

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE  
COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2012 AT 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Hitchins \* Cllr White \*  
Cllr Wills \* Cllr Murch \*  
Cllr Martin @ Cllr Cane \*  
Cllr Gray \*  
Cllr Oates \*  
\* Denotes attendance @ Denotes absence

**Also attending:** Members of the public 8  
County Councillor 1  
District Councillor 1  
Police 0

**11.082 APOLOGIES**

Apologies from Cllr Martin, the Police and the Clerk  
A resignation letter has been received from Cllr Lynne Lang as she no longer qualifies on residential requirements. The Clerk will advertise the vacancy in the New Year.

**11.083 POLICE MATTERS**

The emailed report for December was read out by the Clerk as follows:

2 x thefts from cars, overnight 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of Dec. Some property from the cars has been recovered at an address in Plymouth, enquiries ongoing [JI/11/1033 and 1049  
1 x theft of rucksack [JI/11/1102 refers].  
1 x burglary, between 26<sup>th</sup> Dec and 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan garden shed broken into [JI/12/4 refers]

**11.084 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Hart took the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year

- No increase in Council Tax expected
- Savings of £20m to be made on top of this year's £60m saving
- Street lighting hours reduction saves £1.33 million per year
- Bus subsidies to remain untouched but "use them or lose them" applies
- Highway repairs are proceeding well with long stretches now being resurfaced. Lack of frosty nights saves £20,000 per night of frost.
- DCC is giving locality funds to all parishes but via the District Council
- DCC is fronting a government 'pilot' scheme for dealing with 'problem families'.
- DCC is fronting a government 'pilot' scheme for reducing the number of government services buildings in Devon. 100 staff will be moving into Follaton House.
- Audit Commission says that DCC was the county best prepared for the economic downturn

**11.085 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Cane reported:

- Members allowances are increasing by £150 but they are losing their 'electronic allowance' of £350
- Investment income this year down by £250k due to low interest rates
- It is expected that the money invested in the Heritable Bank (Icelandic) will

be repaid at 96p for every £1 invested.

- 7000 households spend 10% of income on heating. Apply to the “Cosy Devon” scheme for grants towards improving house insulation.

Cllr Squire reported:

- Work is continuing on next year’s budget
- SHDC website has a questionnaire for the public to fill in to indicate their preferences for budget savings
- The Welfare Reform Bill is expected to reduce family benefits and SHDC is reviewing 6500 claimants with a view to achieving £6m savings
- Sherford. SHDC approved the planning application on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> subject only to approval from Plymouth City Council on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>. 60 consultees have yet to sign the S106 agreement.

### **11.086 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Cane advised that as a member of the District Planning Committee, he would not be taking part in any planning discussions or voting. He also declared a personal interest in item 7.7 on local composting.

All councillors expressed a personal interest in the Planning Matter 07/3181 and will not discuss or vote on that application.

### **11.087 MINUTES OF PARISH MEETINGS**

1. Minutes of the special meeting on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> were proposed as correct by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr Gray. Approved by 5 votes with 2 abstentions
2. Minutes of the monthly meeting on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> were proposed as correct by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr White. Approved by 6 votes with 1 abstentions
3. Minutes of the special meeting on Dec 15<sup>th</sup> were proposed as correct by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr Murch. Approved by 4 votes with 3 abstentions

### **11.088 LOCAL ISSUES AND REPORTS**

#### **7.1 Sherford 106 agreement.**

Cllr Hitchins advised that a meeting had been held with Redtree plc on Dec 8<sup>th</sup> including Cllr Wills. A further meeting is to be held with the full Council followed later by an open meeting for all parishioners.

The Clerk advised Council about the options available now approval has been given. a) Move for a judicial review through the courts and high court. This is a very long process and, if successful, would only delay the development whilst Redtree resubmitted their plans. If unsuccessful, it would cost BPC a lot of wasted time and frustration and cost a minimum of £30,000. b) Use the “Complaints Procedure” against SHDC for maladministration for lack of consultation against the revised Council Planning Committee motion for Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. If we are dissatisfied with the outcome, a complaint can be lodged to the Ombudsman at no cost.

After a long debate, 2 proposals were made:

1. Cllr Gray proposed and Cllr Wills seconded that “a meeting be urgently set up with Redtree”. Carried by 6 votes with Cllr Cane abstaining.
2. Cllr Gray proposed and Cllr White seconded that “BPC should pursue SHDC through their Complaints Procedure”. Carried by 6 votes with Cllr Cane abstaining. The Clerk was asked to circulate any draft documents.

#### **7.2 Silver Bridge Way.**

The agreement has been signed between Kitley Estate, DCC, Brixton and

Clerk

Yealmpton Parish Councils. The planning application for the pathway was submitted on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of December. Funds of £11,200 are in place plus DCC funding the bridge and its installation. 6 tenders have been received from contractors and these will be reviewed by DCC for completeness prior to contract award. Letters of support to SHDC would be appreciated from parishioners. The new Environmental Policy required for grant application was proposed by Cllr Cane, seconded by Cllr Wills and approved. This to be posted on our website.

