

BRAISHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield
on Tuesday 3rd September 2013

PRESENT:-

Mike Prince (Chairman)
Mike Edwards
Clive John
Beverley Murtagh
Dorothy Ross
Peter White
Martin Hatley (Borough Councillor)

Apologies for absence were received from Carole Renvoize

207. MINUTES

Agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th July 2013 are signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

208. FIRE HYDRANTS

It was noted that Nick John and others of Southern Water will be attending the next Meeting to discuss the repositioning of some fire hydrants resulting from the water main replacement work.

209. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It was agreed not to make a contribution towards the Romsey Christmas lights as requested by Romsey Town Council. Martin Hatley explained that the TVBC decision to withdraw funding for the lights was related to the new Andover Town Council asking to take responsibility for Andover's Christmas lights. He said there was disappointment at the lack of involvement by the Romsey Chamber of Commerce.

210. WATER MAIN

Although the issue of replacing the water main in Eldon Lane had been raised earlier, this is no longer a matter of concern.

211. PLANNING

a) Applications pending or recent outcome

13/01240/PDJS	Blackthorn House, Blackthorn Close	Change to residential	Obj	Approval not required
13/01269/FULLS	Merrie Meade Farm, Church Lane	Change of use of land to residential	Nobj	
13/01227/FULLS	8 Common Hill Road	Side extension	Nobj	
13/01221/FULLS	Deal Cottage, Newport Lane	Replacement garage	Nobj	Permission

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

b) New Planning Applications

The Council considered new planning applications as follows:

13/01744/LBWS	3 Pond Cottages, Braishfield Road	Replacement windows	No objection
---------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------	--------------

c) Paddock for sale

The Clerk was asked to ascertain the ownership of Fernhill Lane which provides vehicular access to a paddock which is now for sale. He will also research the ownership of the unadopted extension of Church Lane up to Merrie Meade Farm.

212. HIGHWAYS AND ROAD SAFETY

a) Drainage works

The Clerk was thanked for his role in persuading Hampshire County Council not to close the road for drainage works at Crook Hill.

The Clerk was asked to find out from Southern Water if the water main is to be replaced at Crook Hill.

b) Transport Forum

Notes of the last Transport Forum have been received.

c) Overgrown verges

Peter White raised the matter of overgrown verges along Dore Lane in Hursley Parish. He volunteered to report this on the HCC website.

213. POND

Owing to the present low level of the pond, Mike Prince will consider topping it up.

214. FOOTPATHS

Nothing to report.

215. RECREATION GROUND

a) Playground surface

Katie Hardy reported on the playground surface grant applications. Viridor has offered £10,500 and if there is a shortfall in the amount requested from TVBC then it would be possible to go back to Viridor and ask for an increase. It is hoped that the offer from TVBC will be raised from the £3639 promised by them. There is no Section 106 available from Hill View yet. A black rubber surface will cost £17000 + VAT. Martin Hatley said that he might be able to provide a small contribution from his Borough Councillor's allowance.

The Council agreed the payment of £1063 to register the project with Entrust and that Katie Hardy may sign the Entrust registration document.

b) School tree boundary

Katie Hardy also reported on the School tree boundary which the School would like to see reduced. She is due to meet TVBC in the next two weeks for a site inspection concerning the trees after which a plan of action will be put to TVBC. The trees are in a Conservation Area.

c) Pavilion

The Clerk said that he has met with our Solicitor and has now received a draft of the pavilion lease, which he will circulate to Councillors. He was asked to establish responsibility for the sewage pipe across the Recreation Ground as he did not consider this lay with the Parish Council. The lease needs to have easements for mains water and drainage.

d) Cycle rack

Mike Edwards explained that a simple wall mounted 'fork' would be unsatisfactory owing to the likelihood of damage to a cycle's wheel. A better arrangement would be a 'Sheffield' rack mounted in the ground. Martin Hatley suggested that Section 106 money from any affordable housing could be used to fund the racks and that TVBC Commercial Services might provide a quotation for provide and fit.

Mike Edwards volunteered to investigate the siting of the racks and the cost of providing them.

216. PCSO Jo COLE

PCSO Jo Cole gave a short report in which she said there have not been too many problems in the rural areas lately, particularly as there have been no oil thefts for a while. However there have been a number of thefts of metal signs in Mottisfont and also Timsbury. No matters of concern were raised with her at the meeting.

217. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Martin Hatley apologised for the absence of a TVBC Housing Officer at the Meeting who would have contributed to any debate on Affordable Housing.

