

BRAISHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield
on Tuesday 16th October 2007

PRESENT:-

Mike Edwards (Chairman)
Kate Marshall
Simon Palmer
Carole Renvoize
Dorothy Ross
Andrew Lalonde (part time)
Martin Hatley (Borough Councillor) - part time

Apologies for absence were received from Mike Prince

69. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, it was proposed by Dorothy Ross, seconded by Kate Marshall, that Mike Edwards is appointed Chairman for this meeting. This was agreed unanimously.

70. MINUTES

AGREED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th September 2007 are signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the name of Simon Palmer being replaced with Mike Edwards in the list of those present.

71. WAR MEMORIAL

The Clerk has asked Blackwell and Moody to provide an insurance valuation of the War Memorial, for which there will be no charge.

The Clerk is obtaining a wreath from the British Legion for Remembrance Day.

72. ELECTRICITY INTERRUPTIONS

A letter has been received from Southern Electric acknowledging that there have been problems with the supply reliability and that there is a proposal to upgrade some of the high voltage spurs in the area.

73. REMEMBRANCE DAY

A letter has been received from the Mayor of Test Valley asking that the two minutes' silence is observed on November 11th and that Church bells are rung beforehand and afterwards.

74. HM QUEEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Carole Renvoize expressed interest in attending the wedding anniversary service in Stockbridge organised by the Mayor of Test Valley on 25th November.

75. VICTIM SUPPORT

The Clerk was asked to decline the request for a grant by Victim Support owing to the fact that the Council made a donation only last May.

76. POST OFFICE CLOSURES

The Clerk had circulated the website link in which it was stated that the Post Office at Woodley is to be retained.

77. SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE

The Clerk was asked to put a note in the newsletter about householders being able to claim a rebate for surface water drainage if all such water does not enter the sewer.

78. PLANNINGa) Applications pending or recent outcome

07/1429/CMAS	Ace Liftaway, Yokesford Hill	Storage of material and concrete crusher	Obj
07/1230/F	Upper Slackstead Farm, Upper Slackstead	Biomass fueled generator	Obj
07/1782/F	Hunters Lodge, Dores Lane	Replacement dwelling	Nobj Refused
07/2417/F	Meade Hill, Church Lane	Extension for utility room	Nobj
07/2250/F	Malthouse Farm	Alterations	Nobj

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

b) New Planning Applications

The Council commented on applications as follows:

07/2766/T	Braishfield House, Braishfield Road	Tree work	Objection owing to adverse effect on the street scene in a Conservation Area
07/2699/CLES	Spinney Corner, Church Lane	Change of use of agricultural land	No comment
07/2866/TPO	Cuilbeg, Braishfield Road	Tree work	No objection
07/2602/F	Little Grange, Braishfield Road	Extension	No objection
07/2853/F	2 The Square	Garage + study	No objection

c) Creating a Sustainable Village

Carole Renvoize and Dorothy Ross expressed interest in attending a seminar on 'Creating a Sustainable Village'.

d) Telegraph pole

The Clerk will write to TVBC concerning the siting of a telegraph pole in the footpath in Braishfield Road.

e) ACE Liftaway application

TVBC has responded to a query about noise by saying that the Council has been given incomplete information about the TVBC response to Hampshire County Council. As it appears that the application has not yet been determined, the Clerk was asked to write to HCC pointing out the comments made by TVBC.

f) Abbotswood

Mike Edwards attended a session held on 9th October on the Abbotswood development. The developer is arranging another broader consultation session over three days towards the end of October.

The site is being divided into a number of zones such as housing, conservation and community area. This latter one could have a Public House, supermarket and village hall. Concern was expressed at the provision of yet another village hall in the area, particularly as there is already one in Woodley. It was very surprising that as much as half the total area appeared to be devoted to conservation of the newts, with the 800 houses on the remainder of the site.

He raised a number of points at the meeting as follows:

There is no provision in the plan to provide a footpath north of the cemetery.

Overhead power lines will be buried, but only on the site itself. It was noted that Hilliers are thought to want to bury the lines which pass through the Arboretum. On this point, the Clerk was asked to ascertain the Hilliers' position on the lines.

Lighting should be of a type which minimises light pollution.

The developer is unlikely to make a contribution to the Braishfield playground as one is expected to be provided at Abbotswood.

