

BRAISHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield
on Tuesday 4th March 2003

PRESENT:-

Andrew Lalonde (Chairman)
Sue Ransom
Mike Edwards
Alan Light
Mandy Payne
Jean Lowe
Martin Hatley (Borough Councillor)

Apologies for absence were received from Mike Prince

165. MINUTES

AGREED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th February 2003 are signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

166. POST BOX

AGREED that the Clerk telephones Mr Johnson (Royal Mail Collections Manager) and asks for news of progress on the replacement post box.

167. BRAISHFIELD SIGN

NOTED that the sign at Crook Hill has been re-positioned but that it obscures the road visibility from a driveway. HCC is aware of the problem and is expected to put it on the other side of the road.

168. TRANSCO

AGREED that the Clerk chases Transco for a response to the Parish Council's complaint.

169. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

AGREED that the Annual Parish Meeting will be on Tuesday 6th May 2003 immediately after the Annual General Meeting. The Clerk is to inform Alan Dowden of the date.

170. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Licensing Bill

NOTED receipt of a letter from DEFRA clarifying the effect of the Bill on events held in Village Halls etc. The letter was passed to Mike Edwards as Village Hall representative.

b) RAIN

NOTED receipt of an information leaflet from the Romsey Area Information Network. The Clerk is to send a copy of this to Councillors with the Minutes.

c) Footpath

NOTED that Archstone Developments has extended the footpath to be in front of the noticeboard at the Recreation Ground entrance, for which a letter of thanks has been sent.

d) TVAPC

NOTED receipt of a request for members of the Test Valley Strategic Partnership Action Groups. The setting up of these groups is a requirement of HMG.

e) Safety

NOTED that concern has been expressed about the lack of a fence between the front door and the road at one of the Blackthorn Close houses.

f) On street parking

NOTED receipt of a letter from TVBC asking for members of a discussion group on the de-criminalisation of on-street parking. Street parking is currently a matter for the police but may be transferred to the local authority. Martin Hatley is attending the group in another capacity.

g) Skateboard

NOTED receipt of a letter from Jacob Dugdale enquiring about progress on the acquisition of a ramp and seeking support for one. Mandy Payne has replied with apologies for the delay and mentioned the mobile ramp being sited on the Church car park.

However, Mandy Payne has been in touch with Kings Somborne where there have been complaints about graffiti and noise even though the site is some way from the car park. Kings Somborne opted for the cheaper (£11k) version but the more expensive one might be quieter. TVBC paid 75% but Kings Somborne paid an additional £5k for tarmac surround.

The location of a skateboard ramp in Braishfield is still problematic.

Martin Hatley agreed to ascertain the date for the installation of the TVBC mobile ramp.

171. PLANNINGa) Applications pending or recent outcome

TVS 235/11	Pucknall Farm, Dores Lane	Change to B1 use	permission
TVS 9510/1	Abbotsdene, Crook Hill	Extension	
TVS 3061/6	Hazel Cottage, Braishfield Road	Revision to approved extension	permission
T2724	Beechwood, Church Lane	Fell trees	
TVS 1678/12	Unit 5, Pucknall Farm, Dores Lane	Extension for office	permission
T 2813	April Cottage, Braishfield Road	Fell trees	
T 2778	Leith House, Braishfield Road	Fell trees	
T 2950	Cuilbeg, Braishfield Road	Prune trees	
T 2906	Garage site, Braishfield Road	Schedule of tree works	
T 2917	Boares Garden, Braishfield Road	Fell tree	
TVS 2764/5	Old Stables, Lower St	Extension	
TVS 1819/4	2, Crook Cottages, Braishfield Road	Provision of chimney	
HCC TV 153	BKP, Bunny Lane	Renewal of temporary permission	
LB 654	Elm Grove Farm	alterations	permission

b) New Planning Applications

AGREED to make the following responses to applications:

TVS 9910	All Saints Church	Disabled access	support
TVS 9904	Elm Grove Farm	Extension to dairy cottage	No objection
TVV 417/9	Hazelwood, Crook Hill	Extension	No objection
TVS 5037/3	High View, Lower St	Alterations	
T 3028	St Catherine's, Newport Lane	Prune trees	No objection
TVS 3658	Newport Inn, Newport Lane	New dwellings	Strong objection

c) TVS 3658 Newport Inn

Considerable discussion took place on the application for two houses on the agricultural land adjacent to the Newport Inn, during which parishioners were invited to speak. Although views in favour and the inevitability of development were expressed, the Clerk was asked to make a strong objection using the following points which were made against the application:

LOCATION

The site is agricultural land, rather than brownfield, and is located in area designated as Countryside. The application is attempting to change agricultural land into residential.

Building on this site in the countryside is contrary to the current Borough Local Plan and also the draft Borough Local Plan review.

The application exceeds the curtilage of the farmyard and proposes building on land taken from the fields.

The association of the land with the Newport Inn must be considered. The Newport Inn uses the land for car parking and on Friday lunchtime 28th February it was noted that 16 cars were parked on this land out of 34 visiting the Inn. Removal of this land will create a car parking problem in Newport Lane.

