

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3RD 2010 AT 7.30pm**

Present:	Cllr Cane (Chair)	*	Cllr Searle	*
	Cllr Hitchins (Vice Chair)	*	Cllr Tapper	*
	Cllr Martin	*	Cllr Wills	*
	Cllr Lang	*	Cllr Aylett	@
	Cllr Foweraker	*		
	* Denotes attendance		@ Denotes absence	

Also attending:	Members of the public	11
	County Councillor	1
	District Councillor	1
	Police	1

ACTION

Prior to the Council Meeting there was an Open Forum at which members of the public were invited to raise questions. Notes from this forum are given after the Minutes of the Council Meeting.

9.095 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllr Aylett

9.096 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Sid Lawrence advised of 3 reported crimes:

- Jl/10/26. Overnight on the 8th Jan, 4 dust caps were stolen from a vehicle in Silverstream Way. This is believed to be part of a neighbour dispute. Undetected
- Jl/10/39. Between the 12th and 13th Jan, hay to the value of £10 was stolen from a farm in Arcadia. Un-detected.
- Jl/10/61. Overnight on the 23rd Jan, a NHW sign approx value £10 was damaged by un-known means on Red Lion Hill. Un-detected.

The problem of anti social behaviour in Butts Park was believed to improving as a result of the combined work of the police, Tor Homes and Social Services.

9.097 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Hart apologised for his late arrival and reported:

1. Has been advised not to speak about the New England Quarry application
2. The winter weather has had a disastrous effect on our roads. Potholes are appearing everywhere and DCC expect to spend an additional £10-15 million over normal repair costs.
3. Budget is under severe pressure with central government reductions. A decision on % increase of council tax will be made next week.
4. Boundary Committee (BC). It is anticipated that the Government will not accept the BC recommendation but will opt for Unitary Devon plus Unitary Exeter. Set up costs for Cornwall unitary are currently £42million.
5. Brixton School has a vacancy for a Governor.
6. Sherford. Still expecting this to proceed. Meeting Redtree tomorrow to discuss education.
7. That £1000 was to be provided by DCC to fund the work of the JWG.

Hart to review

Questions to Cllr Hart.

Mr Sherriff

1. Mr Trower expressed concern at the lack of a safety barrier on the A379 at the bottom of the dip towards Yealmpton where the road crosses Silver Stream.
2. Mr Sherriff spoke about the high dementia rate in Devon and suggested that Brixton and Yealmpton together could create an exemplar for Devon. Cllr Hart advised that he had already had discussions with Stuart Barker (DCC) and suggested that Mr Sherriff should make contact.

Hart

3. Cllr Martin raised concern at the danger of children running out of the school gate where they are collected by car. There is insufficient parking space for cars awaiting the children and the children need to go into the road.

Martin

4. Cllr Martin raised concern at the apparent lack of teacher organisation in the school under the part time deputising Head Teacher. Cllr Hart asked that this be taken up with the School Governors.

9.098 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Squire reported:

- SHDC budget likely to be agreed at +2.9%
- Pension review necessitates an employer increase from 9.6% to 10.9%
- Shared services with West Devon now to include "Waste & Street scene" departments
- Car Parking increases to be approved tomorrow
- SHDC are to test a hand controlled street vacuum sweeper
- Gdynia Way, Plymouth is to be closed for 5 months whilst the new road layout is completed. Diversions will be posted.
- There are still 900 empty homes (private) in the District. Council are offering owners the opportunity to put these houses back on to the market to relieve the homeless pressure in the district.

Squire

(In response to a query from Cllr Hitchins, Cllr Squire agreed to find out if any of these houses are in Brixton Parish)

Cllr Cane reported:

- SHDC rate increase last year was Nil so an increase this year is inevitable
- SHDC income is affected by the low interest rates on deposit accounts
- Devon "choice letting " scheme for Social Housing is moving onto a computerised system but SHDC remains on the "allocated points" scheme (manual)for the time being.

9.099 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Cane; Planning and Cllr Searle; Parish website.

9.100 MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6TH PARISH MEETING

After insertion into para 7.6.c of "It was agreed that £100 be donated to the 'youth café' project (cheque payable to Brixton Community Association)", Cllr Searle proposed and Cllr Lang seconded the approval of the January minutes. Unanimously approved.

9.101 LOCAL ISSUES AND REPORTS

7.1 Brixton/Yealmpton footpath. Cllr Cane read a letter from Dr Padley

requesting information on project progress. Cllr Hitchins advised that the JWG had drafted a "progress statement" to be approved by BPC this evening and YPC on Feb 10th. This statement will then be posted on both parish/village websites. The following draft was approved by BPC.

"The JWG of the two Parish Councils met in January to progress the outcome of the ballot for a shared use path running parallel to the A379. We are now in contact with Devon County Council and the land owner and we are awaiting an acknowledgement that they have finally agreed terms. Another meeting of the JWG is scheduled for February when we should have more information to plan a way forward to report back to the next meeting of the Parish Council".

7.2 Parish Plan. Cllr Hitchins advised that the circulation of the questionnaire would now take place in February. Sickness had caused the delay.

7.3 Community Engagement. The document circulated by Cllr Hitchins last month has been revised based on Councillors comments. Acceptance of the paper was proposed by Cllr Hitchins, seconded by Cllr Searle and unanimously approved. This to be posted on the website.

Searle

7.6 Councillors' reports.

a) Cllr Martin asked for the problem of parking outside the school be reviewed. Cllr Hart agreed to review.

