

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY May 1st 2013 AT 7.30PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Hitchins, Cllr Wills, Cllr Martin, Cllr Gray, Cllr Oates, Cllr Calvert, Cllr Murch, Cllr Jessop, Cllr Cane

**NOT PRESENT:** Clerk, Mike Stickland.

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Members of the public 4

County Councillor	0
District Councillor	1
Police	1

**1. Apologies - Mike Stickland**

**2. Annual Report of Police Matters – Brixton Parish Council Police Report for April and Annual Report. Report April 2013**

Between 5th and 8th paintwork of car scratched [JI/13/247]

8th public order offence, road rage type incident [JI/13/248]

Evening of 23rd assault, offender arrested and charged [JI/13/290]

23rd, non-crime domestic [JI/13/289]

Annual Police Report 2012/2013

<b>Offences</b>	<b>Brixton</b>	<b>Staddiscombe</b>
Theft	9	4
Make off without payment	3	5
Burglary non dwelling	4	0
Burglary dwelling	0	1
Shoplifting	1	9
Taking a motor vehicle	2	0
Theft of a motor vehicle	1	0
Theft from a motor vehicle	1	0
Att. Theft from a m/vehicle	1	0
Assault	2	0
Criminal damage	3	0
Animal cruelty	0	1
Dog bite	2	0
Drink/drive	1	0
Possession of drug	1	0
Harassment	3	0
Fraud	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>20</b>
Non crime domestics	3	4

Of the above 55 crimes 7 were eventually ‘no crimed’ [enquiries revealed no offence had been committed], and 18 of the remaining 45 crimes were detected.

Last year’s figures for Brixton showed 41 crimes plus 4 non crime domestics.

Last year’s figures for Staddiscombe showed 7 crimes and 7 non crime domestics,

The increase in the figures for Staddiscombe is due to an increase of reported shopliftings.

### **3. Annual Report from Parish Council Chairman.**

Cllr Liz Hitchins reported that 2012-2013 has been a year of progress and consolidation for Brixton Parish Council. In the May the village celebrated the arrival of the Olympic Flame in the village. In June the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated with a Community Service and a street party in Old Road. The Victorian Lamp Post on the Green was restored to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee, funded by the Parish Council with the Parochial Church Council and the Brixton Feoffee Trust. Marker stones will be placed at either end of the village to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Thank you to Cllrs Debbie White and Gay Murch who helped set the plans in motion for these memorable events and to everyone in the community who contributed to their great success.

The network of footpaths continues to be closely monitored by Councillors Martyn Oates and Debbie Jessop. Work has been carried out to deal with the algae on the road at Mud bank and the Parish Council is working closely with Devon County Council to try find a permanent solution.

Planning permission for the community path linking Brixton with Yealmpton was granted in June 2012 and funding was raised by September. Following a delay of 7 months due to wet weather we have a proposed start date of the first week of May. We hope that people from Brixton will be able to walk to Yealmpton Show this July.

In the village the Green continues to look fresh and eye catching thanks to Mr Davis time and planting. This year the Christmas tree looked very traditional with the Victorian Lamp lit up along side on Christmas night. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank everyone who helped with the tree which brightened up the winter nights.

The Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm Project has made considerable progress in the last year. £38,000.00 has been raised and Maxine Kennedy is now in post as the coordinator. The launch at Otter Nurseries on 22nd February by Angela Rippon was well attended with over 90 people present. The project has its own website. A gentle exercise class for people with dementia has been set up and will be starting in Yealmpton in May. This is the only project of its kind where Parish Councils are working together to create dementia friendly communities through a coordinator and as a result it is the subject of a lot of national interest.

Another successful innovative project where the Parish Council has been in collaboration with local people is Brixton Composters which started a year ago. Local residents have taken their green waste to Fordbrooke and to Catson Green and now free compost is being collected in return. So far over £1,800 has been raised from recycling credits for local projects for the environment. It is hoped that other innovative ideas for this income will come from the community in the next year. I would like to thank Councillor Murch, together with Steven Cane, Jacqui Donaghy and Alan Powell for all their hard work and commitment to getting this scheme established. Again this project is attracting interest from other parishes interested in recycling green waste.

Plans for the new town at Sherford remain on our horizon. Currently the legal detail of the Section 106 Agreement is still being negotiated. The Parish Council invited the developers, Red Tree, to set up an open meeting which was well attended by ere local residents to see what has been agreed so far. The land at Sherford is being filmed so that as farm land we have a record of it for future generations.

The Parish Council worked with Barratt Homes to ensure that local people were able to comment on the plans for stage one for housing on land north east of Venn Farm. These events were well attended with feedback to the developers. Conditional planning permission was granted in February 2013.

I would like to thank Councillor Ian Martin, as Chair of the Planning Sub Committee, for his work in coordinating the Parish Councils responses to South Hams District Council to planning applications.

A working group has been set up to look at a traffic management plan for the parish. The group has made an inventory of all the concerns raised in the feedback from questionnaires sent to all households in the preparation of the Parish Plan. It will now prioritise issues for initial discussion with the Highways Agency.

