

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE
COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 7th 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	0
District Councillor	1
Police	1

11.104 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllrs Hart and Gray.

11.105 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Andy Potter reported the following incidents for February:

- 1 x Criminal damage to a car. Overnight 10th and 11th Feb car parked on A379 in Brixton had damage caused to door panels. [JI/12/102 refers]
- 1 x burglary. Between 13th and 23rd Feb isolated and uninhabited building entered and copper wiring stolen from within. [JI/12/138 refers]
- On 7th Feb minor assault between two males known to each other [JI/12/12 refers]
- Early hours of 7th Feb domestic related assault reported to Police, non injury. [JI/12/144 refers]
- 1 arson. Overnight 29th Feb and 1st Mar wooden stable block burnt down

Neighbourhood Watch. Andy Potter agreed to speak to the 6 village coordinators to check if they are happy for their details to be on the website. He agreed to map out any 'uncovered' areas in the village. The scheme is currently administered by a part time ex policeman, Mike Ball, in Totnes.

Speeding down Stamps Hill has been reported by Mrs Cowling. Andy Potter to visit and discuss.

Andy Potter to check with Traffic Police about the enforceability of the 7.5 tonne limit.

11.106 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Apologies sent. No report received.

11.107 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Squire reported:

- Council Tax up by 2.5 % by SHDC leading to an overall 3% increase
- A compulsory Purchase Order has been raised at Lee Farm Langage for land to enable better road communications around Langage Park.
- CAB has received an additional £10k to cover higher running costs and another £10k for a debt adviser.
- The Link Officer for the Ivybridge Cluster parishes is Graham Swiss.
- Plymouth CC are voting on the Sherford agreement on March 8th

- Brown eared bats are to have a building modified for habitation !!

Cllr Cane reported:

- CAB has 9 'outreach' staff visiting Ivybridge, Dartmouth and Kingsbridge
- CAB obtained benefits valued at £282k for those not knowing the rules
- CAB helped with 137 debt enquiries and 138 general enquiries within the last 6 months. It is a key service in these hard times.
- CAB 'phone number is 01803 867876. To be put on website please
- Follaton House has installed a 10kw solar panel system to help reduce its carbon footprint.

Clerk/Searle

11.108 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Cllr Cane declared a personal and pecuniary interest in 7.1 as he rents and adjacent field
2. Cllr Cane declared a personal interest in 7.7 as the composting scheme is on Venn Farm land
3. Cllr Cane declared a personal and pecuniary interest in 7.1 as he farms land adjacent to the Sherford boundary
4. Cllr Cane declared a personal interest in all Planning Matters as he is a member of the SHDC Development Committee. He will not take part in any discussion or voting on planning issues.

11.109 MINUTES OF PARISH MEETINGS

Minutes of the monthly meeting on February 1st were proposed as correct by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr White. Approved by all those at that meeting.

11.110 LOCAL ISSUES AND REPORTS

7.1 Sherford.

Cllr Hitchins reported that Council had met with 2 senior members of the Redtree organisation on Feb 28th. It was a very positive meeting and they proved to be very approachable. It was an excellent help in understanding the next steps forward and the ultimate goal.

It has been agreed to hold a wider public meeting to include Plympton, Plymstock and Elburton. We want to become the lead group as the development is 95% within our parish boundary. The plan is to hold a 6 hour 'walk in' style presentation in the Main School Hall. Date to be advised but late Easter holidays is a possibility.

Hitchins

7.2 Silver Bridge Way.

The subject had already been raised in Open Forum. The Chairman advised that the council was still in discussions with Planning Officers and that as the application has not yet been determined the letter raised in the Public Forum could not be discussed.

7.3 Neighbourhood Watch.

PCSO Potter has agreed to contact the 6 **coordinators** and to 'map' their coverage areas to identify where more coordinators are needed. He agreed to bring window stickers to the next meeting and to price up the signs for pole mounting.

Potter

7.4 Active Village opportunities.

Jayne Wootton had given us an excellent presentation in Open Forum including a general discussion (see later notes). A badminton coach is being sought. Cllr White to follow up on the canoeing course opportunity.

White

7.5 Jubilee Celebrations

Cllr White reported that the meeting on March 1st was attended by 19 parishioners

White and that a lot of ideas had been discussed. Events will start by midday on June 1st and will culminate with a street party in Old Road (including live music) on the 4th. Please watch out for details of ‘what is where’ in the village.

