

BRAISHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield on Thursday 18th March 1999

PRESENT:-

A Lalonde (Chairman)
Mrs M Balchin
M Prince
T Howkins
Ms P Saunders
Councillor M Hatley (representing Test Valley Borough Council).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from M Edwards and Mrs P Melbourne

99. MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 1999 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

100. FEBRUARY MEETING

The Chairman reported that as there had not been a quorum of Members available the Council's February meeting had not taken place.

101. PAULINE MELBOURNE

The Chairman reported that Councillor Mrs Pauline Melbourne was currently unwell.

RESOLVED -

That a letter wishing her the Council's best wishes and a speedy recovery be sent.

102. CLERK

The Chairman referred to the decision of the Working Party appointed to select a new Clerk to the Council. Four candidates had been interviewed for the post.

RESOLVED -

That John Rhodes be appointed as Clerk to the Parish Council with effect from 1st April 1999 at a salary of £725 per annum.

103. BT POLES

It was reported that several duplicate telephone poles in the village had now been removed by BT.

RESOLVED -

That K Gaston of BT's Salisbury office be thanked for his efforts in arranging prompt removal of the poles.

104. TREES AT CHURCHYARD

The Chairman referred to a letter from the Reverend Kington requesting support from the Parish Council for the planting of trees along the southern boundary of the churchyard extension to mark the Millennium.

RESOLVED -

That the Reverend Kington be informed of the Parish Council's support in principle for the project and requested to:

- (i) indicate what level of support might be expected from the Parish Council;
- (ii) confirm that Test Valley Borough Council are to provide the trees; and
- (iii) confirm the numbers and types of trees to be provided and provide a plan of a possible planting scheme.

105. TWINNING

(a) Primary School

The Chairman referred to a letter from the Headteacher of the Primary School seeking financial assistance towards the hire of a minibus for a school visit to Braishfield's twin town of Crouay. The party included 16 children, 5 of whom were resident in Braishfield.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That a grant of £100 be made towards the costs of the trip;
- (ii) That the Headteacher be requested to consider co-ordinating future and requests for grant assistance with the Braishfield Twinning Association.

(b) Twinning Committee

The Council considered a request from the Braishfield Twinning Committee for financial assistance towards the costs of hosting a visit planned by a party from

Crouay to Braishfield.

RESOLVED -

That a grant of £100 be made and the Twinning Association requested to consider co-ordinate future requests for grant assistance with the Primary School.

106. EMPTY PROPERTY CAMPAIGN

The Clerk referred to a letter he had received from the Borough Council outlining their Empty Property Campaign which sought to bring back into use long term empty properties.

RESOLVED -

That the position be noted.

107. VICTIM SUPPORT

RESOLVED -

That a grant of £50 be paid under Section 137 of the Local Government Act to the New Forest, Totton & Romsey Victim Support Group.

109. PLANNING

(a) Tree Felling

The Chairman reported that applications had been received by the Borough Council for the felling of trees at Braishfield House and at Rupert Cottage, Newport Lane. After consulting local councillors he had raised no objections to the proposals.

RESOLVED -

That the Chairman's action be endorsed.

(b) TVS0458/2 - Baileys Down Farm

RESOLVED -

That no objection be made to proposals for replacement stable buildings at the farm. (Andrew Lalonde declared an interest in the application and did not vote thereon).

(c) Residential Development at Abbotswood

RESOLVED -

That the Borough Council be informed of the Parish Council's objections to

proposals for the development of 900 houses at Abbotswood off Cupernham Lane, Romsey.

(d) Planning Correspondence

The Chairman reported on a letter he had written to the Borough Council's Chief Executive referring to correspondence the Parish Council had had with the Planning Department and to the Parish Council's disappointment at not receiving a direct response from the Head of Planning.

RESOLVED -

That the position be noted.

110. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) Overhanging Hedge - Newport Lane

RESOLVED -

That the Area Surveyor be informed of a hedge overhanging the highway on the south side of Newport Lane in the vicinity of Chapel Works.