The site would be the ideal location for a combined heat and power plant where there would be use for the heat, unlike the recent application at Slackstead.

g) Pucknall sign

Following a complaint by Sue Ransom, the Clerk was asked to write to the TVBC enforcement officer about the sign on the verge outside Pucknall Farm.

79. HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

a) Village 30

The Meeting considered whether to support the proposal for a 30mph speed limit and a brief report was given of the public meeting held on 18th September. A number of letters of objection have been received and these were noted. Several people have said orally that 30mph is not necessary.

It was noted that a survey of traffic speed at two points along Braishfield Road is being carried out and that the Police have recently been doing speed checks. There was discussion on the Crook Hill footpath, the possibility of 'advisory' limits and the effectiveness of the mobile warning sign. It was said that there was not much that could be done about lorries using the road through Braishfield.

The meeting was unanimously in favour of sending in a letter of support for the change to 30 mph.

b) Test Valley Passenger Transport Forum

Information relating to a meeting of the Test Valley Passenger Transport Forum on 30th October was given to Carole Renvoize.

c) Drainage

HCC's drain clearing policy was noted.

d) Highway maintenance

The Clerk was asked to write to HCC concerning the ditch blocked in Kiln Lane by cargo fallen from a farm vehicle.

80. FOOTPATHS AND POND

a) Footpaths

HCC has confirmed that Bridleway 11 has been cleared. Dorothy Ross confirmed that Footpaths 8 and 9 have been cut and that the stile near to the Crook stream is due to be repaired.

Disappointment was expressed that a villager had to 'attack' the path past Merrie Meade Farm with a saw and a scythe, but Dorothy Ross is trying to contact the Probation Service to set up a maintenance arrangement.

b) Pond

Kate Marshall reported that several villagers have said they did not like the Parish Council's response to the safety issue at the pond, saying that the rail on the dipping platform is far too low and should perhaps be twice the height.

It was agreed to wait for Mike Prince to comment on the situation. The Clerk suggested that the lifebelt should be the subject of a regular inspection.

81. RECREATION GROUND

a) Romsey Road Runners

The Clerk was asked to thank Romsey Road Runners for its donation of £40 for use of the Recreation Ground during the Braishfield run.

b) Playground

Kate Marshall reported that she has met another playground company, similar to the others she has seen, and will be seeing another next week. She intends to take designs to the school for comment.

The Playground inspection has not yet happened and the Clerk was asked to contact Wicksteed about repairing the swing seat, and also to speak to Dave Hillary about repairing the seat outside the playground.

c) Car park maintenance

Mike Edwards presented three quotations for work to the car park surface. It was agreed to accept the lowest quotation of £2437.38+VAT from GDM Ltd. Mike Edwards will inspect another area of the car park mentioned by Andrew Lalonde.

d) Newspaper Box

The Clerk was asked to arrange for Ben Kington to replace the broken paving slab in front of the newspaper box.

82. REPORT OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Mike Edwards said that the Village Hall has now received all the chairs and trollies it required.

83. REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Martin Hatley reported that the alternate bin collection system has raised the recycling level from 20% to nearer 35%, though TVBC's ultimate target is over 40%.

The South East Plan inquiry has decided on 3900 houses over the next twenty years for southern Test Valley. There is to be an increase of 600 houses in northern Test Valley, but these will go in the Andover area.

Though there was little to report on Fairbournes Farm, it was known that some discussions are taking place.

Martin Hatley confirmed that the speed limit sign would cost £2300 and approximately £700pa to operate and maintain.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Clerk to Ampfield Parish Council agreeing to share these costs.

84. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) AGREED that the following accounts are paid:

JBF Rhodes	Salary & expenses for September	£176.27
Information Commissioner	DP Act fee	£35.00

b) Bank Account

The Clerk reported that the bank account totals stand at £12357.00

85. OPEN PERIOD

During the open period there were several strong objections to the proposed 30mph speed limit, asking why the decision had to be made at this meeting and why not until after the speed data has been received. It was also said that it was difficult to compare five letter of objection and none in support with a show of hands at a public meeting.

Martin Hatley volunteered to find out if there was any connection between the proposal and the recent police activity in the village. The objectors were assured that there is still a planning process to go through before any final decision is made.

It was noted that the post box in Lower Street has disappeared after being vandalised.

86. DATES OF MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 6th November 2007.

The Clerk was asked to arrange for the January meeting to be on 15th January if possible.