

BRAISHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield
on Wednesday 5th April 2000 at 8.00pm

1. PRESENT

9 Parishioners

Parish Councillors - Ms P Saunders, Mrs M Balchin, M Edwards, M Prince, A Lalonde
Mrs Mandy Payne, J Musselwhite

Borough Councillor - Councillor M Hatley

County Councillor - Councillor A Dowden

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th April 1999 were agreed.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Andrew Lalonde, presented his report on the year's activities covering the following matters:

Parish Council

The Parish Council has seven Councillors seats. At the recent elections six councillors were elected unopposed and Mandy Payne was co-opted to fill the remaining vacancy. At the subsequent Parish Council AGM, Andrew Lalonde and Mike Prince were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. The Parish Councillors and Clerk, as well as other parishioners who gave help during the past year, were thanked for their work.

The Parish Council was now the Trustee of the War Memorial.

Planning

The Parish Council has been monitoring all planning applications within the Parish with particular concern over those at Fairbournes Farm and Braishfield garage. Braishfield is undertaking a Village Design Statement.

Highways and Road Safety

The Parish Council has continued to monitor the state of the village roads and report defects to the Area Surveyor. It is concerned about speeding traffic and an open meeting is due to be held to discuss this.

Recreation Ground and Pond

The Council maintains the Recreation Ground as one of the principal assets of the village and is keen to encourage use by the Football Club at weekends but not for its exclusive use.

The village pond is also maintained by the Council and it is hoped the algae problem will not reoccur this season.

Finance

Grants have been made to the Parish Church for maintenance of the Churchyard, as well as to the New Forest, Totton and Romsey Victim Support, Braishfield Twinning and the Braishfield Horticultural Society.

The Precept for 2000/2001 has been set at £6000. The 2000/2001 Council Tax charge for a Band D property in Braishfield amounts to £794.25 of which £18.18 is for Parish Council expenses.

4. VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

The Village Design Statement was a joint effort by the whole village and it aimed to define how everyone wanted to see the village develop. It was not intended to be a vehicle to prevent development and the aim was for it to be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by Test Valley Borough Council. It was hoped that many would attend the open meeting on 10th May when volunteers would be allocated tasks. The process would take at least a year.

5. TRAFFIC CALMING

There was considerable and varied discussion on the need to reduce the speed of traffic through the village and how this should be done. A number of points were made:

There was concern about speeding past the school and parking was a problem. Some parents speed on their way to school and ignore the no parking area near the gates. The hatching could be extended round the bend and Hampshire County Council asked for flashing warning lights. The Social Club could be asked to allow parking for the school.

Speeding takes place between the two pubs along Braishfield Road and Ace skip lorries have been followed at excessive speed. Traffic from Kings Somborne speeds through the 'chicane' (near Orchard Cottage). The road is very wide in places which encourages speeding. The police should be asked to do more speed checks.

With no footpath through the chicane, it was wondered if residents would give up some of their garden to create one. Nor was there a footpath at Crook Hill where there is space to provide one.

The Parish Council needed to go back to Jim Soutar of Hampshire County Council and ask for his recommendations on traffic calming.

6. PLANNING

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council's influence on planning decisions was not small but neither was it great. Councillors examined planning applications and tried to look at their impact on the village and not on individuals.

It was noted that the Fairbournes Farm application has been withdrawn and that the garage has now stopped selling fuel and the site has been sold. It was likely that the current application would be refused but a scheme with more limited housing combined with a commercial element might be more acceptable to the planning authority.

It was noted that there was a new plan for about 1000 houses at Abbotswood. The Parish Council might not like the side effects of this.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In his report, Alan Dowden said that Hampshire County Council's budget has increased by 5.3% and that council tax will rise by 5.8%, mainly owing to Government demands for increased expenditure not fully funded by it.

He mentioned the Government directive on Best Value and that a summary of the plan will be sent to all households in the county.

HCC is giving priority to education, services to young people and social services, but the more Government directs resources, the less elected Councillors can represent local people.

He is a member of the HCC Planning & Transportation Committee and fought to keep Southern Test Valley's housing allocation numbers as low as possible at 56,000 houses. He is also a member of the Social Services Committee and he opposed the government proposals for compulsory treatment under the mental health act review.

Finally he reported on the Local Government Bill and that HCC's preferred option is to have a leader with a cabinet.

8. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In his report, Martin Hatley mentioned that he was pleased to attend the monthly Parish Council meetings. He was now Deputy Leader of TVBC and Vice Chairman of the Southern Area Planning Committee. He was of course Borough Councillor for the area but this has now changed its name from Field to Ampfield & Braishfield.

The Council Tax for Band D was the lowest in Hampshire but there would be an inevitable cost associated with the introduction of Scrutiny Panels. The precept for a band D property in Braishfield was £18 compared with £36 in Ampfield.

The draft local plan allocated housing to Abbotswood and not to Braishfield, but there would be an impact from increased traffic.

TVBC has now sold off its remaining social housing to Testway Housing.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th April 2001.