

# BRAISHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield  
on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2006

PRESENT:-

Andrew Lalonde (Chairman)  
Mike Prince  
Alan Light  
Mike Edwards (part-time)  
Mandy Payne  
Sue Ransom

Apologies for absence were received from Jean Lowe

129. MINUTES

AGREED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2006 are signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to 'December' in Minute 126 being replaced by 'February'.

130. RECYCLING

The Clerk explained the email correspondence in which TVBC said that they had offered to install a hard-standing to enable bins to be wheeled around at the Wheatsheaf PH. The Clerk was asked to write to TVBC saying their withdrawal from the site was discouraging people from recycling and their action was not getting the people on their side. It is to be suggested to TVBC that they contact the superior landlord on the matter.

131. DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Council felt that it did not need to take advantage of dog control orders provided for by recent legislation.

132. HOME-START EASTLEIGH

It was agreed not to make a donation to Home-Start Eastleigh, partly because it appeared to be more Easleigh-based rather than Romsey/Braishfield.

133. CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

Having received a request from the PCC, together with a copy of the accounts, the Council agreed to make a grant of £500 towards the cost of maintaining the Churchyard. The Clerk was asked to request that all future requests are made in writing and accompanied by a copy of the accounts. The accounts should clearly show any grant made by the Parish Council.

134. PLANNING

a) Applications pending or recent outcome

HCC TV066	RFS Farms, Bunny Lane	Waste Management Centre	Obj	Permission
06/427T	Elm Grove Bungalow, Dummers Road	Tree work	Nobj	No objection

PC original response - Sup supported, Obj objected, Nobj no objection

b) New Planning Applications

The Council commented on applications as follows:

06/971/TPOS	Wyndhams, Braishfield Road	Fell fir and cypress	Subject to the Arboricultural Officer's views - no objection
06/837/F	Braishfield Manor, Paynes Hay Road	Alterations	Subject to the Conservation Officer's views - no objection
06/806/T	Orchard Hill, Braishfield Road	Tree works	No objection
06/708/F	Wyndhams, Braishfield Road	Erection of summer house	No objection

c) Borough Local Plan Inquiry

The Clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the latest consultation document.

d) Planning Meetings

No meetings have been arranged yet.

e) Blackthorn Close trees

A response has been received from TVBC explaining that only one of the trees involved in the tree work was the subject of a planning condition, and that tree was in poor health. The Clerk was asked to write to TVBC querying why not all the trees were in the planning conditions, particularly when there was (and still is) concern about noise from the Village Hall during events.

135. HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

a) Newport Lane hedge

It was noted that still nothing has been done about the hedge in Newport Lane. The Clerk was asked to chase HCC about this.

b) Traffic Calming

HCC has still not made any progress on this matter.

c) Crook Hill path

A reply has been received from HCC saying they were investigating any alternative sources of funds which may be available for a footpath.

d) Braishfield signs

No further reply has been received from TVBC on the request for Braishfield signs.

e) Highway maintenance

The Clerk was asked to report an enormous hole in the highway near Fishponds Farm.

136. FOOTPATHS AND POND

a) Footpaths

Nothing to report.

b) Pond

The Clerk was asked to approach Jeremy North about whether the dead willow at the pond should be replaced and if so, when. Authority to place an order up to £100 was delegated to the Clerk.

137. RECREATION GROUNDa) Horses and Motorbikes

Concern has been expressed in the village about horses and motorbikes using the Recreation Ground, with a suggestion that there should be a sign. The Council was reluctant to have yet more signs but Andrew Lalonde said he would speak to Dave Old about the problem.

b) School Fayre

The School Fayre has met a major problem clashing with a World Cup football match and the School Association has asked if the Recreation Ground is available on 8<sup>th</sup> July for a possible change. The Council agreed to this.

c) Romsey Road Runners

A letter has been received from Romsey Road Runner updating the Council on their event on 11<sup>th</sup> June. In particular, it is intended to start at the Newport Inn cricket pitch.

138. REPORTS OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Mike Edwards said that the Chairman of the Village Hall has resigned and that there is no replacement.

139. FINANCIAL MATTERSa) AGREED that the following accounts are paid:

JBF Rhodes	Salary & expenses for February and March	£164.94
Braishfield PCC	Grant towards Churchyard maintenance	£500

b) Audit Commission

The Council considered the letter circulated beforehand which was received from the Audit Commission concerning the need for a second auditor, noting that the Commission recommended, rather than demanded, that one is appointed for the 2005/2006 financial year. The Council also considered the personal response the Clerk had made to the Audit Commission.

The Clerk explained that the whole purpose of the latest audit review was to address complaints that the audit system introduced in 1996 was too expensive. The objectives promised by the Audit Commission were that the new system would be lighter touch and cheaper. The Clerk said that the Commission made its own audit slightly cheaper and lighter touch but completely negated these savings by expecting the Council to appoint another auditor from outside the Council to do a full audit. The overall effect was that the new system would be neither lighter touch nor cheaper. The Clerk gave a figure to show how it would be even more expensive than the 1996 system.

The Clerk went on to explain that the Audit Commission claimed that a second auditor should have been appointed under the 1996 rules, but he said that would not have been sensible as the Audit Commission itself used to carry out a full audit. Furthermore, the Audit Commission's Winchester Office never required there to be a second auditor. The Audit Commission has refused to accept the way in which one of its own offices used to carry out audits. Its cost and lightness of touch comparison assumed that a second full audit took place, but this was a wrong assumption and consequently it has not been comparing like with like.

The Council refused to take up the Audit Commission's recommendation and fully supported the Clerk's personal letter.

140. AOB

a) Village Design Statement

Mike Edwards, as Village Hall representative, was asked to investigate whether boxes of spare Village Design Statements may be stored in the Village Hall.

b) Car park maintenance

Mike Edwards alerted the Council to the need for further repairs to the car park. He was asked to obtain a quotation.

c) Council Tax

Mike prince expressed surprise that the Braishfield precept element of the Council Tax has risen by 1.5%, yet the precept itself is unchanged at £9000.

141. DATES OF MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006 at 6.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm. It may be necessary to continue with the Council Meeting after the Annual Parish Meeting.