Wills Cllr Hitchins spoke about a permanent memorial for this auspicious day. One positive option, also supported by Feoffee Trust, is to restore the Victorian lamp by the church lychgate. Cllr Wills to talk to the Victorian Society to establish authenticity for the project. Another option is to place suitably engraved ‘marker stones’ at each end of the village. As there was support for this idea, the Clerk was asked to contact DCC Highways about feasibility and safety.

Clerk The Queen is to light a beacon on June 4th at 10.30am to start the beacon chain. Following a discussion about a gas fired beacon on the church tower, it was decided not to proceed with this option. Cllr Martin offered to find out about a ‘living flame’ option for the tower which is safe. A bonfire somewhere in the

Martin village is also an option. Cllr Hitchins to make enquiries.

Hitchins **7.6 Olympic Torch day.**

Cllr White reported another successful meeting on March 1st. It has been agreed to make bunting for ourselves. The pattern is on page 20 of the Brixton Magazine. Thanks to Jennifer Wills who has already made 100 red, white & blue rosettes for all the telegraph poles along the route within Brixton. Church bells will be rung from 9am and a piper will be in the main street to welcome the torch bearer. Breakfast will be served at the church and at the Foxhound.

7.7 Local composting.

The Clerk was asked to check our insurance policy to ensure that helpers are covered for personal liability. Whilst we have 5 volunteers, more are needed to man all the proposed collection points. Initially, the scheme will start at Fordbrook Nursery and then will be rolled out to include the Brickworks, Venn Farm and Otter Nurseries. The Clerk expressed his concern that with all these venues it will be difficult to ensure that no trade waste is taken (from contract gardeners) and that all waste comes from within the parish boundary. The scheme will fail if we do not meet the parameters set by both DCC and SHDC.

White It is intended to publicise the scheme mainly by word-of-mouth but also by leaflet drops and an advert in Brixton Magazine.

The Terms of reference for the Composting group had been circulated prior to the meeting. For the benefit of the public present, Cllr White read out the terms.

Adoption was proposed by Cllr Wills , seconded by Cllr Murch and approved with one abstention.

7.8 Parish Plan.

Hitchins Cllr Hitchins said that the Plan has been printed and circulated only to councillors at this stage. A distribution list will be drawn up as well as an ‘Action plan’ prior to the next council meeting. The adoption of the Plan was proposed by Cllr Cane and seconded by Cllr White. Unanimously approved.

7.9 Councillor vacancy.

The vacancy is advertised in the Brixton magazine and on the notice board and website. Closing date for applications is March 16th with interviews in the evening of March 27th. No applications to date.

7.10 P3 coordination. Cllr Oates stated that no progress had been made this month due to his work pressures.

Cane **7.11 Weed control.** After some discussion, it was agree that Cllr Cane would organise weed clearance from the worst affected areas in the village. Any one interested in helping should contact Cllr Cane.

7.10 Councillor reports.

Clerk 1. Cllr Martin asked that the overgrown hedging at the rear of Yarda Walk be cleared. The Clerk was asked to write to Tor Homes.

Clerk

2. Cllr Martin reported that the Red Lion Hill road sign had been destroyed by a vehicle. Clerk to contact DCC Highways.

Cane

3. Cllr Hitchins advised that there was an open invitation for councillors to attend demonstrations and tea at the Primary School on Friday March 16th from 3 to 5.30pm. Cllr Cane will attend on behalf of the Council.

4. Cllr Hitchins updated council about Feoffee activities a) They are prepared to share the cost with council of renovating the Victorian lamp outside the church b) There is publicity in the Herald about the car driver scheme c) There was a meeting at the scout hut to admire the new floor and windows funded by Feoffee.

5. Cllr Hitchins advised that the SHDC Connect outreach team will be visiting Brixton on May 21st from 1 to 3.30pm. The van will be parked by The Green.

11.111 PLANNING MATTERS

Application 0341 will be reviewed at 11am on Friday March 9th.

11.112 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Cllr Cane expressed a personal interest in this agenda item and did not speak or vote.

- a) The tabled expenditure of £1218.07 for January was approved after proposal by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr Martin with one abstention.
- b) The Clerk advised that a contract had been drawn up by DCC for the SBW £5k grant as the monies were coming from the sale of Exeter airport. It was agreed not to sign this until Planning permission had been approved for the project.

11.113 CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Clerk advised that he had received information relating to the local Domestic Abuse Service Posters was now on the notice board and 3 leaflets given to councillors.

2. DCC has to renew all free bus passes by April 2013. New passes will be posted to home; those who have moved need to contact DCC urgently.

