

BRAISHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th April 1992
Braishfield Village Hall

1. 6 Parishioners attended.

Parish Councillors - T Howkins, J Musselwhite, Miss P Saunders, Mrs R Stitt and P Watkins.

Borough Councillor - Councillor J Wyss

County Councillor - County Councillor A Dowden

Apologies for absence were received from:-

J Sims and Parish Councillors Mrs P Melbourne and ~~Mrs R Stitt.~~

2. The Chairman of the Parish Council Phil Watkins welcomed those present to the meeting and introduced the members of the Parish Council together with the Borough Council and County Council representatives.
3. It was moved and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 1991 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
4. Simon Martin, Assistant Chief Environmental Health Officer for Test Valley Borough Council attended the meeting to outline the background to the introduction of the trial split bin refuse collection scheme recently introduced in Braishfield. He explained that a shortage of landfill areas and a government requirement for local authorities to recycle 25% of household waste by the year 2000 had led to the Borough Council embarking on the trial scheme. This had been introduced after 18 months of surveys and investigations into the quantities of refuse collected in the Borough and the alternative methods of collection and recycling that were available. The 2 main criteria for success of any scheme were that:-
- (a) it should work; and
 - (b) it should be acceptable to the public.

A questionnaire would be distributed to residents towards the end of the trial period to ascertain the reaction to the trials. Mr Martin reported that in the few weeks the scheme had been operating the level of participation was high and that a good separation of compost and other materials was being achieved. In response to a comment about the difficulty of cleaning out the bins Mr Martin explained that the purpose of the trial was to find out the problems that existed and hoped that these would be overcome. He also indicated that the Borough were continually looking for additional sites to establish recycling centres for the disposal of glass, cans and paper. Mr Martin answered several questions about the operation of the scheme and emphasised that the Borough Council's Environmental Health staff would be pleased to visit any resident to overcome any problems they were experiencing.

5. County Councillor Alan Dowden outlined his work on the County Council and referred in particular to his recent visit local schools. He was particularly concerned about the condition of school buildings and the lack of capital investment particularly at the Braishfield Primary School. He also referred to a recent application for a licence to dispose of cess pool and septic tank waste at Pucknall Farm, Braishfield. He understood that the application could not be refused unless it was proved that it could pollute water courses or create a health hazard. Concern was expressed by those present at the meeting to the proposal and it was agreed that a letter could be sent to the County Surveyor requesting further information and of any recourse the Parish Council might have to object to the application.
6. Councillor Dowden also referred to the impending review of Local Government and reported on the County Council's views to the proposals. These advocated the benefits of larger authorities acting as the administrative unit. He reminded those present that a Local Government Commission had been appointed to make any decision on a future local government system.
7. Councillor Wyss, Test Valley Borough Council's representative reported on the Borough's community charge being the second lowest in Hampshire. He also commented on the success of the Hunts Farm Recreation Ground which was now in use and serving the southern area of the Borough. Romsey Rapids was operating successfully and one of the leading activity pools in the area. The Borough's Housing Department was meeting the problems of homelessness and currently did not need to accommodate any families in bed and breakfast. Councillor Wyss also commented on the proposals for the reorganisation of Local Government and put forward the Borough Council's views advocating the establishment of unitary authorities based largely on existing Borough boundaries.
8. Phil Watkins, the Chairman of the Parish Council outlined the work of the Council during the previous year and drew special attention to the completion of the project to improve and refurbish the childrens play area and to the refurbishment of the pond area which was nearing completion. He commended those Councillors who had assisted with the individual projects and in particular Jeremy Musselwhite who had organised the playground improvements and Tim Howkins who had spent considerable time supervising the extensive works at the pond.
9. Other Parish work had involved keeping a check on planning applications, continuing to put pressure on the County Surveyor to implement a speed limit through the village and for the improvement of the Braishfield Road/Sandy Lane crossroads.
10. Mr Watkins concluded the evening by thanking those Parishioners present for attending the meeting and complementing the guest speakers for their informative contributions during the evening.

Len Shelton
Clerk to the Parish Council