

BRAISHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 1993

at Braishfield Village Hall

1. 18 parishioner attended.

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

Borough Councillor - Councillor J Wyss

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Mrs P Melbourne

2. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Phil Watkins welcomed those present to the meeting and introduced the members of the Parish Council and the representative of the Borough Council.
3. It was moved and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 1992 be signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council as a correct record.
4. Peter Giddings, Director of Finance for Test Valley Borough Council attended the meeting to explain the new Council Tax. He outlined the methods his staff applied when calculating the tax which was based on eight valuation bands. The charge for Band D properties in Braishfield was £316 and charges in Test Valley generally were amongst the lowest in Hampshire. Mr Giddings also outlined the various benefits that were available, the exemptions from tax and the measures that would be taken to recover payments from those who failed to pay.

Mrs Frankie Moore, District Valuer for the Southampton Area also attended the meeting. She described the work of her office which had the task of valuing properties for the new tax. She had been responsible for allocating over 300,000 properties to one of the eight valuation bands. To achieve this task help had been sought from outside companies and agents.

Since the banding notifications had been issued the Southampton Office had received 7,000 appeals although Mrs Moore did not expect the appeals to exceed 5% of the total number of properties valued. Mrs Moore also explained that the valuation guidelines had left little opportunity for discretion and the government had no plans for a general revaluation. Both speakers answered questions from the floor.

5. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Phil Watkins, outlined the work of the Parish Council during the previous year. He referred to the Council's watching brief on highways and planning matters, to the successful completion of work on the pond and the childrens play area and to grants which had been made to local organisations. these had included the Village Association little clearance day and the dial-a-ride scheme. He also referred to the sad death of Ivy Shepherd, ~~and~~ a respected villager and valued parish councillor.
6. Councillor Tim Howkins reported on work carried out at the pond and expressed his thanks to local residents who had assisted with the work and maintenance of the surrounding area. Councillor Jeremy Musslewhite reported on his task as the local footpath representative.
7. Borough Councillor Jimmy Wyss referred to the work of Test Valley Borough Council and to the impending Local Government Review.
8. Phil Watkins concluded the evening by thanking the guest speakers for attending and to the help afforded the Parish Council during the year by Councillor Wyss and the many local individuals and organisations who had assisted with local projects.

LEN SHELTON
Clerk to the Parish Council

