

**BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY JUNE 5th 2013 AT 7.30 PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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

Apologies: Cllrs Hart, Squire, Cane and the Police

There were 16 members of the public in attendance.

Cllr Hitchins welcomed our five guest speakers for the evening.

1. Approval of Minutes from the last Annual Meeting.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on June 6th 2012 had been circulated to all councillors. Cllr Gray proposed and Cllr Wills seconded that they be signed as an accurate record of the meeting. Approved by all present.

2. Fire Prevention in your home. Peter Watts and Simon from Plymstock Fire Station.

(The Fire Service had been invited to educate us in the everyday needs for safety and caution).

A). Vulnerable groups in our society. Helping vulnerable people is a priority for the Fire Service. If you know of anybody who is likely to come into this category, there is a direct free telephone line: 0800 7311 822. A 'screening' questionnaire will be filled in via this call and, if eligible, a free visit made to establish risk and need for those identified as 'vulnerable'. If required, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms will be fitted free.

B). Alarms. Test regularly – fit 10 year batteries (not 1 year). Fit 1 alarm per floor. Use Heat Detectors in the kitchen instead of smoke detectors. 90 people killed last year because their alarms had no batteries in them. Do not pinch the batteries for other appliances – your life is key here.

C). Sensible precautions:

- Don't overload electrical sockets
- Don't put tea towels on the cooker
- Turn off all electrical appliances not in use and all off at night.
- Fit strobe lights to alarms for those hard of hearing
- Give vibrating necklaces to those with sight and hearing difficulties (+ special sensors)
- Get the chimney swept regularly
- Have an escape plan in the event of fire. Leave keys near exit doors (but not in lock)

D). References:

- Web site called "Fire kills"
- Web site called "DSfire.gov.uk"

It was agreed that Peter would supply a link address for BPC to put on their Facebook page. The Parish Magazine and website should also be used to advise our parishioners about the dangers. Advisory leaflets were left for the attendees to collect. Spares are with the Clerk.

3. Brixton Primary School. Presentation by Dr Penny Finch, Head of School.

Penny gave us a rousing presentation on the recent improvements in the school and plans for 'continuous improvement' in the years ahead.

- Pupils at good schools should be challenged, supported and feel safe. Challenges need to be increased to get children to take risks and get used to being outside their 'comfort zone'.
- Attainments. Measured progress shows that this is now above average for a primary school.
- SATS. These are now expected to be really good. All classes have now achieved above national averages – "we have some seriously bright children here".
- Ofsted and DCC checks have not found the school 'wanting' for basic needs.

- All teaching staff are now full time. This is important for motivation and lots of great projects are now being worked upon.
- Now part of a Federation of 3 schools which supports in many ways including the provision of a 'special needs' teacher for one day per week. The experience of 50 teachers can be called upon. Use of mini bus for outings etc.
- ICT increased and all Year 2 pupils have their own laptops. These are used for online learning projects with maths and reading most successful
- Now adopted the 'International Primary' curriculum.
- School interior now brightened up everywhere
- Outside there is a new playtrail, playground markings (including a map of the UK), picnic benches, veg garden to be introduced shortly
- Links created with the church, Feoffee trust, shops, pre schools and community volunteers
- Ofsted to be invited back in autumn 2014 (early) as school is heading for "outstanding" scrutiny levels
- Support visits from John Hart, Leader of DCC and Gary Streeter, our MP. Visit planned for all pupils to go to County Hall to see what happens there.
- 9 new pupils joining in September but plenty of space still available. Invitation for 600 preschool children to come to 'open day'. Let's hope for 10 more new children !

In summary, the future for the school is bright; everything is improving and will continue to do so. Community support is excellent now – please carry on.

4. **Dementia Friendly Villages around the Yealm. Presentation by Maxine Kennedy, Project Coordinator and Sara Rowe, Chairman of DFV.**

Maxine reminded us that this whole project had started with Ian Sherriff starting the interest within the villages of Brixton, Yealmpton, Holbeton, Wembury and Newton & Noss. £38,000 has been raised to set up the two year project with Maxine as the part time coordinator as from 22nd Nov 2012. This project will be monitored by Plymouth University. Dementia is a very isolating affliction and it is so important that the individuals continue to live within their own community and to maintain social contact.

The key to achieving this goal is to increase the awareness of all members of society from age 4 upwards as to how individuals are affected and how to help them overcome day-to-day difficulties.

Progress? At present, Maxine is supporting 14 families; is approaching all local businesses and training them in awareness; has started an exercise class in Yealmpton for people with dementia and their carers; is talking to supermarkets to ensure they understand the problem and to help shoppers with their lists etc.

It was stated that early diagnosis is essential and the first thing to do is to ensure that the person goes to see their GP.

The Parish Council agreed to be trained in awareness and this will take place at 7 pm on July 3rd before the 7.30 pm Council meeting. **All parishioners are invited to join in this session.**

5. AOB discussions.

- a. Michael Wills expressed his concern about the viability of the Post Office which is currently only open in the morning.

It transpired that Glenys Jefferies is currently experiencing ongoing unresolved technical problems which are limiting capacity to operate normally. Cllr Hitchins agreed to talk to Glenys about this problem.

- b. Catriona McDougall raised the problems associated with the retrospective planning application from the Primary School for the 'adventure play park'. It was felt that the decision of the Planning Subcommittee (at the site meeting) had not been adequately expressed in the Council's

written response to the consultation. After some debate and criticism, it was accepted that the decision of SHDC would not have been affected by this communication problem.

- c. Mr McDougall questioned why the school grounds appear to be open for 24 hours a day for 7 days a week. All other schools in the area lock up their grounds after evening activities. Cllr Hitchins responded by advising that this school had always had open access and they saw it as a 'community facility'.
- d. Mr Barry Blacker raised serious concern about the safety of the pedestrian crossing on the A379. He advised that there had been 3 'near misses' of accidents between cars and pedestrians in the last 12 months and that recently his grandson had been knocked down and seriously injured on the crossing. The police took 55 minutes to attend the accident site. Police have since advised that the driver will not be prosecuted because of the cars parked in the parking bay to the side of the zebra 'zig-zag' lines.

It was agreed that BPC must pursue this matter robustly with both DCC Highways and the Police to get the parking bay altered (probably by simply reducing its length by 30'). Mr Blacker agreed to supply the Clerk with the names of those involved in the 'near misses' plus his grandson's address.

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

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.04 pm.

Minutes prepared by M J Stickland, Clerk to the Council

June 7th 2013