The exceptional wet weather caused flooding at Brixton Torr and on the lanes and roads. We worked in collaboration with the Environment Agency and Devon County Council to bring these issues to their attention.

The Parish was allocated £3,000 by Active Villages. Some of this fund has still to be used to improve opportunities for exercise in the community. The Friends of Brixton Play Spaces continue to meet. It is anticipated that the Play Trail will be completed by the end of the year. In September Dr Penny Fitch took over as Head of School at St. Marys. The Parish Council continues to support the school as an important community resource for our children and for the community generally. Brixton Village website, funded by the Parish Council and the Feoffee Trust, managed by Graham Searle continues to be an excellent resource for the Parish. I would like to thank Graham Searle for keeping the website up to date and relevant. A Welcome pack is being given to new residents. I would like to thank Councillor Gray for her continued work on this important introduction to Brixton for new residents.

Through Councillor Jessop's involvement at Carrollsland the Parish Council has arranged for a notice board to be installed on the estate to improve the links for the residents with the Parish Council. There have been representations from the residents of Chittleburn Hill to clarify communication links with the Parish Council. Councillor Ian Calvert joined the Parish Council last year. He is bringing information on developing our communication through social media networks to help more people know about the work of the Council. The Parish Council has a good working relationship with the Police and we welcome their attendance at our meetings and thank them for the efficient handling of issues we have brought to their attention. Our District Councillors, John Squire and Basil Cane, continue to keep us informed about changes for the District Council at our monthly meetings. Councillor John Hart continues to support and help on different aspects raised in the Parish throughout the year particularly as he has had so many other demands on his time. as Leader of Devon County Council

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their hard work and commitment to the work of the Parish Council acting always in the best interests of the people of Brixton Parish, with particular thanks to Councillor Michael Wills, the Vice Chairman, for his support and advice and to Mike Stickland, our clerk for all his work for the Council. As a Parish Council our continued success is down to the Parish Council and local people working together in the best interests of the Parish now and in the future.

**4. Annual report from John Hart.** No report received

**5. Annual report from Councillor John Squire.** The year started with the appointment of a new Chairman and Vice Chairman and the reappointment of the Leader and Deputy Leader. The difficult financial situation with the need for more cuts and savings has been achieved without any erosion in front line services. Planning applications for wind turbines have generated strong opinions on both side of the argument and these have been dealt with. The Boundary Commission has supported the Councils decision to reduce the number of councilors to 30 and consultation on proposed ward boundaries is taking place. Cllr Squire finished his report by thanking the Parish Council for their interest and support throughout the year.

**Councillor Basil Cane.** Cllr Cane explained that the recent benefit changes were creating extra work for the teams and this burden was being eased by the purchase of new laptops. The CAB has recently been granted another £10,000 to help with their costs as more people ask for advice. Their number is 0844 111444. Development control within the SHDC has felt overwhelmed, and more temporary staff have been drafted in to support them. The chief of planning has now been asked to bring together a meeting to discuss how to streamline things going forward. Planning fees were increased by 15% in April, and second home Council Tax was increased to 100%, helping to bring an extra £390,000 in revenue. Empty offices at SHDC are now being rented out to increase revenue. Herford is still held up by the 106 agreement. 87 affordable homes have been created over the last year in the South Hams and there have been improvements to many car parks by the implementation of the new paying systems, i.e. pay by text or card. Dog control orders are now coming into force working in conjunction with many Parishes.

**6. Election of Parish Council Chairman.** Councillor Squire took the Chair while the nominations were sought. Cllr Liz Hitchins was nominated by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr Cane. All in agreement. Cllr Cane thanked Cllr Liz for a sterling job done during the last year.

There were no other nominations, therefore Cllr Liz Hitchins was confirmed as Chairman and she thanked the Councillors and Parishioners for their support.

**7. Election of Vice Chairman.** Cllr Michael Wills was nominated by Cllr Hitchins and seconded by Cllr Jessop. All in agreement. The Chairman thanked Cllr Wills for all his support and help over the last year.

**8. Minutes approval.** The AGM minutes were unavailable and were therefore carried over to next meeting.

**9. To appoint representatives to outside bodies.**

- a. PPP co-ordinator - Cllrs Oates & Jessop proposed by Cllr Cane, seconded by Cllr Gray and unanimously agreed
- b. Hele Foundation - Cllr Jessop proposed by Cllr Wills, seconded by Cllr Calvert and unanimously agreed
- c. Feoffee Trust - Cllr Hitchins proposed by Cllr Cane seconded by Cllr Wills and unanimously agreed
- d. Sherford Liaison Group – to be confirmed when notified of next meeting
- e. Brixton Community Association - Cllr Calvert proposed by Cllr Hitchins seconded by Cllr Gray and unanimously agreed
- f. Yealm Harbour Authority - Cllr Oates proposed by Cllr Cane seconded by Cllr Jessop and unanimously agreed. Yealm Estuary Management - Cllr Oates voted until 2015
- g. Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm - Cllrs Hitchins & Murch proposed by Cllr Wills, seconded by Cllr Cane and unanimously agreed
- h. Brixton Composting Group - Cllr Murch proposed by Cllr Jessop seconded by Cllr Hitchins and unanimously agreed

