of the local community.
- 2) That the Borough Council be informed that if on completion of an investigation into the application they are satisfied that the shop could not be made a viable concern then the Parish Council would withdraw its objection.

(b) Trees

The Chairman reported that since the last meeting applications to fell trees at Bryndlewood, Braishfield Road and 1 Pond Cottages, Braishfield Road had been received. No objections had been raised to either application.

RESOLVED -

That the position be noted and the action taken endorsed.

8. HIGHWAYS

Jermyns Lane Junction

The Clerk reported that the Government Office for the South East had confirmed to the Parish Council that they were not prepared to authorise the installation of a stop sign on the approaches to Braishfield Road from Jermyns Lane and Sandy Lane.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That a further effort be made to seek the support of Michael Colvin MP to allow the provision of stop signs.
- 2) That the County Surveyor be requested for a copy of the case he put to the Government Office for the South East requesting the installation of the signs.

9. FOOTPATHS

RESOLVED -

That the reports of motorbikes using Fernhill Lane be noted and the position be monitored.

10. RECREATION GROUND

(a) Litter Bin

The Clerk reported that the Borough's Environmental Liaison Manager felt unable to make a reduction in the charge levied for the collection of the litter bin despite the bin not being emptied on two occasions. The Parish Council had requested that a 50% reduction in next year's charges be sought.

RESOLVED -

That Borough Council representative Martin Hatley be requested to follow the matter up on the Parish Council's behalf.

(b) Fencing

Reference was made to the fencing works currently being undertaken on the Braishfield Road and Common Hill boundaries of the Recreation Ground. Several outstanding matters concerning the installation of the fence were raised including:

- (i) the erection of the fence along a new line closer to the road on the Common Hill boundary
- (ii) the absence of a pedestrian entrance and barrier with straining post at the western end of the fence in Common Hill Road
- (iii) the absence of a pedestrian barrier at the eastern entrance in Common Hill Road
- (iv) roots, undergrowth and old fencing still to be removed from the previous boundary hedge
- (v) removal of all soil from the base of the wire fencing
- (vi) the removal of redundant concrete posts near the car park entrance in Braishfield Road

RESOLVED -

That

- (1) the contractor be informed of the above matters
- (2) the County Surveyor be advised of the fence being erected along a new line closer to Common Hill Road and his comments sought

- (3) the fencing contractor be instructed not to carry out any remedial work along the Common Hill Road boundary until the comments of the Area or County Surveyor had been received
- (4) the Parish Council's recreation ground representatives meet the fencing contractor on site to discuss the outstanding matters.

(c) Regular Use of Ground by Football Clubs

RESOLVED -

That the Recreation Ground representatives meet representatives of both the Wheatsheaf and the Braishfield Football Club to discuss

- (i) regular maintenance of the perimeter of the ground by the football clubs in accordance with the current agreement
- (ii) a request from the Braishfield Football Club to operate a youth team whose fixtures would fall on a Sunday afternoon
- (iii) the cutting of branches of trees overhanging the football pitch.

(d) Request for use of Ground

RESOLVED -

That subject to their being no interference to the current reseeding Richard Light be permitted use of the ground for a friendly football on Sunday 18th May.

(e) Cutting of Ground

RESOLVED -

That Test Valley Borough Council be requested to continue regular grass cutting of the Recreation Ground during the summer months at a cost of £26 per cut

(f) Inspection of Play Equipment

RESOLVED -

That Test Valley Borough Council be requested to continue regular inspections of the Parish playground equipment on four occasions during the year at a cost of £15 per inspection.

11. TWINNING

It was reported that the schools had completed successful twinning events and Meryl Balchin reported on the events planned for the forthcoming visit to Braishfield by families from Crouay.

12. CAPITAL GRANT

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council had approved a 50% grant towards the cost of the renovation works undertaken by the Parish Council to the War Memorial.

13. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The Borough Council representative Martin Hatley reported that grants totalling £21,000 had been approved by the Borough Council for various projects throughout the Borough. He also reported that he was now a member of the Policy & Resources Committee and a member of the Mayor's charity trust. £17,000 had been raised during the last mayoral year. Councillor Hatley also reported that he had requested Borough Council officers for historical information on the names which appeared to apply to sections of Braishfield Road.

14. ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED -

That the following accounts be paid:

Hampshire Chronicle - Notice for APM - £47

Cornhill Insurance - Annual Parish Premium - £258.77

Southern Water - pond water charges - October 1996 - April 1997 - £12

L Shelton - salary and expenses to date - £71.70

J N Landscapes - cutting at pond - £35.25