

# BRAISHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall, Braishfield on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 8pm

## Present

### Braishfield Parish Councillors:

Mike Prince (Chairman)

John Bevan

Richard Brazier

Clive John

Carole Renvoize

Peter White

### Others:

Parish Clerk: Kate Orange

Borough Councillor : Martin Hatley

County Councillor : Alan Dowden

Guest Speaker: Gail Allen of Age Concern Hampshire

Parishioners: 11 residents attended

## 8. Apologies

Vice-chairman of Braishfield Parish Council, Mike Edwards, sent his apologies.

## 9. Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman of Braishfield Parish Council

Mike Prince welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

## 10. Presentation by Gail Allen of Age Concern Hampshire

Gail Allen introduced the Village Agent scheme from Age Concern. The project is supported by Hampshire County Council and was founded in 2011.

Older people often prefer to receive information face-to-face and this where Village Agents can be of assistance. 12 volunteer were trained in the first year and there are now 48 across Hampshire. Rural Test Valley has only 5 agents.

Village Agents are trained to “sign-post” information and details of local services. Examples of queries answered include: where to have clothes altered, how to get birds from chimneys, and details of transport. Age Concern run an information and advice service as a back-up for Village Agent volunteers.

Prospective volunteers undergo in-depth training, a security check and will require

references. Any interested parties are invited to get in touch with Gail via Age Concern. Leaflets were available at the meeting.

11. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014

The minutes were agreed.

Peter White noted that there was a matter arising from the previous meeting (item 6) the surface water drainage was still poor on Dores Lane. Alan Dowden will look into the matter and prompt the relevant department.

12. Chairman's Report

Chairman's Report on Braishfield Parish Council was presented by Mike Prince and a copy is attached to these minutes.

13. Reports from our Borough and County Councillors

Martin Hatley and Alan Dowden circulated their reports and copies are attached to these minutes. They answered some queries from electors:

Alan Dowden confirmed that section 106 money (specifically arising from Abbotswood for the footpath on Braishfield Road) will be available relatively late in the construction phase of the project (after the occupation of the 600<sup>th</sup> dwelling) because the developer needs to fund the contribution through the sale of houses.

Martin Hatley discussed the former brewery site in the centre of Romsey. It is not possible for Test Valley Borough Council to compulsorily purchase the site at the moment because the developer undertakes sufficient building to satisfy the rules.

Martin Hatley confirmed that School Lane will be closed at the Braishfield Road end and footpaths will be extended.

It is understood that Michelmersh and Timsbury will be provided with superfast broadband before Braishfield.

Mike Prince congratulated Martin Hatley on being re-elected.

Martin Hatley congratulated the Ampfield/Braishfield Ward for having the highest election turn-out for the fourth consecutive time at 83%.

14. Open period and questions

A parishioner noted that the wild-flowers in the roadside verges have been cut down, and asked who is responsible for cutting the verges. Martin Hatley responded that it is done to reduce the risk of road accidents. Some verges are the responsibility of Hampshire County Council, and others are maintained by Test Valley Borough Council. Where specific wild-flowers are known to be present, the County Council can be notified.

# **BRAISHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **CHAIRMANS' REPORT**

At the Annual Meeting of Braishfield Parish Council held on the 6th May 2014, Mike Prince was re-elected as Chairman and Mike Edwards was re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Parish Council for all their hard work during the year.

There were changes in the membership of the Council during the year following the resignation of Dorothy Ross. This prompted a call for a bi-election which failed to produce more than one candidate, therefore Wendy Dolby-Stevens was elected unopposed to the Council. Wendy decided to stand down from the council in May and I wish to thank both Dorothy and Wendy for their service to the Council.

**The four year term of the Parish Council ended in May 2015 and again a call made for an election. 9 candidates stood for the 7 positions on the Council and as the election took place at the same time as the General and Borough Elections the turnout was very high, over 80%, and the results were:-**

<b>Mike Prince</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Carole Renvoize</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Mike Edwards</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Richard Brazier</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>Elected</b>
<b>John Bevan</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Clive John</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Peter White</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>Elected</b>
<b>Beverley Murtagh</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>Not Elected</b>
<b>Mike Stubbs</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>Not Elected</b>

As a result of the above, two new members were elected to the Parish Council, Richard Brazier and John Bevan, and I welcome them to the Council. I take this opportunity to thank Beverly for her service to the Council.

The Clerk to the Council, Kate Orange, has completed her first year and I wish to thank her stewardship of the Council in ensuring that we operate within the rules laid down by Central Government.

## **PLANNING**

The Council has continued to monitor all the planning applications submitted to TVBC that are either within the Parish or effect the Parish, and made comments when appropriate.

**The plans for the 9 Affordable Houses on land in Braishfield Road were, following objections from the Parish Council, reviewed by the applicant, and at the meeting of TVBC Southern Area Planning Committee, with our support, were approved and building has now commenced.**

**Plans have been submitted for Outline Planning Permission to convert the Newport Inn into a 4 bedroom house and to build 2 more 4 bedroom houses on the site. The decision from TVBC is awaited.**

### **HIGHWAYS**

We continue to monitor the condition of the roads and pavements within the Parish and report any problems to HCC.

