

BRAISHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield
on Tuesday 26th April 2005 at 8.00pm

1. PRESENT

Parish Councillors - Andrew Lalonde (Chairman), Mike Prince, Mike Edwards
Jean Lowe, Mandy Payne, Sue Ransom, Alan Light

County Councillor - Councillor A Dowden

Borough Councillor - Councillor M Hatley

8 Parishioners

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th April 2004 were agreed.

3. HAMPSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE

After welcoming everyone, the Chairman of the Parish Council, Andrew Lalonde, introduced Mr Dave Norgate and Mr Graham Stark of Hampshire Fire & Rescue.

Mr Stark, the Property Services Manager, presented the Parish with maps showing the fire hydrants in the village. There were 37 of these in Braishfield and 33000 in Hampshire. It was not possible or even sensible to test all these annually. All used to be tested but now only ones where the risk identified the necessity. There was in fact over-provision of hydrants for historic reasons. The Service has access to GPS information on the hydrants and they are marked with a yellow plate. These have been re-painted recently

Mr Norgate, an experienced fire officer, explained the function of the Community & Fire Safety Unit. It obviously has a policy of not wanting any fires. He explained that the single most effective way of saving lives was to have smoke detectors and the aim was to have one in every residential accommodation by 2010. Braishfield was not a high risk area for fires. Most cases of domestic fires were associated with smoking related materials.

Alan Dowden made the point that all new schools are to have sprinkler systems.

Andrew Lalonde thanked the Hampshire Fire & Rescue representatives for a very interesting and information talk.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At the Annual General Meeting held in May 2004 Mr Andrew Lalonde and Mr Michael Prince were re-elected Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council met regularly throughout the year at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month except August.

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.

Of the many planning matters dealt with, some of interest were:

A further application was made by Gales Brewery to redevelop Newport Farm. Objections to the loss of car parking at the Newport Inn were overcome by Gales providing 8 spaces on the farmyard land. Some building work had started.

The retrospective application for the workshop on land adjacent to Potters Clay was refused and an appeal lost.

Two applications for the re-development of the Fairbourne Bungalow site resulted in one being withdrawn and the other refused.

Complaints about Motocross noise on land in Bunny Lane resulted in the cessation of such events by the landowner (RFS Farms).

Highways and Road Safety

The Parish Council continued to report defects in the highway to the Assistant Chief Engineer. However, there was further concern about the standard of road maintenance and the level of resources being made available. The patch and mend policy did not appear to be adequate for country lanes constructed over 50 years ago now carrying modern traffic levels. At Crook Hill, there was little success in getting a footpath constructed, as Hampshire County Council said the accident record was too good.

Recreation Ground

The Recreation Ground required maintenance, some of which was done by willing villagers and the Football Club, but there was expenditure on the fencing along both the east and south boundaries. The car park required further repair and the playground needed attention in order to meet the requirements of the Disability Act and the results of a safety report. The newspaper box had found a new home near the car park entrance and was now constructed from gale-proof brick.

Generally

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 also Councillors Dowden and Hatley for their back up.

Precept

The Parish Council precept for the coming year remained at £9000 and the make-up of the 2005/6 Council tax for a Band D property was as follows with 2004/5 figures in brackets:

Hampshire County Council	869.40	(840.15)
Hampshire Police Authority	113.76	(108.36)
Hampshire Fire & Rescue	52.11	(51.30)

Test Valley Borough Council	99.00	(94.41)
Braishfield Parish Council	26.79	(26.87)
TOTAL	1161.06	(1121.09)
Increase on last year	3.56%	(6.14%)

The Clerk presented a draft Receipts and Payments account for the year 2004/5 and invited comments.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In his report, Alan Dowden said that he had been appointed spokesperson for Social Care for the Lib-Dems. Social services were under severe pressures, both financial and demand. He was also appointed Chairman of a Health Review Committee panel to scrutinise the Podiatry services within Hampshire. There were major new responsibilities for HCC and other organisations in implementing the 2004 Children's Act in Hampshire. He would share the responsibility of selecting and appointing new Directors for both Children's and Adult Services.

The South East Regional Assembly launched its consultation on the South East plan which outlined development for the next 20 years to 2026. It looked at the towns, cities, and countryside and set out what new development was needed, including the supporting infrastructure.

He had also been appointed by the Policy and Resources Committee to sit on a new style of Select Scrutiny Panel.

The County Council set its budget with a Council Tax rise of 3.5% meaning a figure of £869.40 for a Band D property.

6. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In his report, Martin Hatley said that he was now entering his tenth year as Councillor and continued to be Deputy Leader of the Council with special responsibilities for business liaison and an increasing role in the Planning Portfolio.

The revised Deposit Draft Borough Local Plan had just finished the public inquiry stage and the Inspector was due to report back to the Borough late summer or early autumn. The plan still contained the local Ampfield/Valley Park gap which he had got re-instated to protect the Ampfield Parish from large scale development. The South East plan did not include the possibility of these local gaps. The Borough in its response to SEERA strongly argued for the inclusion of a policy permitting the identification of local gaps.

Although the Council Tax increased by 4.9%, he was pleased that TVBC still remained one of only two Hampshire Authorities to maintain a District Tax of less than £100 for a Band D property.

7. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

During this period, clarification was sought on expenditure on the pond and on ownership of the village hall. Concern was expressed about horse droppings in the village, particularly on the pavements and there was also concern about parking on the pavements, for example by the Dog & Crook and outside the United Reformed Church.

Deer shooting in Ampfield wood was mentioned and an enquiry made about any developments at BKP in Bunny Lane.

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Martin Hatley informed the meeting that planning applications were now available for viewing on the TVBC website.

Andrew Lalonde closed the meeting after thanking everyone for their contributions and attendance.