He raised the matter of Borough Councils selling copies of electoral registers, a topic which has been aired in the press. He explained that Councils did not sell and are not allowed to sell full copies of the register. It is illegal to make copies of this register except by handwritten notes. This full register is made available to restricted organisations such as political parties, the police, credit reference agencies and Parish Councils.

However, electors must decide on the electoral registration forms by means of a tick whether or not they wish to be on the 'edited' version of the register. Councils are obliged by law to make the edited version available at a price to those who request it.

Following on from Jo Cole's remarks about the theft of metal signs, he said that there was concern about the scrap metal business and that there are proposals to license scrap merchants.

He mentioned the planning proposal for six gypsy pitches off the A3090 to the west of Ampfield just before the straight mile. Beverley Murtagh suggested that members of the public ought to be educated in how to make valid planning objections.

He agreed to look at his programme of Meetings to see which day would best suit his attendance at Braishfield Parish Council Meetings.

218. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) AGREED that the following accounts are paid:

JBF Rhodes	Salary & expenses July and August	£149.29
BDO LLP	Audit fee	£120.00
Southern Water	Charges	£6.08
HMRC	2nd Quarter payment	£123.60
Katie Hardy	Salary	£103.00
Viridor Waste Management	Entrust fee	£1063.20

b) Bank accounts

The Clerk reported that after approval of the above invoices, there is £9547.29 in the two bank accounts.

c) 2012/13 Audit

The external audit has been carried out by BDO LLP without any comments.

d) Lloyds Bank

The branch of Lloyds Bank used by the Parish Council in Romsey will be part of the new TSB bank in future.

219. OPEN PERIOD

The open period was dominated by a very long discussion on the proposed affordable housing in Braishfield. The current proposal is for housing on a site between the Wheatsheaf PH old caravan field and the line of the main gas pipe on the east side of Braishfield Road.

Mike Prince said that the Parish Council has not yet made up its mind on the proposal and that it is obliged to consult the public. This consultation has been done by TVBC and has been analysed by Community Action Hampshire. It was hoped there would be room for the reports which have been received to go in the next issue of the Braishfield Village News, ideally so that villagers will see them before the next Council meeting on 1st October. In the meantime, the Clerk will put the reports on the Council's website. He noted that the housing proposal contained 2/3 bedroom houses whereas the TVBC 'needs' report states the demand is for 1/2 bedroom properties.

Members of the public present raised numerous queries and concerns. The poll was regarded as low at 38, there was nothing in the TVBC report about renting versus shared equity and that a demand of only eleven Braishfield properties in the TVBC list is no argument for building nine properties. The construction of 320 affordable houses at Abbotswood surely reduced the need for a few houses just a mile or two away in Braishfield. Those wanting to be near family and friends in Braishfield would not be too far away if housed at Abbotswood.

There was a request for a public meeting to discuss the reports with a date announcing this in the Braishfield Village News. In view of the apparent imminence of a planning application, it was considered that the whole process is being rushed and that there really ought to be a pre-planning application. The imminent planning application only hardened the feeling that the process is being rushed. The Parish Council ought to see any pre-planning application design and that if there is a subsequent design change, then another public meeting would need to be held to discuss this. It was felt that the public still needs to discuss the need for affordable housing and the site suggested by the Parish Council. Dislike of the current site was expressed.

Martin Hatley said he had no objection to another exhibition on the proposal, but Planning Officers will not attend public discussion meetings as they sometimes become too heated. He will make enquiries within TVBC about what planning stage has been reached and also on the possibility of having another exhibition.

He said that to approve an application for a rural exception site for affordable housing, the planning authority will need to look at the need, number and mix of housing. It would also consider the style and the Village Design Statement, and he made the point that the access road would not be adoptable.

It was agreed that Martin Hatley will make his enquiries within TVBC and report back to Mike Prince who will consider further dates for meetings/exhibition to deal with affordable housing.

Other matters were raised in the open period. These included the general poor quality of the road surface between the Dog & Crook PH right up to the chicane near Orchard Lodge. Also, the hedges in Newport Lane and on Braishfield Road between Wyndhams and Manor Cottage need cutting. In addition, the Kiln Lane street sign near Fairbourne Cottage needs repainting. The Clerk was asked to report this sign to TVBC and write to Mr Dunn about the Braishfield Road hedge.

It was asked that the draft Minutes of Meetings could be published on the Council's website.

It was mentioned that a meeting has been arranged with Julia Scoggins about boundary fencing and that a Village Hall response on the cycle rack issue will be fed back to the Parish Council by Mike Edwards.

It was also mentioned that the Village Hall Show in November will require the car park to be free of the water contractor's vehicles.

220. DATES OF MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 1st October 2013 at 7.00pm.