The ongoing issue of a footpath from the roundabout to the Dog and Crook is slowly progressing. We had a presentation from Hillier's Arboretum following the installation of the deer fencing, when they advised of their plans to relocate footpath 1a, to a new path from the entrance of the Garden's along the roads to the Roundabout and then on to Crook Farm, this to partly funded by S106 money from Abbotswood. The extension to the Dog and Crook will be dealt with at the same time.

### **RECREATION GOUND**

**The lease with the Football Club is progressing and I thank Peter for negotiating on behalf of the Council.**

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

**Once again my thanks to the fellow members of the Parish Council and their service to the community throughout this year.**

**I wish to thank Dorothy, Beverley and Wendy for their service to the Parish, and we will miss their valued input and help and the female perspective on issues concerning Braishfield.**

**I also wish to thank Councillors Hatley and Dowden for their help throughout the year.**

### **PRECEPT**

The Parish Council Precept has increased this year by 6% and the Police by 2%. HCC, TVBC and Hampshire Fire and Rescue were unchanged. The figures for Band D in Braishfield for 2015/16 are as follows, with 2014/15 in brackets.

	2015/16	2014/15	change
Hampshire County Council	£1037.88	(£1037.88)	0.0%
Hampshire Police Authority	£ 157.33	(£ 154.26)	2.0%
Hampshire Fire and Rescue	£ 61.38	(£ 61.38)	0.0%
Test Valley Borough Council	£ 126.41	(£ 126.41)	0.0%
Braishfield Parish Council	£ 33.03	(£ 31.16)	6.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1416.03</b>	<b>(£1411.09)</b>	<b>0.4%</b>

**Mike Prince  
Chairman**

# **'END OF TERM REPORT' - Borough Councillor**

## **Martin Hatley**

I have been your Borough Councillor for the last 20 years and remain Deputy Leader of Test Valley Borough Council and the Planning Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation.

Before I talk about the Borough's plans for the future, I would first like to begin by highlighting some of the key successes over the past four years. Back in 2011 we were determined to focus our efforts four major topics, which were basically;

- The local economy.
- Our communities.
- **Our natural and built environment.**
- **Access to decent homes.**

**As part of our work to achieve these goals we have:**

- **Introduced numerous new Grants to Incentivize Businesses and continued to win awards for our work..**
- **Introduced long stay parking at Romsey Rapids to free-up short stay parking for visitors and shoppers and improved and enhanced many areas around the town.**
- **Commenced a project to provide a new kiosk for Romsey War Memorial Park.**
- **Invested in the Hampshire Superfast Broadband project, which will be rolled out to 90 per cent of premises across Hampshire by the end of 2015.**
- **Exceeded our target of delivering 800 affordable homes across the borough.**
- Seen outstanding cross party working to get things done that matter most to residents and encourage communities to do more for themselves. This work attracted national exposure through the Keep it Real programme.
- Established a dedicated Community Team to support councillors.
- Invested more than £400,000 to offer communities funding support through the Community Asset Fund and Councillor Community Grants.
- Launched the successful Love Where You Live and Recycling Stars campaigns.
- Achieved Green Flag Awards each year for our parks and open spaces.
- And finally, we were one of just 120 areas selected across the country to develop an Our Place project in Romsey, which will progress as part of Romsey Future, which I chair.

**The past four years have been filled with challenges, but more importantly, with successes. There are many other achievements I could list but rather than dwell on the past, today is about looking to the future.**

**We have called our new corporate plan for 2015 to 2019 'Investing in Test Valley'.**

While local government cuts continue to bite, Investing in Test Valley might seem a surprising title for our corporate plan. However, our ambition to be an investing council is about more than simply dividing up pounds and pence; instead it is about devoting our energy, skills and resources to achieving the best results for our communities.

We have spoken with our residents and reviewed statistical information and government policy to determine where to focus our efforts. Our goal is to do the best we can with what we have and make sure the borough is a great place to:

- **Work** and do business
- **Live**, with the supply of homes reflecting local needs
- **Enjoy** the natural and built environment
- **And contribute and be part of a strong community**

**There are the issues which must drive our policies and activities.**

**Under each of these aims we have developed a series of goals and ambitions. Although I don't plan to list all of these, I will take this opportunity to touch on just a few.**

**We will continue to support and strengthen the local economy by developing practical initiatives in partnership with the business community to help small businesses.**

**We will support the delivery of superfast broadband and enhance our business parks as locations that meet commercial demands.**

Our town centre environments will improve, making the most of their market town heritage.

We plan to deliver a new housing strategy to set out a new housing offer to improve the provision of local homes that reflect local needs.

We will continue to focus on delivering affordable homes and ensuring new developments meet the highest quality standards with the homes they provide and the environment they create.