**10. Appointment of members to committees and responsibilities.**

- a. Planning sub committee: all Councillors except Cllr Cane (dependant of membership of Development Control)
- b. Planning sub committee chairman: Cllr Martin
- c. Finance group: Clerk Mike Stickland & Vice Chairman Cllr Wills. External audit: Mr Ken Abraham. Cllr Oates asked for clarification from the Clerk that Mr Abraham is suitably qualified to take on this responsibility.
- d. Carrolsland Liaison: Cllr Jessop
- e. Silverbridge Way Project Group: Cllrs Murch, Gray & Hitchins
- f. Tree warden: Cllrs Jessop & Oates

**11. Councillors' declaration of interest.**

Cllr Oates declared an interest in item 13.3

Cllr Hitchins declared an interest in item 14.2

**12. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on April 3rd 2013**

An amendment was made to previous minutes of Parish Council meeting of April 3rd 2013. Re item 7.1 it should read Cllrs Wills and Jessop to review 2 options for bench location. The minutes with the amendment were proposed by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr Oates and unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**13. Key Local Issues and Progress reports.**

**13.1 Silverbridge Way.** Cllr Gray reported that the work on the community path is planned to start on the 7th May.

**13.2 Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm Project.** A letter has been received from the project asking for the co-coordinator Maxine Kennedy to be invited to meet the Parish Council to raise awareness about the project and how the Parish Council can become involved. It was agreed that Maxine should be invited to talk at our meeting in June, to be actioned by Mike Stickland

**13.3 South West Water Consultation.** The consultation document from SWW report had been circulated. It was felt to be inadequate and lacking in detail. A letter drafted by Cllr Oates on behalf of the Parish Council was discussed and it was agreed that this letter should be sent to SWW as the Parish Councils response. Cllr Cane suggested inviting SWW to the June meeting.

**13.4 RBL Bench Location.** Of the three proposed sites Torr bridge, Red Lion Hill and Winston Lane (by the bus stop) - the Winston Lane site was unanimously agreed as the most suitable with the seat facing the countryside. The quote for £195 was accepted with half the cost to be met by a generous donation of 50% by the RBL. Mike Stickland to confirm ownership of the site before the seat is relocated. The relocation and cost for the work was proposed by Cllr Jessop and seconded by Cllr Martin and unanimously agreed

### **13.5 Councillors Reports**

Cllr Gray - The traffic management group has met and made an inventory of all the traffic issues raised from the responses to the questionnaires to the Parish Plan and other more recent concerns brought to the attention of the Parish Council. The next meeting will be to prioritise the areas of most concern and then contact the relevant authorities for further discussion.

Cllr Martin - Thanked the Council for their help with planning applications throughout the year.

Cllr Wills - The bench seat for the bus stop outside Elbridge has been repainted and is due to go back into position.

The estimate for the Mill Lane seat to be refurbished is £62. Cllr Cane proposed that this estimate was accepted, seconded by Cllr Jessop. All Agreed.

Cllr Oates - Torr Hill Farm path - still to be discussed with landowner.

Cllr Oates attended the AGM of the Yealm Harbour Authority. Yealm Estuary management has offered financial help to anyone wanting to control foreign species, e.g. rhododendrons, along the estuary.

Cllr Cane - thanked Nick Griffiths for his continued cutting of the bank at Lodge gardens.

Luscombe Maye, Surveyors, have offered to donate an English Oak to the parish. The location for an oak tree was discussed and it was agreed to talk to Luscombe May about the possibility of having a silver birch for the play trail instead. Mike Stickland to contact Luscombe May.

Cllr Calvert - Neil Tugwell has started filming the Sherford farmland. Interest continues in Facebook locally.

Cllr Jessop - The kissing gate leading from Staddiscombe playing fields to Polston Park is available to use again. The Carrolsland notice board has arrived. It was agreed that it would be handed over to the Carrolsland Residents Association.

Cllr Hitchins - On Sunday 19th May the Community Service will be held at the St. Mary's Church, Brixton at 11.00 am - all organisations are invited.

The website under the management of Graham Searle has been in place for 5 years. It was agreed that Cllr Hitchins and Ralph James from the Feoffee Trust should meet with Graham Searle to discuss his experiences and thoughts on the website over this period.

### **14. Planning Matters.**

i) Horsham Fields Rugby club. Following a site visit it was agreed to support this application and concerns about traffic and parking had been brought to attention of the planning authority.

ii) St Mary's School retrospective planning application for play area. It was proposed that a site visit on Friday May 3rd at 7.00pm and that the neighbouring residents would be invited to attend.

It was also agreed that in future when a planning application is received by Mike Stickland all members of the Parish Council would be notified by email to give Cllr Martin time to plan site meetings with councillors.

**15 Financial Matters.**

The tabled expenditure of £836.98 was approved after proposal by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr Jessop

**16. Correspondence.** - None

**17. Date of next meeting.**

The Annual Parish meeting will take place on June 5th 2013 at 7.30 at the Community Room, St. Marys School. The Chairman thanked members of the public who regularly attend and closed the meeting closed at 9.29 p.m.