(b) Direction Signs

The Clerk referred to a letter he had received from the Area Surveyor which confirmed that the direction sign to the Braishfield Social Club had been paid for by the Club and that it would be possible for the Parish Council or the Village Hall Management Committee to fund a sign to the Village Hall. He also reported that the drain under the carriageway of Kiln Lane had been cleared although ditches and pipes under the field were the responsibility of the landowner. Kiln Lane was considered to be in an acceptable condition. The drain at the corner of Common Hill and Dummers Lane would be cleared in the near future.

(c) Bunny Lane

RESOLVED -

That

- a) the Area Surveyor be informed of the exceptionally muddy state of Bunny Lane from the BKP premises to its junction with the A3057 and
- b) his attention be drawn to the planning requirement for wheel washing of vehicles to take place at premises off Bunny Lane.

111. PARISH BOUNDARY

The Clerk referred to a letter he had received from the Clerk to Michelmersh Parish Council seeking Braishfield's views to a possible parish boundary change that would allow the whole of the Casbrook Common site to be within Michelmersh. If Braishfield had no objection to the proposal Michelmersh would consider an appropriate application to the boundary commission.

RESOLVED -

That no objection be raised to the proposal to include the whole of the Casbrook Common site within Michelmersh.

112. VILLAGE POND

Councillor Mike Prince reported on his efforts to remove algae from the surface of the pond.

RESOLVED -

That Councillor Tim Howkins apply barley straw to the pond in a bid to reduce the excessive algae from the pond.

113. RECREATION GROUND

(a) Play Equipment

It was reported that the Local Association of Parish Councils were to ascertain the minimum number of inspections required to satisfy insurers who provided cover for play equipment. The information was to be circulated to Parish Clerks.

(b) Football Club

The Clerk reported that the Braishfield Football Club had acquired a strimmer which would allow them to cut and maintain the grass edge of the Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED -

That the position be noted and the condition of the Recreation Ground kept under review.

(c) Boundary Fence

Consideration was given to a quote from J N Landscapes in the sum of £460 to complete outstanding works along the southern boundary of the Recreation Ground. The works were to be carried out in default of the original contractor Fencing and Landscaping who was appointed to undertake the work in February 1997.

RESOLVED -

That subject to confirmation that the work will include removal of tree stumps and roots along the southern boundary the quote of £460 exclusive of VAT be accepted.

(d) Car Park

RESOLVED -

That Braishfield Garage be requested to refrain from parking their staff vehicles in the village hall car park.

(e) Use of Recreation Ground

RESOLVED -

That All Saints Church, Braishfield be permitted use of the Recreation Ground for their Church Fete on June 12th 1999 and Romsey Road Runners be permitted use of the Recreation Ground for their 5 mile race on Sunday 13th June 1999.

114. ASSOCIATION OF PARISH COUNCILS

Braishfield representatives who attended a recent meeting of the Southern Association of Parish Councils referred to discussions about Parish Council representatives being able to make representations at planning site inspections, to a Borough Council dog ownership campaign and to the preparation of the Borough's long term economic study.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the Chairman of the Parish Council Andrew Lalonde and Councillor Mrs M Balchin write to the Chairman of the Borough Planning Committees in an effort to reintroduce parish representation at site meetings.
- (ii) That the Clerk request information from the Borough Council on the cost of the preparation of the long term economic study.

115. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Martin Hatley attended the meeting and reported on outstanding matters concerning the Borough Council. These included the recent increase in Council Tax levels although Test Valley continued to be the lowest in the County, the Borough's environmental enhancement scheme and changes to the bus tokens scheme. He also referred to plans and proposals for a new supermarket in Romsey.

116. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED -

That the following accounts be paid:

A Lalonde - Chairman's expenses - £20.00
(endorsement of expenses paid in February)
Braishfield Village Association - advertisement - £10.00
FPD Savills - copying charges - £39.48
L Shelton - Clerk's salary and expenses - £146.30