

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4th 2009 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	8
County Councillor	1
District Councillor	1
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.

PART A.

9.061 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllr Martin and the Police

9.062 POLICE MATTERS

The emailed police report was read out by the Clerk:

J1/09/958. A dinghy was stolen from Steer Point between 1st Sep and 13th Oct 09, by means of cutting through a chain.

J1/09/97.1 Domestic incident. Non disclosure of information.

J1/09/975. Between the 19th and 20th Oct 09, a white Honda motocross bike was stolen from an address in Court View.

J1/09/981. Between the 21st and 22nd Oct 09, a detached barn and a Transit van were broken into at a farm on the border of Plympton, various items of plant and garden equipment were stolen.

J1/09/989. Between the 5th and 21 Oct 09, a grey Avon dinghy was stolen from Coflete boat yard at Steer Point By unknown means.

J1/09/99. On the 24th Oct 09, a drugs warrant was executed at an address in Woodland drive. A large amount of herbal cannabis was seized.

J1/09/994 Between 1100/1200 on the 24th Oct, 3 galvanised gates were stolen from Venn farm.

J1/09/1005 Between 23rd and 24th Oct 09, a 16ft galvanised gate was stolen from West Sherford farm.

(The above 2 crimes are part of a series of crimes involving the theft of gates from farms across the south Hams, they are currently being investigated)

J1/09/1014. Between the 21st and 28th Oct 09, 2 single glazed panes of glass were damaged from the outside at the Scout hut.

J1/09/1034. Between 24th and 30th Oct 09, the huts at SB Frankfort FC were entered, the front panel was kicked in and a window smashed, various items were thrown around the huts at this stage it is unknown if any items were taken.

9.063 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Hart reported that:

- There is a move to reduce street lighting between midnight and 5am.
- There will be staff reductions at DCC in Exeter including directors.
- There will be major funding shortfalls by 2011 so savings are starting now.
- Brixton School has asked for chain link fencing. Some funding may be available from DCC.
- DCC will look at improving signage for high/long vehicles at ridge below Otter Garden centre.
- Apologies for December and January meetings

9.064 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Cane reported:

- Joint services with West Devon are increasing in the drive to improve specialist services and reduce costs
- SHDC Connect is bringing services to rural communities.
- Devon 'wheels 2 work' is a scooter loan service for 3 months to enable low earners to get to work.
- "Quick response to save lives" is raising funds for front line equipment

Cllr. Squire reported:

- SHDC central funding for budget 2010/11 will only increase by 1.3%. This has created a target savings need for £600,000. Low interest rates have also hit the income of SHDC.
- The cost of cleaning public conveniences is £810,000 per year.
- An 'empty homes' initiative is being run to persuade owners of 600 empty homes in the district to renovate houses for occupation.
- Councillors' attendance allowances will be cut if councillors do not meet the new 65% attendance ruling.
- The leak at Ivybridge swimming pool has been rectified.
- Lagage Energy Park construction will start in 2011.

9.65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Cane; Planning and Cllr Searle; Parish website.

The Clerk advised that new rules now allow Cllr Cane to take part in planning discussions but voting is still prohibited.

9.066 MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7th PARISH MEETING

Cllr Searle proposed and Cllr Hitchins seconded the approval of the minutes of the October 7th minutes. Unanimously approved.

9.067 LOCAL ISSUES AND REPORTS

7.1 Brixton/Yealmpton footpath. Cllr Hitchins reported that the JWG were awaiting news from the landowner who is in discussions with DCC.

7.2 Marine & Coastal access. The Clerk advised that Wembury and Yealmpton were not interested in any joint discussions on this issue. Newton & Noss have yet to discuss the matter. It was agreed that as our coastal path access is already excellent, BPC would not get involved with consultation.

JWG

Hitchins

7.3 Parish Plan. Cllr Hitchins advised that a grant of £458 has been made from the SHDC 'sustainable community' fund. The draft questionnaire has been issued to all Councillors for feedback. Printing will now be organised. 160 hours have been spent so far by volunteers. Cllr Searle proposed and Cllr Aylett seconded the approval in principle of the questionnaire. Accepted unanimously.

