

BRAISHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 1995

at Braishfield Village Hall

1. 17 parishioners attended.

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

Borough Councillor - Councillor J Wyss

County Councillor - Councillor A Dowden

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 representatives of the Borough and County Councils.
3. It was moved and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 1994 be signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council as a correct record.
4. The Chairman introduced Simon Hill, the Borough Council's Forward Plans Manager. He reported on the work of the Borough's Forward Plans Team who were responsible for the preparation of the District Plan and on influencing the County Council in the preparation of their Structure Plan. The District Plan provided a framework for future planning policy and, although not always strictly adhered to, the Plan gave a framework within which planning applications were considered. He indicated that the preparation of the Plan was a slow process although Test Valley were well advanced in completing theirs and likely to be the first completed within Hampshire. Key principles of the Borough Plan included conservation of the countryside, restraints on development in the countryside and protection for specially designated countryside areas together with restraints on development in Romsey. With the aid of slides Mr Hill showed details of Test Valley and of the proposals for Braishfield which advocated a restricted development policy. He explained however that provision had been made for development and that if sufficient areas were not allocated it was difficult to defend refusals at appeals. Several areas had been earmarked for development at Cupernham and at Romsey Brewery. A large development of some 1,500 homes had also been allocated at Valley Park, Chandlers Ford although extensive landscaping woodland and open space would be incorporated within the development.

Mr Hill answered questions from the floor which referred to residential development around Romsey and the likely impact of increasing employment opportunities in the Southampton area.

5. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Phil Watkins, outlined the work of the Parish Council during the previous year. He referred to the Parish Council's assistance towards local organisations including the Dial-a-Ride bus service and the Village Hall Management Committee. Continual checks had been maintained on local highways and planning matters and he referred to the provision of a footpath link from the School to the houses in Common Hill Road that had recently been completed. The Parish Council had also recommended to the County Council that a 30mph speed limit should apply in Braishfield Road and Common Hill Road and Mr Watkins anticipated that this would be accepted by the County Council. He also referred to work on local footpaths, to the continuing maintenance of the village pond and to the good condition of the recreation ground. Mr Watkins also spoke about his work on the Parish Council over the past 20 years.
6. Borough Councillor Jimmy Wyss referred to the work of Test Valley Borough Council who he considered had served its residents well. He reported that the Borough Council would not be increasing its element of the council tax for 1995/96. Councillor Wyss confirmed that he had decided not to stand at the forthcoming Borough Council elections but that he felt privileged to have served the Field Ward of the Borough of Test Valley for many years.
7. County Councillor Alan Dowden referred to the development of Parishes within the County of Hampshire and to the likely retention of the two-tier local government system for most of Hampshire following the recent review of local government. He also reported the likely introduction of a 30mph speed limit in Braishfield and to extensive improvements undertaken at the Braishfield School. Reference was also made to the Government spending limits on Hampshire County Council which had resulted in a larger council tax increases.
8. Phil Watkins concluded the evening by thanking the guest speaker for his attendance and to the help afforded to the Parish Council during the year by Councillor Wyss and Councillor Dowden and the many local residents and organisations who had assisted with local tasks. He made special reference to Councillor Wyss who was to retire as the local Borough Council representative and particularly for his work over the past 12 years as the Field Ward representative.
9. A vote of thanks was extended to Phil Watkins for his 20 years service on the Parish Council, 10 of which he had served as Chairman.

Clerk to the Parish Council