

BRAISHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield
on Tuesday 23rd May 2006

PRESENT:-

Andrew Lalonde (Chairman)
Mike Prince
Alan Light
Sue Ransom
Jean Lowe

Apologies for absence were received from Mike Edwards

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Proposed by Alan Light, seconded by Mike Prince, that Andrew Lalonde is appointed Chairman for the coming year. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

Proposed by Andrew Lalonde, seconded by Alan Light, that Mike Prince is appointed Vice-Chairman for the coming year. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

2. APPOINTMENT OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

AGREED to appoint representatives with the following responsibilities:

Recreation Ground	Alan Light
Pond	Mike Prince
Transport	Jean Lowe
Electricity supply	Sue Ransom and Mike Prince
Planning applications	The Clerk
Village Hall	Mike Edwards
Noticeboard	The Clerk
Village Shop	Sue Ransom
Braishfield School	Mike Prince
Footpaths	Peter Sidebotham *
Twinning	Sue Ransom
Flag Officer	Alan Light
TVAPC	Mike Prince, Alan Light

* subject to his acceptance

3. MINUTES

AGREED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th April 2006 are signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. MANDY PAYNE

AGREED that the Clerk will write a letter of thanks to Mandy Payne for all the years of service she has given to the village and the Parish Council.

5. RECYCLING

Andrew Lalonde said that he has spoken to the Landlord of the Wheatsheaf PH who appears resigned to the notion that TVBC has made up its mind not to continue with the recycling site.

The Council will await the impact of the ABC bin collection system due to be introduced later in the year.

6. HAPTC LEGAL UPDATE

Unfortunately no Councillor was able to attend the legal update seminar to be held on 30th June 2006.

7. QUALITY PARISH COUNCILS

An update on the introduction of the QPC scheme has been received from NALC. It was noted that in the last three years only 262 Councils have passed the hurdle out of nearly 10,000 in the country.

8. BRAISHFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

In response to a request from the Horticultural Society, it was AGREED to make a donation of £75 towards the annual Flower Show.

9. BYELAW CONSULTATION

The Council declined to comment on an ODPM discussion paper on the future of byelaws. It felt that if any were needed in future then it would seek advice from the District Council.

10. PLANNINGa) Applications pending or recent outcome

6/1117/F	Braishfield Lodge, Paynes Hay Road	Erection of 1.8m wall	nobj	
06/837/F	Braishfield Manor, Paynes Hay Road	Alterations	nobj	
6/1131/CMAS	BKP, Bunny Lane	Gasification plant	obj	withdrawn
HCC TV066	RFS Farms, Bunny Lane	Waste management facilities	obj	permission

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

(Clerk's note: Alan Light had declared an interest in the BKP gasification plant application as a family member is employed by the Company)

b) New Planning Applications

The Council commented on applications between meetings as follows:

6/989/F	Land at the rear of Meadow View, Newport Lane	Change of use from countryside to domestic	Objection owing to loss of amenity but this may be withdrawn if satisfactory planning conditions can be applied
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c) HCC - what is our future?

The Clerk gave copies of this HCC publication on the South East Development Plan to Councillors.

d) Blackthorn Close trees

TVBC has responded to the Council's question about the lack of planning conditions concerning trees in Blackthorn Close, saying that the trees were not of sufficient quality to merit retention.

e) Planning questionnaire

A questionnaire on the perceived performance of the TVBC Planning Department was completed for return by the Clerk.

f) BKP liaison

Following the BKP application for a gasification plant, discussion took place on the merits of the liaison meetings held with BKP which are attended by Mike Prince and Jean Lowe. Such liaison was mentioned by BKP in the Romsey Advertiser. BKP had raised the proposed plant last September but did not give the Parish Council advance information on the application which in the event was considered to be very short on necessary detail.

David Bidwell, under whose auspices the meeting is held, said some time ago that its purpose was for the Council representatives to listen, ask questions and to discuss matters without commitment. BKP had said that they would let the Council see planning applications in advance. This did not happen in this case.