Clerk/Searle

### **7.3 Welcome Pack.**

Cllr Gray showed Council the final pack. Council approved the expenditure for obtaining environmentally friendly enclosures for the pack. They will be printed as required by Cllr Gray. Cllrs are expected to advise when new residents move into the village.

Gray  
All Cllrs

### **7.4 Active Village opportunities.**

The Tuesday morning Gentle Exercise group in Venn Court has been successful and it is hoped to continue on a 'self funding' basis. Cllr Hitchins asked for financial support, if required, to continue up the end of Feb. The Clerk to invoice Active Devon for the balance of £600 agreed.

Clerk

Jayne Wootton is the new coordinator for Active Devon and is coming to speak at the Open Forum in February.

### **7.5 Jubilee Celebrations on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Cllr White reported that there is a meeting to discuss ideas on Jan 26<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm and that a lot of interest has been shown by parishioners.

White

Clerk

The Clerk was asked to obtain permission for the closure of Old Road for a street party.

### **7.6 Olympic Torch Relay on Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 9.03 am**

Cllr White reported that there is a meeting at SHDC on Jan 19<sup>th</sup> which she will attend.

White

### **7.7 Local composting.**

Approval for our scheme has finally been given by SHDC. A meeting of a small action group is organised for Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. A visit to Bratton Fleming in North Devon is to be organised to see firsthand how their successful scheme is working.

White

### **7.8 Parish Plan.**

Cllr Hitchins had circulated the final draft during last week. Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr Cane and unanimously approved. Publication will be prior to the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb dead line. Photos yet to be added. Quotes will be obtained for the Plan printing. Quantity to be dependent on prices. Copies to be made available in local shops and the pub.

Hitchins

A vote of thanks to Cllr Hitchins for all her hard work was recorded.

### **7.9 Councillor vacancy.**

The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to Lynne Lang who resigned from the Council in December. Clerk to write a 'job spec' for the casual vacancy that has arisen. It is clear that computerisation has had a significant effect on the councillor role and this will be incorporated.

Clerk  
Clerk

### **7.10 Councillor reports.**

1. Cllr Oates reported that 2 dead trees on FP 30 are being dealt with by DCC.

- Cane** 2. Cllr Cane reported that District Cllrs Carson and Saltern have agreed to contact Torr Homes regarding SBW continuing along the A379 behind the Tor Homes estate.
- Clerk** 3. Cllr Cane asked the Clerk to write to Elaine Tapper thanking her for the Christmas tree work.
- Clerk** 4. Cllr Hitchins reported that the School has asked for signs from the main road. The Clerk was asked to request from DCC.
5. Cllr Hitchins advised that there is a vacancy for a Feoffee Trustee. All applicants to the secretary.
- White** 6. The CPRE has invited applications for the “Best Kept Village” award. Cllr White agreed to discuss this in conjunction with the Jubilee celebrations and the Olympic Torch event.
- Clerk** 7. Complaints have been made about the increase in dog fouling. The Clerk to provide more notices to be posted around the village reminding owners of their responsibility to ‘clean up’.
- Hitchins** 8. SHDC Connect (social services) is visiting week commencing May 25<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Hitchins to advise re best place and time for the mobile services.

#### **11.089 PLANNING MATTERS**

- Clerk** 1. 3181. Application by BPC and YPC for a permissive path. As BPC are applicants, no discussion or voting took place.

#### **11.090 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- Clerk** a) The tabled expenditure of £1542.96 for December was approved after proposal by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr Gray.
- b) Cllr Wills proposed “No increase of the precept for 2012/13.” Precept to be held at £13250. This was seconded by Cllr Cane and accepted unanimously.

#### **11.091 CORRESPONDENCE**

- Hitchins/Wills** 1. SHDC is holding a meeting on ‘devolved services’ on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan at 2pm at The Watermark, Ivybridge. Cllrs Hitchins and Wills to attend.
2. Grounds Maintenance UK has written to offer services for weed control etc and congratulated the Council on their latest ‘play park’ improvements.

#### **11.092 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Brixton Parish Council will be held on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 at 7.30p.m. in the Brixton Community Hall

**The meeting was declared closed at 9.40 pm**

#### **OPEN FORUM**

- Cane** 1. Mr Alan Powell volunteered to help with the village composting scheme.
2. Anne Barry raised the issue of the “unclassified” road at Torr which DCC is keen to reopen as part of their work on ‘definitive mapping’. There is doubt as to whether this track ever went as far as the stream and there is a 6’ drop at its end. To spend money on this at this time of economic crisis would be foolhardy.
- Cllr Hart advise that it is up to the landowner to prove that the existing mapping is incorrect. There were no plans to reopen the track this financial year.

M J Stickland, Clerk to Brixton Parish Council

January 13<sup>th</sup> 2012

