

BRAISHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield
on Tuesday 3rd January 2012

PRESENT:-

Mike Prince (Chairman)
Mike Edwards
Dorothy Ross
Clive John
Carole Renvoize
Nick Virgo
Martin Hatley (Borough Councillor)

12 members of the public

113. MINUTES

Agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th December 2011 are signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

114. CAROLINE NOKES MP

Caroline Nokes MP addressed the Meeting after being welcomed by Mike Prince. She talked about a number of issues in which the Parish Council has expressed interest.

The Parliamentary environmental audit committee has been attempting to get the right balance between the use of alternative energy sources and the cost to consumers. The 'feed-in' tariff from solar panels was far too high at 43p and will be reduced to 21p. The subsidies were too advantageous to solar panel companies.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been receiving some adverse publicity but she felt it was a good idea to condense the current planning policy documents. She was hopeful that the new NPPF and the concept of 'localism' will satisfy 'locals' such as Parish Councils. There was now recognition of the need for protection of the countryside.

She mentioned the forthcoming daylight saving bill and that she wanted to bring forward a dog control bill, not that this would necessarily succeed, but it might provoke Government to do something about the problem.

The Boundary Commission's proposals were disadvantageous to Braishfield and other outlying villages around Romsey. It seemed nonsensical to separate Romsey from its villages. The Commission is due to review the proposals sometime in the summer. Many parts of the constituency were objecting and it seemed that changes were happening too frequently, Swaythling for example, would be in different constituencies in three successive elections. A review is to be held every five years.

She took a variety of questions from members of the public. These included the installation of solar panels in a Conservation Area, the need for Government to take immediate action on the theft of metals problem, and the lack of influence Parish Councils seem to have in planning matters.

There followed a discussion on the RFSF Recycling appeal and the role of the Planning Inspectorate which she said is the least democratic process. The view was expressed that the appeal system went against the concept of localism. Caroline Nokes said she hoped to be able to attend the appeal on 7th February. Concern was expressed at the lack of policy on waste to energy.

After a long discussion on the planning process, Mike Prince thanked Caroline Nokes for coming to speak to the Parish Council and villagers.

115. PCC GRANT REQUEST

A letter of thanks has been received from Steve Pittis for the Council's financial assistance with the Churchyard extension.

116. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

It was noted that a response from Hyde Housing/Community Action Hampshire on the housing layout design is expected shortly.

117. PLANNING

a) Applications pending or recent outcome

10/01572/RESS	Abbotswood, Braishfield Road	Recreation areas		
11/02076/LBWS	Fairbournes Farm, Kiln Lane	Convert barn to residential	Nobj	
11/02366/FULLS	Hazel Cottage, Braishfield Road	Conservatory	Nobj	Permission
11/02395/FULLS	Fairbourne Bungalow, Braishfield Road	Replacement dwelling	Nobj	Permission
11/02090/CMAS	Raymond Brown, Bunny Lane	Retrospective picking station	Obj	
11/02321/FULLS	Kyrenia, 8 Megana Way	Rear extension	Nobj	Permission

PC original response - Sup supported, Obj objected, Nobj no objection

b) New Planning Applications

The Council considered new planning applications as follows:

11/02833/TREES	The Close, Church Lane	Tree work		No objection
11/02750/FULLS	Manor Cottage, Farley Lane	Extension		No objection
11/02692/FULLS	Sharpes Cottage, Lower Street	Greenhouse		No objection

c) RFSF Recycling appeal

The appeal inquiry is due to be held on 7th February in Romsey Town Hall. Mike Edwards said that he expected to be able to attend in the morning of the 7th.

d) Core Strategy

The proposed Braishfield settlement boundary was discussed and questions were posed which need to be put to Test Valley Planning Department. Martin Hatley said that the Planning Officers would be only too willing to have discussions at Duttons Road on these. However, the Clerk said that he had been contacted by TVBC for a date when it would be convenient for a Planning Officer to attend a Council Meeting. He responded with 7th February but a visit has yet to be confirmed.

