

# BRAISHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 8pm

## Present

Parish Councillors:

Mike Prince (Chairman)

Mike Edwards

Clive John

Beverley Murtagh

Carole Renvoize

Dorothy Ross

Peter White

Borough Councillor : Martin Hatley

County Councillor : Alan Dowden

Guest Speaker: Neil Jenkins, Emergency Planning Officer, Hampshire County Council

Parishioners: approximately 30 parishioners attended

## 1. Apologies

Ian Houlton, Head of Emergency Planning & Business Continuity HCC: Neil Jenkins is in attendance in his stead.

## 2. Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman

Mike Prince welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

Following the heavy rainfall in February this year, which was 4 times greater than at the same time in 2013, Mike Prince has invited an Emergency Planning officer from HCC to discuss the services they offer.

3. Presentation by Neil Jenkins, Emergency Planning Officer of Hampshire County Council, Emergency Planning and Corporate Services, on the services of the department and Community Resilience.

Neil Jenkins explained that the Emergency Planning and Corporate Services department as a team are Category 1 responders, as are the Fire and Ambulance services. They are called upon in emergencies scenarios such as flooding, failure of power supplies, aircraft crashes etc. The department are involved in around 130 incidents per year. A second team are “operational”, dealing with emergencies in establishments such as Fawley oil refinery.

Hampshire has 65 “rest centres” which can be used to accommodate people who have been evacuated in emergencies. Local facilities such as village halls can be used instead, and have the advantage of being more local and at the centres of affected communities.

Communities can choose to appoint local representatives onto a Local Resilience Forum, which may produce a Response Plan covering planning for events such as flooding, fires and gas leaks. Romsey, for example, has a plan for evacuation, although it has no flood plan. Some villages have set up Plans too.

In a village the size of Braishfield, all occupants of the 260 or so dwellings could be made aware of the existence of the Plan. The Emergency Planning officers would also be aware of it, and in the event of an emergency they could quickly ascertain for example, who is especially vulnerable, local accommodation facilities (e.g. village hall), the precise location of services and drainage marked on maps and other pertinent information.

Neil Jenkins invited questions from the floor.

David Robinson of BVA reminded the meeting of the power cuts that a number of residents suffered over Christmas. Neil Jenkins confirmed that this scenario falls within the remit of his department and that if it is an ongoing issue, perhaps it could be incorporated into a Response Plan.

Neil Jenkins confirmed that there is no statutory duty for communities to engage in emergency planning but they can lead to much faster responses when an emergency occurs.

Communication is key to the swift resolution of many emergencies, Neil Jenkins said.

Neil Jenkins will send some introductory booklets to the Parish Council. The first step is for a “champion” to be put forward. Mike Prince is aware of one parishioner who is interested, and has appropriate skills.

Mike Prince thanked Neil Jenkins for his informative introduction to the subject and also thanked Carole Renvoize for organising this.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013

The minutes were agreed and no comments arose from them.

5. Chairman's Report

Chairman's Report was presented by Mike Prince and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Mike Prince recounted how sad it is that John Rhodes, Parish Clerk had a severe road accident about 18 months ago and he has been recuperating ever since. Katie Hardy stood in as Clerk until September 2013 when John Rhodes returned. John has now decided to stand down as Clerk; a post he has held for 15 years, in common with his predecessor Len Shelton. The vacancy for the post of Parish Clerk was advertised. Kate Orange applied and has been appointed as from 1 May 2014.

Mike gave thanks to John on behalf of the Parish Council, for his knowledge and resourcefulness which the Council will greatly miss.

As a matter of interest, both Mike Prince and Mike Edwards joined the Parish Council whilst Len Shelton was Parish Clerk.

John Rhodes accepted a retirement gift of a drawing of his home, given by the councillors in gratitude for the hard work and help given by John over his years of service. John thanked the meeting in a speech in which he recalled times; some challenging, many happy.

Further matters (also recorded in the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held immediately preceding this meeting):

- The repair of Paynes Hay Road commenced today.
- The lease for the football club is being agreed by solicitors.
- Thanks to Katie Hardy (acting Clerk) for her work in obtaining grant funding and tenders for the safety surface on the Play Area. It is a great improvement and success.

The Parish Council were pleased to fund a publication commemorating those from this village who died in service of this country during the two world wars (The Bugle Sounded).

Mike Prince gave his appreciation to the members of the Parish Council, as well as Councillors Hatley and Dowden, for all their hard work during the difficult year that has passed.

6. Reports from our Borough and County Councillors

Councillor Martin Hatley

Martin Hatley circulated his report and a copy is attached to these minutes.

He noted that a revised Local Plan is being drawn up. This is an 18 year plan, whilst many councils are producing 20 year plans: the effect is that around 1200 fewer houses will need to be constructed in Test Valley. Alan Dowden hopes it will be ratified because he is opposed to large scale development of North Baddesley (the lack of facilities mean that people will have to travel out of the area to school, shop, work etc. so development is not sustainable). If there were no Local Plan in place, TVBC would be open to applications from developers on an ad-hoc basis.

Councillor Alan Dowden

Alan Dowden's report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Alan Dowden reiterated that the safety audit of the Sandy Lane / Braishfield Road roundabout is still in progress. He also noted about the repair to the Paynes Hay Road (mentioned elsewhere in these minutes).

Drainage to Dores Lane will be improved during this financial year.

7. Open period and questions

One parishioner enquired whether money that has been spent during the past financial year is lost or retained (the difference between receipts and payments). Mike Prince responded that this is retained by the Parish Council and carried forward to the next financial year.

There was a question from a parishioner about the lack of a footpath from the Dog and Crook to Woodley. This is a route used by many school children and people who come from Romsey into the village to work. Mike Prince clarified that this is linked to the intention of Hilliers Arboretum to enclose all their land with a deer-proof fence, which would necessitate the redirection of the short right of way that runs through the south west corner of the arboretum, to a new route along the road side. This new path could then be joined up with

the village.

Carole Renvoize thanked Mike Prince for his work during the past year. She hopes that next year will be easier.

Mike Prince stated his hope that if the application for affordable homes is given permission, that the village will give the new residents a warm welcome. Village residents are generally known as friendly.