3. School signage. DCC Highways will shortly send plans for the proposed signs at the mini roundabout and at the Steer point Rod/Elliots Hill junction.

Clerk

4. SHDC Link Officer. Graham Swiss has been designated as our Link Officer. It was agreed to invite him to a Council meeting.

Clerk

5. Letter from the Chairman of Plymstock Albion Oaks RFC. Their club continues to grow and now has 250 children many of which are from Brixton. It was agreed to invite Mr Higginson to a council meeting Open Forum to discuss the club and its future plans

6. Letter from a local cycling lobby had been considered under agenda item 7.2 and in Open Forum.

11.114 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Brixton Parish Council will be held on April 4th 2012 at 7.30p.m. in the Brixton Community Hall

The meeting was declared closed at 10.00pm

OPEN FORUM (These notes do not form part of the Council Minutes)

1. **Active Devon.** Jayne Wootton of Active Devon gave us a very informative 10 minute presentation. Key points were:

- **Aim is to raise participation levels in sport and physical activity**
- Scheme applicable to all over the age of 5yrs
- £1million ponds from DCC and Government combined
- 28 parishes in South Hams will benefit including Brixton
- Each village can benefit from £3,000 of grant
- Scheme runs until September 2013
- Can provide ‘taster’ sessions for 8/12 weeks for new sports and/or activities
- Sports development support from Jayne including finding coaches, writing funding applications etc
- Brixton has been running a ‘gentle exercise’ class run by physiotherapists since last October. This now has to be self funding at £3.50 per session.
- Planning to visit the primary school very soon to establish any need
- Badminton and canoeing are to investigated for Brixton
- Tennis and Short Mat bowls quite popular in this area
- Need to register for feedback and monitoring purposes

Questions:

Q1. Can rugby coaching be included and tag rugby for the youngsters?

A1. Yes. **Steven Cane to please supply details to Jayne**

Q2. Can some running enthusiasm be whipped up either before or after the Olympic Torch goes through Brixton?

A2. Maybe a running club can be set up. **Cllr Murch to investigate.**

Q3. Can you set up a multi sports ‘taster’ during the school holiday for the children at the Primary School?

A3. This can be considered. **Jayne to talk to Head Teacher during visit.**

Q4. Can a link to Active Devon be put on our website?

A4. The Clerk to arrange this with Graham Searle.

2. **Neighbourhood Watch.**

Tony Steer raised concern at the apparent lack of interest in the scheme. At a recent meeting at Follaton House, only 10 out of 300 coordinators attended. What can be done to improve the efficiency of the scheme for the benefit of Brixton residents?

There is a South Devon database held on computer and this is updated by a part time volunteer at Totnes. He queried what the council view is and whether they ought to keep a local database for Neighbourhood watch coordinators.

PCSO Andy Potter has spoken to the other 6 coordinators in Brixton but we do not know if we have gaps or overlaps on our map. At the present time, our 7 coordinators do not know each other and therefore do not communicate. Andy Potter agreed to talk to all 7 to see if they are happy to have their details circulated. He also agreed to ‘map’ village coverage.

Andy Potter confirmed that our scheme was registered but probably out-of-date. He will check what is required to update.

Torquay volunteer monitors crime and emails coordinators as necessary.

S. Cane

Murch

J. Wootton

Clerk

A.Potter

A.Potter

If coordinators agree, we will use our website to communicate to all.

3. Silver Bridge Way.

David Hall talked about a letter signed by 8 people which had been delivered to Cllr Yonge Chairman of Yealmpton Parish Council and to the Chairman of Brixton Parish Council and had asked for it to be discussed at both Parish Council meetings. He referred to the email sent to the Clerk from Debbie Crowther, the SHDC Planning Officer. It referred to the fact that more information was required and that the application might be rejected on the grounds of insufficient information. He advised that there had been a lot of objections sent to SHDC about this application. He asked whether the application was flawed and whether it represented good value for money. He encouraged Council to withdraw the application and push for the estuary path.

Cllr Hitchins responded by advising that as the application had not yet been determined by SHDC, there was nothing to discuss at this time.

4. Mr Davies asked about who was going to carry the Olympic Torch through Brixton. Cllr Hitchins advised that nominations had been made to a national selection panel over a year ago. BPC had not been asked to put forward names. It was not yet known who would have this honour or indeed the time of this run.
5. Mr Davies expressed concern at dangerous parking by parents dropping children off for school. PCSO Potter agreed to raise this matter with the Traffic Police.

Potter

M J Stickland, Clerk to Brixton Parish Council

March 9th 2012