

# Minutes of Braishfield Annual Parish Meeting

(The Annual Parish Meeting is also known as the APA  
Annual Parish Assembly)

Minutes of the Meeting of Electors held in

Braishfield Church Rooms

3rd May 2022 8pm – 9.25pm

Present:

Members of Braishfield Parish Council    Others:

Cllr Chairman Jane Bennett  
Cllr Vice-chairman Ian Knights  
Cllr Richard Brazier  
Cllr Peter Quarenden  
Cllr Carole Renvoize  
Cllr Peter White  
Cllr Sally Yalden

County Cllr Alan Dowden  
Borough Cllr Martin Hatley  
Clerk/RFO Jane Ray  
5 electors

## 71. Apologies

None

## 72. Introduction

Chairman of Braishfield Parish Council, Cllr Jane Bennett welcomed those present, introduced all the councillors, Cllr Alan Dowden (Hampshire County Council), Cllr Martin Hatley (Test Valley Borough Council), PCSO Marie Stubbington and Members of the Parish Council. Cllr Bennett gave congratulations to Cllr Dowden on his forthcoming appointment as Mayor of Test Valley.

## 73. Accuracy of Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

## 74. Chairman's Report on Braishfield Parish Council

A copy is attached to these Minutes. Cllr Renvoize thanked Chairman Jane Bennett for all her hard work and commented on the lack of villagers present. Ian Jeffery thanked all the Councillors for their work and commitment to the village.

75. Report from PCSO Marie Stubbington

Marie thanked Braishfield for the warm welcome she has received since moving here last year. She is based in Romsey and covers 24 local villages. Her full report is attached.

76. Reports on specific parish matters

**a) Planning:**

**Village Design Statement**

The document has been adopted by Test Valley Borough Council and will be printed once some of the photos have been updated and improved.

**Neighbourhood Plan**

Parishioners will have the opportunity to vote in a survey to decide whether a Neighbourhood Plan is appropriate for the village. Details will be provided in the next edition of the Village News.

**Local Plan**

Comments were made by the Parish Council during the first round of consultation.

**b) Hampshire Highways:**

**Speed Radar**

A traffic survey recently took place at two sites in the Village:

Braishfield Road – 65% vehicles exceed 30mph

Common Hill Road – 45% vehicles exceed 30mph.

A portable traffic radar has been purchased and will be placed in three different locations around the Village.

**c) Resilience Plan:**

The Council are reviewing new ways of dealing with Resilience planning and attending workshops hosted by Test Valley.

**d) Climate Change:**

Cllr Yalden spoke and her report is attached to these Minutes. Cllr Renvoize commented how nice it was to see younger members of the community involved with this and that the Climate Change Group is part of the Parish Council.

**e) Recreation Ground:**

The Climate Group have organized litter picks and are working with the school to reduce the amount of litter dropped.

77. Report from our County Councillor Alan Dowden

Cllr Dowden gave his report and a copy is attached to the Minutes.

78. Report from our Borough Councillor, Martin Hatley  
Cllr Hatley gave his report and a copy is attached to the Minutes
79. Electors' Open Period and Questions  
Carole Renvoize spoke about the amazing response from the village to the Ukraine crisis and the support group which has been set up to support refugees and host families.

Signed:

Date:

## **Chairman's Report on Braishfield Parish Council – May 2022**

### Introduction

I would like to thank all the Braishfield Councillors, Cllr Martin Hatley and Cllr Alan Dowden for their hard work and commitment and in addition, all the volunteers who have contributed to the success of our working groups. I would also like to say how pleased we were to welcome Peter Quarendon to the Council.

Special thanks to Jane as Clerk who has been a real asset to the Council and is now about to train for her CILCA qualification.

### The Council and the Village

The Council and volunteers have supported the village from the outset of the pandemic. In addition to The Pantry playing such an important part in “supply and deliver” and the Social Contact group, Braishfield volunteers were also on the Unity list so we have all done our best to keep everyone safe. As a special thank you, Unity volunteers have been invited for Afternoon Tea at the Romsey Town Hall.