The closing date for comments on the Core Strategy is 4.30pm on 17th February. Councillors were asked to exchange comments they have on the Core Strategy by email.

e) Raymond Brown

The Clerk confirmed that he had sent in an objection to the noise report prepared by Raymond Brown, as it was not representative of the true noise situation. During discussion, it was also mentioned that there was a lot of mud on the road in spite of the fitting of kerb stones. Martin Hatley said he would take up the matters of the kerbstones and noise.

f) Sandy Lane development

In response to a query about a proposal to develop a parcel of land in Sandy Lane, Martin Hatley said that most of the land is in the 'Countryside'. However, it was also included within the draft settlement boundary for Romsey Extra, though this could change in future.

118. HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

a) Water Leaks

The Clerk has sent a reminder to Southern Water about the request for information on future pipeline replacement.

b) Grit bins

The grit bins have not been moved yet and it was noted that the one at the end of Newport Lane is only half full. The Clerk has sent a reminder about the need to move them.

c) Bus Service

There has been no feedback on the changed bus timetable as there has been no Transport Forum since the last Council Meeting.

d) Potholes

It was noted that the pothole at the top of Church Lane has not been repaired though some work has been done where the bus turns round at the entrance to Dummers Road.

e) Street sign

The Clerk was asked to report the loose Dummers Road street sign by the War Memorial.

f) Abbotswood roundabout

Some surprise was expressed about the apparent height of the entrance to the Abbotswood development on Braishfield Road. Furthermore, it seems the roundabout is further in to the site than had been expected. Martin Hatley said he would ask about these matters.

119. FOOTPATHS

The Clerk was asked to report the poor state of the stile on Footpath 6 by Malthouse Farm.

120. POND

a) Ditch

The Clerk was asked to mention the blocked ditch across the road from the pond to Peter Quarendon. Water has been running across the road here.

b) Tree

The replacement tree recommended by Steve Renvoize is an Acer Compestre. Mike Prince volunteered to speak to Hilliers about this, but it would not be for some time.

121. RECREATION GROUND

a) Recreation Ground bookings

The Clerk has received a letter following up the telephone call from Romsey Road Runners about using the Recreation Ground on 17th June. The Council agreed to the sales requested.

b) Jubilee

Mike Prince said that discussions on the Jubilee celebrations are ongoing.

c) Pavilion

There has been no progress on the Charities Act Section 36 report on the pavilion.

122. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Martin Hatley mentioned that TVBC is looking at the use it makes of various buildings it has. This includes the one at Duttons Road where visitor levels have now dropped to 40-45 a day. There is spare space at both Beech Hurst and Duttons Road. Furthermore, some of the Building Control staff might be moving to Bourne House when the site replaces the one rented from Ace Liftaway. However, Martin assured everyone that TVBC will be maintaining a presence in Romsey, though not necessarily at Duttons Road.

He also mentioned that some of the bin collection notices were incorrect and that perhaps it is best to leave it to the collection staff to put out such notices on their rounds.

He reminded Councillors to make comments on the Core Strategy before the end of the consultation period.

123. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) AGREED that the following accounts are paid:

JBF Rhodes	Salary & expenses December	£181.25
IDKnight Specialist Tree Surgery	Pond tree work	£200.00

b) Bank accounts

The Clerk reported that there is £8254.10 uncommitted in the two bank accounts.

124. AOB

Mike Edwards mentioned that leaflets on the digital switchover were being distributed to Public Houses and other places. These advertise a scheme for helping those over 75 to make the change. It was suggested that the Social Care Group is involved.

125. OPEN PERIOD

David Robinson clarified a point in the last Minutes by saying that Romsey Extra PC had not actually been invited to his liaison meeting.

He suggested that a BVA Member might be able to assist with the digital switchover communication.

He was informed that there is no news yet on the leaf-sweeping of the car park. Martin Hatley said he would make contact within TVBC on the matter.

He mentioned that the BVA AGM is to be held on 17th January in the Village Hall.

126. DATES OF MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 7th February 2012 at 7.00pm.