Hart

b) Cllr Hitchins

- Advised that dates are being sought for the meeting with Mrs Byrne.

- Work has started on the village emergency plan and a meeting with Cllr Robbins from Yealmpton is organised for next week

Hitchins

- Potholes. None have been reported to the Clerk. It was agreed that councillor 'working parties' be set up to walk all the village highways to list problems.

Tapper

- Trees marked with red crosses by DCC are to be felled. Cllr Tapper Agreed to contact landowners to ask that replanting takes place to offset those trees removed.

Hitchins

- The bank between the back of Old Road houses and the A379 will be reviewed by the Feoffee Trust.

Searle

- South Devon AONB is celebrating its 50th anniversary. It was agreed the event details would be posted on the website.

Searle

c) Cllr Searle advised that a lot of very interesting facts had been given to him regarding village history. To be posted on the website.

Tapper

d) Cllr Tapper agreed to establish who was maintaining the wooden seat installed on one of our public rights of way.

9.102 PLANNING MATTERS (Cllr Cane took no part in discussions or voting)

a) The application for The Apple Loft dwelling was discussed and approved

b) The application for Wollaton House garaging was discussed and approved

c) The application for the erection of a new store for agricultural use at The Apple Loft will be considered by the Planning Committee. Received today.

d) The application to DCC for on farm composting at Venn Farm was discussed at some length. A site meeting had taken place but Cllr Martin wanted the application to be debated with full Council. Cllr Martin stated that all the previous objections had been addressed in this new application.

Cllr Searle raised a number of concerns. Answers to these were allowed to be given by Steven Cane.

- Shredding. It was established that no primary shredding would take place on site. Pre shredded material would be bought in. Some secondary shredding of composted matter which did not pass through the screening process would be 'tractor shredded' on site. Needs to be agreed by DCC.
- Access. The access route on the application is in error. Access to be from the north via Elburton. DCC to be advised.
- Visibility. The site can be seen from Cherry Tree drive. Steven Cane stated that he was allowing the hedge to grow up to 3metres in height in order to hide the site. DCC be asked to include in conditions.
- Contaminants. Steven Cane advised that this was primarily stone matter which was thrown in with the garden waste. Toxic elements were not included.
- ECOSCI (Ecological Sciences Ltd) are simply the consultants who have prepared the application for Steven Cane.
- Noise and Health assessment. The Environment Agency have stated that there is no risk from these and that the site has been declared "exempt".
- Wind and odour worries. Steven Cane advised that the material would principally be imported between April and October when the prevailing winds were from the south west (away fro Brixton). The process itself was almost odourless.
- Traffic. Steven Cane advised that all materials would be brought in using his existing tractors which are currently carrying out farm business without complaint. No extra vehicles will be employed.
- Site access. DCC Highways have been consulted and a new site entrance is to be constructed with special drainage channels and a concreted access road from the gateway to the composting site.

After this detailed discussion, Cllr Martin proposed approval of this application with relevant comments to DCC. The Clerk was asked to include pertinent items in the letter to DCC. It was seconded by Cllr Lang and approved by 5 votes to 2 with no abstentions.

Clerk

9.103 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The tabled expenditure of £711.15 for the month was approved.

9.104 CORRESPONDENCE

1. DCC are carrying out a Mobile Library survey. Cllr Tapper to complete.
2. Police liaison meeting information to be posted on the notice board

The correspondence file was given to the Chairman for reading/circulation.

9.105 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly Meeting of Brixton Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, March 3rd at 7.30 p.m. in the Brixton Community Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.35 pm

OPEN FORUM NOTES

Q1. Mr Trower asked for information regarding the progress on the A379 pathway project. Had plans been drawn up, had planning application been made, had costing been carried out?

A1. Cnllr Hitchins advised that a statement was to be made on agenda item 7.1

Q2. Mr Sherriff, Chairman of the SW Alzheimer Society, stated that Devon has the highest rate of dementia in the UK. He spoke about the setting up of local "memory cafes" to assist those affected.

A2. Cllr Hitchins responded that there were already various support networks within the community. Fran Moffett at Venn Court should be contacted in this regard.

Q3. Mr Gilbury requested that the brambles be removed from the footpath area adjacent to his home.

A3. Cllr Cane agreed to get this sorted out.

Q4. Mrs Gray advised that she was putting in new objections to the on farm composting scheme and reminded everyone that previous letters of complaint were not applicable to the revised scheme..

Q5. Mr Pope asked about a "dog fouling" bin for The Green.

A5. The Clerk advised that SHDC would not consider this request as no new circumstances demanded it. It was agreed that Cllr Searle would put a statement on the website that would encourage dog owners to place their "doggy bags" in the ordinary waste bin adjacent to the Parish notice board. The Clerk agreed to bring suitable notices for Mr Pope to the March meeting.

Q6. Betty White told us about the success of the Youth Café project and the enthusiasm of about 20 youngsters who are involved. Fund raising is about to start to set up a permanent youth club.

Q7. Steven Cane told us that he had withdrawn his earlier application for on-farm composting in order to address local concerns. The new application resolves those concerns: a) DCC Highways have now approved a new access route, a new field access and suitable drainage b) the site has been moved to exceed the minimum distance from both the power lines and the nearest dwellings and c) only his own farm vehicles will be accessing the site.

Mr Cane extended an invitation to parishioners to visit the site with him.