

**BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY MAY 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 AT 7.30 PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Present: Cllr Hitchins (chairman), Cllr Cane, Cllr Wills, Cllr Gray, Cllr White, Cllr Jessop, Cllr Murch, Cllr Oates**

**Apologies: Cllrs Hart, Martin and the Police**

**There were 6 members of the public in attendance plus District Cllr John Squire and the Clerk.**

**Cllr Hitchins welcomed our four guest speakers for the evening.**

**Before the formal events of the evening, the Chairman expressed her thanks to all those that had been involved in making the Olympic Torch day and the Queens Jubilee week end such great successes in the village. The Olympic Torch run has put Brixton ‘on the map’, thanks to the BBC cameras and the village was ‘full to capacity’ with well wishers. The Jubilee week end exceeded our expectations and even the poor weather could not dampen the village spirit. Whilst thanks are due to so many, the chairman selected three names for particular mention namely: Ellie Landracombe, Steven Cane and Debbie White.**

**1. Approval of Minutes from the last Annual Meeting.**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011 had been circulated to all councillors. Cllr Cane proposed and Cllr Wills seconded that they be signed as an accurate record of the meeting. Approved by all present.

**2. The role of the South Hams District Council Link Officer. Mr Graham Swiss**

Graham told us that this was a new role within SHDC. His remit covers the ‘cluster’ of South Hams West and at present is the only area to have a Link Officer. This is a part time role with the equivalent hours of one day per week and it is a ‘pilot’ scheme of one year’s duration to establish the benefits. The task is to improve the relationships between village/town councils and SHDC and to support and compliment the work of the District Councillors. Regular feedback is required to the SHDC officers. He expects to build up a relationship such that the balance within the cluster moves away from the current dominance of Ivybridge.

The next Cluster meeting is on July 16<sup>th</sup> and he is going to ask if Yealmpton will host this meeting. Graham explained the new TAP fund to us. This Town and Parish fund is a fund made up of £1 per parishioner from Devon CC and 10p per parishioner from South Hams DC. The £1.10 is parcelled for South Hams West cluster giving £28,000 for us to claim for. Projects have to be combined with at least one other parish from within the cluster. First come, first served !!

**3. The Feoffee Trust. Mr Ralph James and Mrs Sally Axell**

Ralph gave the meeting a fascinating and interesting talk about the history of the Brixton Feoffee Trust ranging from inception way back in 1443. The facts are too many to relate here in full but the Feoffee Trust may decide to put the full information onto their web site.

Since inception, the income from the Trust has been spent for the benefit of the parishioners of Brixton. 50% of the monies are for the upkeep of St Mary’s Church with the balance going to the poor and needy of the village. In recent years, where surplus funds become available for non church activities, they have been held aside for the benefit of other village activities. For example, recent monies have been spent on the Scout Hut and the Community Hall.

Sally told us about the running of the Feoffee car scheme which helps take parishioners to hospital, doctor, dental appointments etc. She requested that we encourage car drivers within the village to

join this scheme so that the workload is spread more thinly. Volunteer drivers do get expenses paid for their service.

In answer to a question, Sally advised that not enough people were aware of, or chose not to apply for, the available funds.

#### **4. Dementia Friendly communities. Mr Ian Sherriff**

Ian explained that he was a Trustee of the Alzheimer Society. He is employed by Plymouth University and his work is all based on research for the Society. At present his work is on “the early diagnosis of dementia”. Some 5 years ago this work started at Plymouth and now there is a working amalgamation with Bradford and Sterling universities.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is shortly expected to declare a worldwide epidemic of dementia. Today there are 35 million sufferers and the numbers are increasing at the alarming rate of 4.8 million per annum. Devon now has 12,000 sufferers. The medical profession appear to be reluctant to diagnose dementia – and this in itself is a problem as help can be given following diagnosis.

The Prime Minister is showing an interest in this national problem and regularly attends group meetings of the “Challenge on Dementia” which has been set up with his approval. The message about Dementia friendly communities goes right through society to includes shops, buses, leisure centres, trains, bingo halls etc. Already organisations such as Barclays, Bank, Lloyds Bank, Dartmoor Rescue Group, National Farmers Union and the Royal Navy are changes their personnel policies to accommodate the growing problem.

The group of villages here in the South Hams (Brixton, Yealmpton, Newton/Noss, Holbeton and Wembury) will be the first group of villages to “go live” in 2012/13. Congratulations.

#### **5. AOB. There were no further questions.**

Cllr Hitchins thanked all four speakers for their interesting and informative input.

**The chairman closed the meeting at 8.57 pm.**

**Minutes prepared by M J Stickland, Clerk to the Council**

**June 10<sup>th</sup> 2012**