

# BRAISHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield  
on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 1999

1. 11 Parishioners attended.

Parish Councillors – Ms P Saunders, Mrs M Balchin, M Edwards, M Prince, A Lalonde.

Borough Councillor – Councillor M Hatley

County Councillor – Councillor A Dowden

2. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Andrew Lalonde, welcomed those present and introduced the members of the Parish Council and the representatives of the Borough and County Councils. Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Mrs P Melbourne and T Howkins.
3. It was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1998 be signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council as a correct record.
4. The Chairman welcomed John Rhodes as the new Clerk to the Parish Council, replacing Len Shelton who had been the Clerk for fifteen years.
5. The Chairman welcomed Clare Jenkins, Senior Planning Officer TVBC, who had come to the meeting to talk about Village Design Statements.

Clare Jenkins explained that the purpose of a Village Design Statement was to allow local people to influence the planning process, in a way that would help the planners take into account those attributes and characteristics of the village which were important to the people living there. A Village Design Statement was not intended to define whether or not development should take place; this was the planning authority's responsibility. However, if development was taking place, then the Statement could be used to help manage and design that development.

TVBC had not yet decided whether Village Design Statements should be used as Supplementary Planning Guidance, but it might debate this issue in June. Clare Jenkins explained that, even if TVBC decided against adopting them as Supplementary Planning Guidance, the planning officers would still find them useful when considering planning applications.

As far as preparing a Statement was concerned, the Countryside Commission had prepared a Village Design Pack, complete with video, which explained the process. Clare Jenkins herself would be a contact point for Listed Building policy documents and she would be able to help with drafting some of the correct language to use. She said some villages were holding workshops and going out in groups to look at particular aspects of their village. It was a time consuming process and not many villages had completed a Statement but about 200 were in preparation in England.

In answer to questions, Clare Jenkins said that, although there was no real timescale for production, it would be better if one was done sooner so that it could be used in the generation of the local plan. She also said the idea was for the Statement to have a much wider consultation process than the Parish Council commenting on planning applications as they arise.

If Braishfield wished to produce a Village Design Statement then there would need to be a full day given by interested parties to look at specific issues, for which there were some exercises in the Village Design Pack, and Clare Jenkins would be prepared to facilitate the session.

The Chairman thanked Clare Jenkins very much for her talk. It was agreed that the Parish should consider the need for a Village Design Statement and the Clerk was asked to obtain several Packs from the Countryside Commission.

6. The Chairman circulated copies of his Parish Council review and spoke about a number of items. These included the successful campaign for BKP's planning application in Bunny Lane to be refused. However, the Parish Council was on guard against any appeal against the refusal or a fresh application.

He mentioned the strong objections made by the Parish Council over the size of the replacement house at Folly's End in Newport Lane, which the planning authority had appeared to ignore.

The upkeep of the Recreation Ground as a pleasant area for the benefit of the Village was a significant area of responsibility, though sometimes this conflicted with its use by the Football Club. The pond was also the Parish Council's responsibility and efforts were continuing to remove excess algae. Even though it had been said before, he again said that the ownership of the war memorial should be hopefully passing to the Parish Council shortly.

The Chairman reported that Pauline Melbourne and Tim Howkins had decided not to stand for re-election to the Council. Furthermore, Len Shelton had decided to relinquish the post of Clerk. He thanked all three for their service to the Council over many years.

Finally, he reported that the Council's precept for 1999/2000 was to be £4850 and the Band D Council Tax for Braishfield was £753.29 of which £15.02 was the contribution for the precept.

7. In his address, County Councillor Dowden said he had had a busy time being a member of the Planning Committee and the Social Services Committee. He was pleased with his part in a change in rules concerning drivers of 7.5 tonne who were diabetic.

He regretted an HCC 9.4% rise in council tax, giving a Band D tax of £609.66, but this was due to a need to increase spending by 5.2% to maintain services with only a 2.5% support grant from Government. The aim of the County's budget was not only to maintain existing services but also to provide for additional ones. Government plans allowed for a 5.7% increase for schools and a 1% reduction for Social Services. This followed a cut in Social Services last year and he had fought hard against a reduction in Home care services. He was hopeful that there would be no further cuts.

The County Council had signed an agreement with Hampshire Waste Services which had submitted a planning application for a huge plant at Nursling. This was strongly objected to by parishioners and the Nursling Parish Council.

The new County Structure Plan has needed to be agreed with Portsmouth and Southampton and this requires 42,000 homes to be built between 2001- 2011, with a further 10,000 if the need is demonstrated. He was pleased to say that now only 1050 homes were allocated to Southern Test Valley in this period.

Councillor Dowden ended by saying he had been delighted to assist with the objections to the BKP planning application.

8. Borough Councillor Hatley thanked Braishfield for their Support of Romsey Dial-a-Ride, of which he was Vice Chairman. In the last four years he had served on every main TVBC committee except Leisure. He had also been made Vice Chairman of the Arts Committee. Major Committees he was on were Environment & Health and Transport Liaison, all of which he had found very interesting.

Planning issues had occupied much of his time, particularly with the Waitrose/Sainsbury supermarket. He was opposed to the plans as he was sceptical of the highway solution and did not like the frontage in Latimer Road.

He reported that TVBC rates had risen by 1.7%, the lowest in the County. He had objected to the proposal to charge for the removal of bulky domestic waste items and felt that the dog fouling regulations were applicable in towns and not the country.

He had been pleased to support the objections to the BKP planning application, as far as Nolan would permit. He felt that Nolan had done nothing for local democracy.

Councillor Hatley asked for views on whether the name FIELD was a suitable one for Braishfield and Ampfield, as he considered the name to be rather meaningless.

Finally, he thanked Len Shelton for all the work he had done as Clerk.

9. During open questioning, the Chairman explained the reasons for the Parish Council's objections to the size of the new house at Folly's End, Newport Lane. Whilst accepting that the Planning Committee was the planning authority to decide on such issues, he explained what he regarded as a very poor response by the Head of Planning to the Parish Council's concerns. One of these was that the Conservation Officer had not objected to such a building in a Conservation Area.

It was agreed that the name of Field ward should be changed to Ampfield & Braishfield.

The Chairman made a presentation to Len Shelton, thanking him for fifteen years of sterling service to Braishfield, before thanking all for attending.