It was AGREED that the two Councillors would attend the meeting arranged for next week.

The Clerk was asked to investigate the legality of engaging expert technical advice.

11. HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

Braishfield signs

The Clerk was asked to chase TVBC for a reply to the Council's letter on 'Braishfield' signs.

12. FOOTPATHS AND POND

a) Footpaths

A further reply has been received from HCC saying it is unable to advise where there may be funds available for a footpath at Crook Hill. The Clerk was asked to respond and express disappointment, saying that it is unsafe on the hill in the dark.

b) Pond

JN Landscapes has been asked about replacing the tree at the pond.

13. RECREATION GROUND

a) Playground inspection

The Clerk said that Wicksteed carried out the last inspection at a cost of £90 +VAT which was paid on 22nd March 2005. However RoSPA has carried out an inspection just recently without being given an order and had invoiced the Council for £63 + VAT. Before paying the invoice, the Clerk was asked to query why RoSPA had done this and to make the point that they should not repeat it.

The RoSPA report referred to the gate as being a problem and Alan Light said he would speak to Dave Hillary to see what could be done at reasonable cost. He would also speak to RoSPA about the unclear need for signs.

b) Car parking

Andrew Lalonde explained that unwanted car parking is still an issue. It was suggested that a permanent sign should be erected drawing attention to this and pointing out the 'penalty' for infringement. The Clerk was asked to find a clamping 'agency' whose services could be employed.

c) Horse riding

Having spoken to Dave Old, Andrew Lalonde reported that the horse riding problem on the Recreation Ground has improved.

14. REPORTS OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Jean Lowe attended the Transport Forum Meeting which received an update on the concessionary travel scheme. The TVBC scheme fared well, giving more than the minimum required. Romsey Good Neighbours are in the farepass scheme but the recent changes to subsidised travel have put a greater load on them and they need volunteers to help out.

Jean gave out leaflets on the RADISH scheme (Romsey and District Information and Support at Home).

It has been highlighted that some patients and visitors are having difficulty getting to and from the Winchester Hospital. For three months there will be an investigation into the scale of this using a questionnaire to be sent to all patients with an appointment at the Hospital.

Wilts & Dorset Bus Company will be on strike later in the week and there have been no reports of problems with the CANGO service. Although there is a clutch of users seen each day at the bus stop, the general level of use of the service appears to be low.

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

JBF Rhodes	Salary & expenses for May	£193.49
Braishfield Hort Society	Donation	£75
RoSPA	Playground inspection	£74.03

b) Audit

The Audit Commission has written in strong terms that an 'internal' auditor is required. The Clerk was asked to circulate the letter to Councillors and to investigate whether Mr John Murray, Clerk to Ampfield, would be prepared to audit the Council's accounts.

c) Clerk's salary

It was AGREED to increase the Clerk's salary in line with the recommendation of the Chairman.

16. AOBa) Councillor vacancy

It was noted that the closing date for a call for an election to replace Mandy Payne is 26th May. If there is not to be an election, the Council will advertise the position on the noticeboard and consider the appointment at its next meeting.

b) Planning applications

The Clerk was asked to circulate a copy of the 'top sheet' of applications considered outside meetings so that Councillors may see what others have written.

17. OPEN PERIOD

George Elliott mentioned the vandal issue and that he had raised it with the Police during their 'Wednesday' visit to the village.

He also raised the question of the consideration of the BKP gasification plant planning application and felt, on behalf of the Braishfield Village Association, that the matter could have been given far more publicity in the village using, for example, the noticeboards. He also said that there should be a public meeting, an opportunity to visit an operational site and that the Council should use an industrial chemist for advice. The matter should also have been raised at the Annual Parish Meeting.

There ensued a heated debate involving Meryl Balchin on what the Council should or should not have done. Chris Balchin, however, pointed out that the application may be re-submitted and asked what the Council is going to do in response to this.

18. DATES OF MEETINGS

The Clerk was asked to arrange for the next meeting to be held on 11th July 2006 owing to a number of Councillors being unable to attend the meeting scheduled for 27th June 2006.