

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 6TH 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 3

County Councillor 0

District Councillor 0

Police 0

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.

9.084 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllr Hart, Cllr Squire, Cllr Martin and the Police

9.085 POLICE MATTERS

Sergeant Teakle contacted the Clerk to advise that there were no reported incidents in Brixton since the last report. In view of the adverse weather conditions the Clerk had agreed that the attendance of PC Nolan was not required.

9.086 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Hart did not send a report.

9.087 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Squire did not send a report.

Cllr. Cane reported:

- The budget is continuing to major on the minds of SHDC executive and councillors. It is hoped that there will be a nil increase from SHDC.
- The Government is reducing its Concessionary bus fare grant by £200,000
- On Jan 18th, the Government will announce its decision on the Devon Unitary proposal. Meantime, the Government minister has congratulated South Hams and West Devon on their collaboration and cost savings.

The definition of "an area of outstanding beauty"(AONB) has been circulated by the Clerk to all councillors.

9.088 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Cane; Planning and Cllr Searle; Parish website.

9.089 MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2ND PARISH MEETING

After a spelling correction, Cllr Hitchins proposed and Cllr Lang seconded the approval of the minutes of the December 2nd minutes. Unanimously approved.

9.090 LOCAL ISSUES AND REPORTS

7.1 Brixton/Yealmpton footpath. Nothing to report.

7.2 Future housing developments in Brixton. The Clerk reported that SHDC had voted for a development site to the north and east of Venn Farm instead of the AONB to the east of the village. From 2016, 20 houses and from 2026, a further 40 house may be built. All will be subject to normal planning requirements.

The Clerk read a letter from District Councillor Baldry (Yealmpton) advising of the hard work and influence of District Councillor Squire in order to achieve this result. Cllr Wills proposed and Cllr Searle seconded the motion that "a vote of thanks be sent to Councillor John Squire." Carried unanimously.

Clerk

7.3 Parish Plan. Cllr Hitchins advised that the circulation of the questionnaire would take place in January.

Hitchins

7.4 Emergency Planning. Cllr Hitchins expressed concern that Brixton had no simple emergency plan in place. It was suggested that we work in collaboration with Yealmpton who have already completed this exercise. It was agreed that Cllrs Hitchins and Tapper would set up a working group to report back in March 2010.

Hitchins/
Tapper

7.5 Community Engagement. Cllr Hitchins circulated a one page revised draft paper for consideration and response by all Councillors before the next meeting.

All Councillors

7.6 Councillors' reports.

a) Cllr Searle advised that the Elize Hele charity information had now been posted on our website.

b) Cllr Tapper

- The Christmas tree would project had been well received in the community. Thanks from the Chairman for arranging this.
- The pavement at the top of Red Lion Hill is getting narrower and needs a proper "cut back" by the parish lengthsman. Cllr Cane to follow up..

Cane

c) Cllr Hitchins

- Youth sessions going well. Debbie White to be invited to the next meeting to update Councillors on progress and financial needs.
- The emergency planning paper entitled "don't be scared, be prepared" issued by DCC should be sent to all parishioners. It was agreed that the Clerk would attempt to obtain 750 copies for circulation with the Parish Plan questionnaire.
- Due to Mr Steve Cox absence on sick leave, Mrs Julie Byrne from Ermington was running both schools. Cllr Hitchins to arrange a welcome visit from Councillors.
- Enquired about the possibility of salt for the pavements. The Clerk advised that generally salt/sand bins had been removed and salt was not available.

Hitchins

Clerk

Hitchins

d) Cllr Cane

- Expressed concern about the state of the bank between the back of Old Road houses and the A379. As this is Feoffee land, Cllr Hitchins agreed to discuss this with Feoffee.

Hitchins

9.091 PLANNING MATTERS

The applications for The Croft, Horn Lane and Coombe Farm, Staddiscombe were approved by the Planning committee and confirmed by Council

9.092 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. The tabled expenditure of £892.05 for the month was approved.
2. Precept approval. The Clerk explained that this year's budget had been broken down into more detail than previously. A budget increase of £780 was required for new budget items. However, because of the healthy Council reserves it was not considered necessary to increase the Parish Precept this year. Year end reserves were expected to be £ £36345 of which £30000 was the Sherford reserve fund. Cllr Wills proposed and Cllr Searle seconded the proposal that "the precept for 2010/11 be set at £11250." Unanimously approved.

Clerk

9.093 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from DCC re consultation on admission arrangements for 2011/2. It was agreed to post the information about this consultation on the website.
2. Letter from Boundary Committee advising their recommendations on Unitary Devon. Representations may be made before January 19th. After some discussion, the Clerk was asked to write to the Government expressing our concerns about making any changes to the "status quo" at this time of financial crisis and impending election.
3. Letter from Audit Commission about change of auditor. Accepted
4. Email questionnaire re sports facilities in the parish. As this has to be returned by Jan 22nd, council advised the Clerk on the question answers.
5. Letter from Luscombe Maye(LM) re permissive paths on South Barton Farm. This is in response to Council's request to renew lapsed permissive paths. LM advise that there is currently no way that these paths will be reopened in the foreseeable future due to a change in farming pattern by the new tenant and the change to the sporting rights of the land.
6. Email regarding the state of Tapps Lane. It was agreed that all councillors would look for and report to the clerk on all potholes around the village.

Searle

Clerk

Clerk

All Councillors

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

9.094 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting was declared closed at 9.00 pm

OPEN FORUM NOTES

1. A resident of Cherry Tree Drive was concerned about the involvement of the police regarding illegal parking and the blocking of the "hammer head" turning at the west end of the cul-de-sac. He enquired as to how many complaints had been made to the Council.
Cllrs Searle and Tapper stated that they had both seen and had reported to them, incidents of illegal parking. They had raised the issue at Council.
From further discussion, it appears that the problem has principally been resolved. It was agreed that the Clerk would advise the police.
2. A parishioner raised the question of a number of potholes in both road and pavements around the village and a section of public footpath which needed levelling to remove the current hazard.
It was agreed that all councillors would look out for all potholes and hazards for pedestrians and report them to the Clerk for onward transmission to the relevant council authority.