

BRAISHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield
on Tuesday 3rd April 2001 at 8.00pm

1. PRESENT

Parish Councillors - Ms P Saunders, M Edwards, M Prince, A Lalonde
Mrs M Payne, Mrs S Ransom

County Councillor - Councillor A Dowden

Borough Councillor - Councillor M Hatley

26 Parishioners

Apologies were received from Mrs M Balchin

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th April 2000 were agreed.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

Parish Council

Jem Musselwhite has resigned owing to business commitments and Sue Ransom has been co-opted on to the Council. Jem Musselwhite was thanked for his help and enthusiasm.

Planning

The Parish Council has been monitoring all planning applications within the Parish with particular concern with the situation at Hawkes/Pucknall Farm. Negotiations over the Garage site have been continuing.

Village Design Statement

The Parish Council initiated the preparation of the VDS and is impressed with the enthusiasm of all who have contributed to it.

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 was supportive of some measures to curb speeding vehicles and thanked the retiring Colin Smith of the Area Surveyor's Department for his work over the years.

Most of the roads leading off Braishfield Road have had nameplates installed mainly to assist the emergency services. The Council has been concerned about the condition of many of the signposts and has attempted to get these refurbished.

Village Shop

The Village shop has closed and the Council has supported the appraisal as to the viability of a new one.

Recreation Ground

The Council has maintained the Recreation Ground as one of the principal assets of the village.

The Village Pond

The condition of the pond has caused concern and remedial action is to be taken.

Finance

The precept for the coming year is set to at £9000 which amounts to £27.36 for a Band D property.

Grants have been paid to the Parish Church for the Churchyard, the School for the Shadow Theatre and to the twinning visit to Crouay.

Braishfield Village Association

The Council has enjoyed an amicable relationship with the Association which gives valuable support as well as offering advice and suggestions.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In his report, Alan Dowden said that Hampshire County Council's budget has been set at £871.3m with a resulting Council tax rise of 5.5%. He explained the reasons for the relative increase of the HCC slice which was due to changes by Government and to the £10k fixed allowance to Councillors. The majority of the budget comes from Business rates and from central Government, but the Government contribution has been steadily reduced over the years.

Flooding has caused higher expenditure due to the damage to the highway network. HCC has been giving priority to education and social services but there will be insufficient funds to provide services to all those in need.

The Local Transport Plan bid for Hampshire received a very generous settlement over the next five years of £50m of capital investment.

The new Constitution of Leader and Cabinet from June 2001 and new modification orders need to be placed before parliament, so the new system will act in shadow form for a short while.

Alan Dowden was pleased to assist with the provision of road warning lights at the school and the repair of the damaged verge by Bryndlewood in Braishfield Road.

5. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Martin Hatley said that he had been a Borough Councillor for 6 years and was pleased to attend the monthly Parish Council meetings. He was now Deputy Leader of TVBC. In his report he mentioned the rise in Council Tax bills, the travel expenditure by Councillors and the changes to the refuse collection arrangements.

TVBC has the lowest Council Tax in Hampshire and its budget is made up from the tax, interest, rents and Government grant.

TVBC has opted for a Leader and cabinet system with 2 overview scrutiny panels and a planning committee.

Martin Hatley said he was pleased to support the housing proposed for the garage site and to have been working with the Parish Council.

6. VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

Andrew Lalonde thanked the VDS working Party which was led by Tom Gould. There would be an Open Meeting on 20th April and a grant of £1000 will be applied for from TVBC. The VDS might include an aerial photograph.

7. TRAFFIC CALMING

There has been little progress on traffic calming owing to a staff shortage at HCC and pressure needed to be put on HCC. The Police have done speed checks and there have been suggestions about narrowing the road. Alan Dowden said there was a backlog of 30 schemes in Hampshire.

8. BRAISHFIELD GARAGE

Andrew Lalonde said that a mixture of slightly bigger houses (10) with a small commercial block was probably as good as the village can get. The village did not want an industrial site there. The latest plan had an access through the car park.

9. VILLAGE SHOP

Tony Chant reported on progress and mentioned the possibility of a stand alone shop on the garage site or as an extension of the village hall. Apparently Abbots Ann has received a TVBC grant of £25000 towards a shop.

10. PARISHIONERS' VIEWS

The cost of the various cycle schemes and associated signage was questioned as being worthwhile. Complaints were made about the amount of rubbish and litter in the ditches, as well as the cutting of verges. Discussion took place on signposts, the erection of new ones and the refurbishment of old ones. In particular there was the wrong position of the Church lane sign and the incorrect name for Paynes Hay Road.

The timing of the school flashing lights was queried and Martin Hatley related the change in rules for the illumination of such lights.