### **Remembrance commemorations**

In 2021 we joined again with All Saints and the United Reformed churches for the Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial with the event being organized by All Saints and the Council to ensure all Covid-19 guidelines were met. We were pleased to have the Scouts, Brownies and Braishfield School there who contributed by displaying pebbles and poppies around the War Memorial.

The Remembrance Day commemorations were led by the Parish Council.

### **Carols on the Rec**

We organised Carols on the Rec in conjunction with All Saints' church and also the support of the Village Hall and The Pantry. We were pleased to have over 150 attending, the Happy Fryer serving fish and chips and the Chandlers Ford BB Brass Band playing resulting in the

sum of £215.25 for Action for Children.

### **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

The party will be held on the Recreation Ground from 1pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June being organised by the BVA, Social Contact Chair and the Parish Council. Everyone is welcome.

### **Flags**

We are very grateful to Tim Howkins and Mike Knowles for raising and lowering the flags as agreed by the Council and organised by Cllr Richard Brazier. The Ukrainian flags are now part of our schedule and are welcomed by the refugees who are now living in our village.

### **Communications**

The Council website is the main communication point which is kept up to date by our Clerk, and where all the latest information can be found. This not only includes meeting agendas and minutes but links to emergency numbers. Facebook is also used when direct contact is required.

We work together with the Braishfield Village Association using the Braishfield Village News and Network as very good communication channels.

### **Grants/ Contributions**

We applied for a Community Asset Fund grant in January for repairs to the play area and we have been successful in our bid for £22,500, just awaiting for final confirmation.

We were pleased to receive a grant of £433 for the printing costs of the VDS from Cllr Hatley.

The Parish Council has been promised a contribution of £1000 towards village Notice Boards from Braishfield Village Association when the work is completed.

The Parish Council awarded grants of:

- £1027.21 to All Saints PCC for the expenditure on the Burial Ground
- £50 to Victim Support
- £175 towards the costs for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

### **Planning**

The Council continues to have a planning committee under the chairmanship of Cllr Richard Brazier who also continues to lead on the allocation of s106/ CIL money.. We have resumed site visits and review applications in line with the Village Design Statement (VDS) for both current and retrospective applications.

In November 2021, a Neighbourhood Plan presentation was given by Sarah Hughes, TVBC to the Council and parishioners.

In December 2021, Paul Jackson, Head of Planning (now retired), gave a very informative presentation to the Councillors and the Clerk.

Under the chairmanship of Jimmy Chestnutt, the VDS was revised and submitted to TVBC. We were informed by TVBC in March 2022 that the revised Braishfield Village Design Statement was adopted by the Test Valley Borough Council Cabinet. The document received compliments from many of the Members on the quality and content of the document.

We again thank Jimmy and his team for all the work they have done for the benefit of our village.

Comments on the Local Plan were made by the Council to TVBC in April 2022.

## Roads, Highways, Footpaths and Notice Boards

### **Traffic**

The Parish Council commissioned HCC Highways team to undertake a traffic speed monitoring exercise on both Braishfield Road and Common Hill.

As a result of the data collected during this exercise, it was decided to invest in a movable speed signage system that will be located at strategic points in the Village during 2022.

### **Footpaths**

The Parish Council has designed a large footpath map and two of these are being placed within the village to assist walkers.

Unfortunately, due to changes in staffing at HCC, it has not been possible to progress the issue of replacing stiles with gates on any footpaths within the Parish.

### **Church sign**

All Saints' church requested a sign to the Church from the main road towards the pond. It was agreed that the cost be split between the Parish Council and the Church and with thanks to Cllr Renvoize it was soon in place.

### **Notice Boards**

The repairs on the Notice Boards are nearly complete and we thank all those who have been involved in their renovation.

## Lengthsman Scheme

This scheme provides us with access to a handyman who can undertake minor tasks under our direction. This scheme continues to work well.

## Climate Change

The group was set up by Cllr Sally Yalden working well alongside the Council with regular meetings being held with other groups in the village and community including Braishfield School, Romsey 3<sup>rd</sup> Scouts and Braishfield Bees Football Club.

The group has taken forward Litter Picks, The Queen's Green Canopy Tree Planting, Wildflower planting and Electric charging points.

