

BRAISHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 1996

at Braishfield Village Hall

1. 9 parishioners attended.

Parish Councillors - Mrs M Balchin, M Edwards, T Howkins, A Lalonde, Mrs P Melbourne, M Prince, Ms P Saunders,

Borough Councillor - Councillor M Hatley

County Councillor - Councillor A Dowden

2. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Andrew Lalonde 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 the 20th April 1995 be signed by the Chairman and the Parish Council as a correct record.
4. The Chairman introduced Mike Buffin the curator of the Hillier gardens and arboretum. Mr Buffin gave a short presentation on the history of the development of the gardens since 1953 and to proposals included in a 50 year plan for the development of the site. The gardens covered an area of 104 acres and currently received 80,000 visitors each year. This figure was expected to rise to over 100,000 visits each year. The development plan included resiting the Visitor Centre, the provision of new shelters and gardens which would allow access to up to 90% of the site. Estimated cost of the developments totalled £5 million.
5. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Andrew Lalonde outlined the work of the Council during the year. This included the County Council's speed limit proposals, the introduction of waiting restrictions outside the school, efforts to seek the removal of steel fabrication works at Hawkes Farm and the regular maintenance of the Recreation Ground and pond. He also referred to the resignation of two Parish Council members earlier in the year and the election of Michael Prince and Michael Edwards to the Council.
6. County Council representative Alan Dowden spoke about Hampshire's £1.3 billion budget and referred to services provided and the County Structure Plan which proposed 44,000 new homes throughout the County between 2001 and 2011. New homes in Southern Test Valley would be limited to 800. He also referred to the Local Government Review which would see Southampton and Portsmouth becoming unitary Councils from April 1997.

7. Martin Hatley Test Valley Borough Council's representative reported that since last May's elections the Borough was "politically balanced" and that a power sharing agreement existed between the two parties. He reported on his work on the Planning & Transportation and Housing Committees and reported that the new Borough Local Plan had now been formally adopted.
8. Andrew Lalonde concluded the evening by thanking the guest speaker for his attendance and to the help afforded to the Parish Council during the year by Councillors Wyss and Dowden and the local residents and organisations who had assisted with local tasks.

L SHELTON
Clerk to the Parish Council