We will make sure our existing parks, nature reserves and recreational spaces continue to meet high standards and the needs of our residents. Some of the main areas of work include delivery of a new nature reserve at Fishlake Meadows and the **letting of a new leisure management contract in 2017.**

**We will also begin redevelopment of Andover Leisure Centre and put forward plans to enhance Romsey Rapids during the lifetime of the plan.**

**We will continue to work closely with our residents and equip councillors with the resources they need to support their local communities, and I am pleased to say that the Community Asset Fund and Councillor Community Grant schemes will continue.**

We will also help our communities to become more self sufficient by encouraging them to develop their own action plans and initiatives.

We will review and develop our Waste Strategy with an aim to increase recycling and reduce household waste.

These are just a few of the goals set out in the Corporate Plan. The specific actions that we will take forward against each of the priorities will be included in the Corporate Action Plan, which cabinet will consider in June.

I have no doubt that the coming years will prove as challenging, if not more challenging, than those we have already endured. But we shall meet the challenges we face with a determination to succeed.

**I am proud to live in Test Valley, and in particular within the ward of Ampfield and Braishfield, and together, we will ensure that our ward and borough continue to go from strength to strength.**

**I will continue to attend every parish council meeting I can, and will always remain readily available and will pop along to meet you face to face if you have a problem. Just email me [cllrnhatley@testvalley.org.uk](mailto:cllrnhatley@testvalley.org.uk) or phone me on 07970 501050 or 02380 254040.**

**Finally I wish the new Braishfield Parish Council every success and I look forward to working together with it, as I have done all previous Parish Councils.**

May 2015

## **Baddesley division County Councillors 2015 Annual Report**

Hampshire County Council will need to find another £100 million of savings during 2015-2017. This is as a result of reduced government funding because of the continuing severity of the nation's finances. This will equate to a further 14% reduction in departments budgets over the next two years. The previous savings achieved were somewhat easier by reducing the cost of back office services and functions, a strategy that worked to prevent cuts to frontline services. However, over the next two years we will see Hampshire County Council frontline services cut to meet the transformation targets set by the administration. There is no denying that this next phase of cuts is going to be much tougher than before and people will notice the difference. There will be **a noticeable reduction in services that Hampshire County Council provides..**

**Crucial to the success of Transformation to 2017, will be the ongoing success of the financial platform developed through the Integrated Business Centre.**

**This will enable the County Council to be a national leader in the provision of shared services something that I have always supported.**

**As a result of the reduced funding we have witnessed cuts to bus services, some services either withdrawn or reduced throughout Hampshire.**

**The loss of the Hampshire County Council Accredited Community Safety Officers, will undoubtedly be noticed by the public. Previously anti-social behaviour problems were a major problem within many areas of the Baddesley division. The ACSO's were successful in dramatically reducing such behaviour after I requested their presence to patrol our areas.**

Hampshire County Council with unanimous support of all political parties sent a strong message to the coalition Government seeking that it wants more powers and funding devolved to democratically elected local government at County, district and parish level in England. The shire areas of England were **very important to the nation- contributing around £203 billion per annum in terms of Gross Value Added. The County are seeking more powers back from unelected agencies.**

**Since the 2013/14 winter period Hampshire's contractors Amey have been working hard to repair the damage to our roads inflicted by the weather.** Hampshire did gain the accolade of being the top performing authority in the country for highways maintenance in 2014 National Highways and Transport public satisfaction survey. There are still many areas that need attention. I and my opposition colleagues believe the County Council will need to concentrate more to improve the pavement areas within the County before the public will be entirely satisfied that is why we allocated more in our alternative budget to rectify the situation.

The County Council have invested extensively in support of Superfast Broadband and now 96% of premises in the County have access to this facility.

**The County have been awarded £3.1 million to invest in a digital strategy to help transform, modernise and secure sustainable public services across Hampshire for the future. This investment will help the County Council to implement new ways of working digitally, to support the redesign and transformation of services so they match people's expectations for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

**The County Council's capital programme which represents 876 million over the next four years 2014/18 will build and improve long-term assets that position Hampshire as a great place to live and to work now and in the future.** The budget includes £281 million to build 11,300 new school places to ensure a place for every child. This is an expenditure that is urgently required with many parents unable to gain access to their local schools. The opposition at the County Council have been highlighting this problem for a number of years. Hampshire school children are achieving well above the national average in exam results and the pupils, teachers and staff should be congratulated.

I would like to thank the Social Services Director and her team for finding different and innovative ways of providing social care in order to manage an ever increasing workload with a further 14% cut in funding availability..

**Over the last twelve months I have been able to support many of the community organisations within my division from my Community Grant**

**funding allowance. These are organisations who work for the community as volunteers.**

Once again the Coalition Government have built in the Council Tax freeze Grant in order to encourage councils not to raise Council Tax. I am pleased to announce that Hampshire County Council have agreed unanimously to seek no more additional tax from the residents of Hampshire. Therefore the Council Tax for Hampshire County Council will remain at £1037.88p for a Band 'D' property.

HCC Cllr Alan Dowden

**Baddesley division**