Building on the site will generate more traffic in a narrow lane and this should not be encouraged.

It may be considered that Gales have deliberately neglected the property, having removed the roof tiles from the existing building and allowing the old barn (possibly a tithe barn) to fall down in 1987. Gales may be in default of the current Conservation Area policy in respect of maintaining buildings and should not benefit from their apparent neglect.

DESIGN

The design is out of keeping with Newport Lane, which is a linear development with vernacular diversity, as the application is for two similar buildings in a 'Close'. The ridge at 8.7m is too high and is higher than the Newport Inn.

The design is contrary to numerous recommendations of the Village Design Statement, except materials.

The claims in the application about invisibility from other properties are incorrect.

d) Borough Local Plan Review

NOTED receipt of the CD-ROM which was passed to Mike Edwards. TVBC has acknowledged receipt of the Parish Council's objections to the plan.

e) Planning training

AGREED that the joint Ampfield/Braishfield planning training should be on Monday 13th October in the Braishfield Village Hall, subject to availability.

f) Planning enforcement

NOTED that there has been no response from TVBC concerning the additional building at Braishfield House. Martin Hatley agreed to make enquiries of the enforcement officer.

g) Vehicle size

NOTED that the Clerk has written to the secretary of TVAPC on the question of planning permissions containing restrictions on the size of vehicles.

172. HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

a) Operator's Licence

NOTED that the Traffic Commissioner needs details of any vehicles thought to require an operator's licence.

b) Noticeboards

AGREED that the Clerk orders four noticeboards for installation at the agreed places in the Parish. Mike Edwards and helpers were thanked for the installation of the parish noticeboard next to the School.

c) Damaged sign and blocked culverts

NOTED that the Assistant Chief Engineer is dealing with the damaged footpath sign and the blocked culverts in Kiln Lane and Dores Lane.

d) Highway maintenance

AGREED that the Clerk reports the damaged carriageway in Kiln Lane and at Crook Hill to the Assistant Chief Engineer, together with potholes near Bramble Cottage, Wooley Green and Oak Tree Cottage.

e) Crook Hill footpath

AGREED that the Clerk reminds the Assistant Chief Engineer of the request for a footpath at Crook Hill as funds may now be available. The path should have a gravel surface.

f) Lower Street and Kiln Lane

NOTED that nothing as yet has been done to restore the verges in Lower Street and Kiln Lane, but the Assistant Chief Engineer has acknowledged to Martin Hatley that something needs to be done.

g) Church Lane flooding

NOTED that the situation about the flooding of the garage at Orchard Rise is being monitored.

173. FOOTPATHS AND POND

Pond

AGREED that the Clerk places an order for the removal of the dead tree at the pond at £275 with Itchen Valley trees.

Footpaths

AGREED that the Clerk reports the damaged stile on Footpath 8 to the Arts, Community & Countryside Department of HCC.

174. RECREATION GROUNDa) Braishfield School Association

AGREED that the School Summer Fayre may be held on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 14th June 2003.

b) Flower Show

AGREED that the Flower Show may be held on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 19th July 2003.

c) Trees

AGREED that the Clerk ascertains progress on the replacement trees on the Recreation Ground.

d) Playground

NOTED that RoSPA has acknowledged receipt of the order for the inspection of the playground, but the Clerk is to obtain the date for this.

e) Fencing and bus shelter

NOTED that the fencing work has been done and that a quotation for £300 has been received for repair work at the bus shelter by Dave Hillary.

AGREED that Alan Light accepts the quotation for £300.

f) Fouling by dogs

NOTED that a complaint has been received about fouling of the Recreation Ground.

AGREED that details of offenders are obtained if possible.

175. FINANCIAL MATTERS

AGREED that the following accounts are paid:

JBF Rhodes	Salary & expenses for February 2003	£139.76
HAPTC	Annual subscription	£124
Trucks Ltd	Pond work	£528.75
Mike Edwards	Noticeboard installation materials	£30.38
DB Hillary	Fencing repair	£180

2001/2002 Audit

NOTED the Annual Return has been returned for signature by the Chairman together with a few questions about variances compared to the previous year.

176. REPORTS OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Mike Edwards reported that a sample of the chair being considered for the Village Hall has been examined.

177. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Martin Hatley mentioned that he would be acting leader of the Borough Council for the next two weeks. On the subject of the Romsey enhancement scheme, he explained the confusion which had arisen from an incorrect draft minute of TVBC which said that it was in favour of 'the' scheme, rather than 'a' scheme (ie not the one proposed by HCC). TVBC was not convinced about the effects on the small traders and the HCC report mentioned a fictitious Market Street.

The TVBC part of the Council tax is to increase by 4%, though this had been expected to be 3% until HMG re-allocated grants elsewhere.

Martin Hatley asked parishioners to let him know of any planning objections they may have.

178. AOB

Wheatsheaf PH

AGREED that the Clerk writes to the Manager of the Wheatsheaf PH expressing concern about the state of the adjacent land.

179. NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting will be on Tuesday 1st April 2003.