## Community Resilience

The emergency planning group includes the Parish Council and 4 volunteers from the wider community. Its focus is to respond to any emergency in the village whether caused by extreme weather or by failures of infrastructure. We had been successful in our grant application to SSE and they agreed to fund 50% of a generator together with associated costs. Due to the pandemic this was placed on hold and since revisited and the grant repaid. We have been attending TVBC Resilience meetings and have another this week which will assist us in our future decision – making for the requirements of our village population.

## Recreation Ground

The Recreation Ground is one of the major responsibilities of the Council which is sole trustee. We have continued to ensure that the trees, equipment and the car park are kept to a high standard thus satisfying health and safety regulations.

We are making good progress with the Football Club lease which Cllr Richard Brazier is leading and this should soon be finalized.

We replaced the fence on the far side having consulted with the owners of the field adjacent to the Recreation Ground.

When the TVBC inspection of the play area was carried out last August, the basket swing was condemned and removed due to rotten timber frame in the ground. The inspector also informed the Council that the dual swing might not pass another inspection and that the safety mat was becoming a liability.

We applied for a Community Asset Fund grant in January which included a community consultation giving evidence of support in the community. Our fundraising page raised £1,355 in donations from very generous residents.

We are pleased to advise that the Council has been successful in its bid and we are awaiting final confirmation.

As a result, the swings will be replaced soon, and a new piece of equipment (a train) is arriving, being financed from a previous grant application.

### War Memorial

The Council is also sole trustee for the War Memorial and at the present time we have a surveyor regularly monitoring the movement of the memorial.

To sum up, there has been a lot going on in Braishfield and I would again like to express my thanks to everyone who has given their time and support. As always, there is more to do, and we look forward to another year of challenges.

Cllr Jane Bennett  
Chairman, Braishfield Parish Council

### **Baddesley Division Annual Report 2022/23**

This is my 31<sup>st</sup> year as your County Councillor. I serve on the Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee, and I am a member of the Hampshire Pension Fund **County Councillor's**

Committee and Board

Waste and recycling are going to change. The New Government Environment Bill sets out changes for waste management. In October 2021, a **Joint Municipal Waste Strategy** was agreed by **Project Integra**, The County Council lead this with 14 local Borough, District & Unitary Councils. They agreed

An entire system, approach

- Commit to a Twin-Stream for dry recyclables
- Reduce contamination across all waste streams
- Increase reuse of bulky waste
- Improve service performance and delivery

- Improve communications

The Borough Councils are responsible for the collection of waste, and the County are responsible for the disposal of waste. They are required to put in place a way to dispose of weekly collected Food waste. Until this is completed there is slow progress towards the above. I will update residents as it occurs.

My Parish Council have applied for a trial of a “**20 mph is Plenty Zone**” on a road through our Parish, which passes two primary schools and a leisure centre. Any Parish can get involved in this campaign information is on the web. If Braishfield feel that it would benefit from such a zoned area, it may be worth applying to the County Council. Many other Parishes have already done so.

In July 2021 the Prime Minister announced that he wished to reorganise Local Authorities. **The County Council attempted to set out a new plan of different responsibilities for each tier of local government, with themselves gaining more control. The Districts, Boroughs and Unitary authorities were not prepared to accept the New Deal as it was first proposed, and they are in negotiations with the County Council.**

The Hampshire County Council tax will increase by 2.99% resulting in the precept rising to £1390.86p for a Band “D” property. | Local Authorities expected to be fully recompensed for all their Covid Expenditure. This however did not materialise. Most authorities were only funded for about 60% of their overall costs. £61.7million will need to be drawn from Council County reserve funds to balance this year’s budget. The Leader himself Cllr Mans who is stepping down in May admitted without more government funding the long-term viability of this council is at risk.

The Governments Levelling Up White Paper aimed at tackling regional inequality, has been published promising improvements in education, broadband, transport and more. However, it is difficult how any of this will be achieved without any extra funding.

During the last twelve months I have allocated all my community funding allocation to various group organisations, including parish councils, within my division.

*Alan G Dowden*

County Cllr for Baddesley Division

Borough Cllr for Valley Park Ward

Chairman of Valley Park Parish Council

Deputy Mayor *TVBC*