

BRAISHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield
on Tuesday 6th May 2003 at 8.00pm

1. PRESENT

Parish Councillors - A Lalonde, M Edwards, M Prince, Mrs M Payne
A Light, Mrs Sue Ransom, Mrs Jean Lowe

County Councillor - Councillor A Dowden

1 Parishioner

Apologies were received from Borough Councillor M Hatley

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 2nd April 2002 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

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:

At the Annual General Meeting held in May 2002 Mr Andrew Lalonde and Mr Michael Prince were re-elected Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively of the Parish Council.

Sadly during the year, Councillor Pam Saunders passed away after many years service and she will be greatly missed. She was affectionately known as the senior Councillor. In her place, Jean Lowe was co-opted on to the Council.

2003 was an election year for Parish Councils within Test Valley and there were only seven nominations for the seven Councillor seats in Braishfield, resulting in no election on 1st May.

The Parish Council met regularly throughout the year and meets at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month except August. Residents of the village are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is an open discussion period at the end of each meeting when any relevant matter may be aired.

Planning

The Parish Council monitored all planning applications in the village and commented on them. In considering planning applications, the Parish Council took into account the effects that the proposals may have on the adjoining properties and the village as a whole in both the short and long term. It also took into account the Borough Local Plan and the newly adopted Village Design Statement.

The Borough Local Plan was under review by TVBC and the Parish Council lodged an objection concerning the siting of houses at Abbotswood north of Romsey (as opposed to south) and the development of Ganger Farm.

More recently the Parish Council objected to the proposed houses on the Newport Inn 'car park'. This application was refused by TVBC but some sort of mini development plan for the whole of the Newport site was being called for.

Thankfully the works at the Coombe at Braishfield House have been completed and so has the re-development of the garage site.

Highways and Road Safety

The Parish Council continued to report defects in the highway to the Assistant Chief Engineer. He attended a meeting as a result of disquiet about road maintenance, in particular about the expenditure of £17000 on Parnholt Lane when such money is not available elsewhere in the village. Amongst other things, the Parish Council initiated improvements in Common Hill Road, asked for the Braishfield sign to be moved further south and asked for a footpath up the hill at Crook Hill. It was also endeavouring to get some vehicle size restrictions attached to planning permissions.

Traffic calming lines were introduced on Braishfield Road but their effectiveness is open to question.

War Memorial

The Parish Council organised the cleaning of the War Memorial.

Village Pond

With the aid of a £12000 grant from the Onyx Environmental Trust (which gets its money from the landfill tax), the pond was cleaned out, re-lined and the verges have been re-seeded.

Generally

The Golden Jubilee celebrations were a great success and the Parish Council was pleased to contribute substantial funds towards this.

The Council continued to be supported by the Braishfield Village Association and this was much appreciated.

Parish Council

The Councillors and Clerk were thanked for the work they put into the successful running of the Council and to Councillors Dowden and Hatley for their back up.

Precept

The Parish Council precept for the forthcoming year remained at £9000.

The make-up of the 2003/4 Council tax for a Band D property was as follows: (2002/3 figures in brackets)

Hampshire County Council	844.56	(734.67)
Hampshire Police Authority	97.29	(75.15)
Test Valley Borough Council	86.85	(83.52)
Braishfield Parish Council	27.52	(28.21)

<u>Total</u>	<u>1056.22</u>	<u>(921.55)</u>
Increase on last year	14.6%	(6%)

The precept for the coming year was set at £9000 which is £28.21 for a Band D property in Braishfield.

The Clerk presented a draft Receipts and Payments account for the year 2002/3 and invited comments.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In his report, Alan Dowden said that Hampshire County Council provided over 1.2m people with everyday services. These were vital Services such as education and social care, maintaining over 5000 miles of road, managing the county's waste and keeping libraries, county parks and museums up to date and accessible to all.

It was HCC's job to deliver the services most needed by the people and communities of Hampshire, maintaining quality whilst ensuring value for money. HCC wanted public services in Hampshire to continually improve. Monitoring performance was called the Best Value process and it included reviewing specific areas of work in greater depth, leading to improvement plans. HCC led the way for local authorities by being innovative and open to new ways of doing things. The Government's own Comprehensive Performance Assessment of HCC last year gave it a top score of excellent.

HCC lost £21min Government grant aid as it changed the basis upon which needs were assessed with a new Formula Spending Share. It also applied what is known as Resource Equalisation which might be regarded as a euphemism for redistribution. The HCC revenue budget was agreed at £1032.1m representing an increase of 8.2% resulting in the HCC Council Tax element increase of 15%.

Alan Dowden was very pleased to have gained full County Council support for a survey to be carried out seeking the views of older people on how they can obtain better low level service provision. It was intended to provide senior citizens to enable them to remain within their own homes. The survey was due to take place in the June edition of the "Hampshire Now" magazine.

5. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

a) Highways

Concern was expressed at the level of road maintenance. Repairs appeared to be haphazard and insufficient funds were available. Large lorries were damaging the roads and planning conditions did nothing to reduce this. Perhaps a letter should be sent to the Borough Council asking for conditions to be applied to planning permissions.

b) School term

It was mentioned that the school terms would change in 2004.

Andrew Lalonde closed the meeting with an apology for the lack of people attending.