Clerk

7.4 Harbour Authority. The Clerk advised that only one mooring license holder lived close to the new Brixton/Sherford boundary and he will not be affected by the proposed changes. It is intended to pass a resolution at the Authority's Jan meeting to implement the proposed boundary change so that Sherford residents will not be eligible for mooring licenses.

All

7.5 Shared Parish working. The Clerk advised that SHDC have asked DAPC to organise 2 meetings in the January to review opportunities. Councillors were encouraged to attend.

Clerk

7.6 BT red telephone boxes. Council decided not to adopt either of the 2 boxes in the Parish. BT has advised that they will not be removing boxes without further consultation.

Tapper/
Hitchins

7.7 Christmas tree on the Green. It was agreed that Cllrs Tapper & Hitchins would organise a tree this year with solar lights. St Luke's will make 'stars' for sale.

Hitchins
Searle/Clerk

7.8 "A guide to meeting participation". Council approved the distribution of this leaflet to future council meetings. Cllr Hitchins to circulate. A copy to be posted on the website, the notice board and in the Brixton magazine.

7.9 Councillors' reports.

a) Cllr Searle advised that a meeting of the Elize Hele charity was to be held shortly.

b) Cllr Hitchins advised

Hitchins

- The "Friends of Brixton Play Spaces" are working on the upgrading of 3 playgrounds in the Parish.

Hitchins

- A 'pilot' scheme of 5 sessions inviting young people to a 'Youth café' in Nov and Dec has been set up to establish needs. Funding is being sought from the Feoffe Trust and SHDC Sustainability Fund. Both Play and Youth initiatives have been brought under the Community Association 'umbrella' to increase long term funding opportunities.

Clerk

- That a lorry was stuck under the bridge below Otter. Driver error.
- That funding is available for local permissive footpath creation. This to be on Dec agenda.
- Discussions re land for LDF housing are taking place with SHDC and the Prince's Foundation. Letters to Parishes will be issued early in the New Year.

Cane

- The pavement by the school entry is covered in weeds. Cllr Cane to sort this out.

9.068 PLANNING MATTERS

In the absence of Cllr Martin, Cllr Foweraker confirmed that following applications had been approved by the Planning Committee

1. The Crescent. Conservatory erection.
2. 10, Parks Drive, Staddiscombe. Conservatory erection.

Martin

These were ratified by Council.

The application for 3 Hareston Cottages has yet to be considered.

9.069 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. The tabled expenditure of £599.98 for the month was approved.
2. The 2nd half of the precept monies has been received (£5625.00)
3. Cllr Hitchins enquired about the balance of the 'parish plan' fund. The Clerk advised that this was available as and when required.

9.070 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Sherford 'All Through' school (ages 3 to 16). Consultation reopens for this school with a surgery in Brixton Community Hall at 5-7 pm on Nov 30th.

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

9.071 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly Meeting of Brixton Parish Council is on Wednesday, December 2nd at 7.30 p.m. in the Brixton Community Hall.

Part A of the meeting was declared closed at 9.00 pm.

Part B of the meeting was opened by the Chairman.

9.072 Personnel matters.

For the avoidance of doubt, at the October meeting, Cllr Cane had agreed that the ratification of the appointment of the Clerk would be taken to a vote of the full Council.

The Chairman outlined the background to the appointment of Mr Stickland following the surprise resignation of the previous Clerk. Mr Stickland was interviewed on April 8th by 4 councillors and terms agreed.

Cllr Cane proposed and Cllr Foweraker seconded the motion that "Mr Stickland's appointment as Parish Clerk, agreed on April 8th, be approved by the full Council". This was carried unanimously by all councillors present.

The Chairman would write to Mr Stickland to confirm the terms and conditions of employment previously agreed.

Thanks were expressed to Mr Stickland for the high level of support given to Council in the last seven months.

Part B of the meeting was declared closed at 9.15 pm

OPEN FORUM NOTES

Q1. How do we dispose of deep fill waste which will not fit into the 'black bin'?

A1. Ask SHDC or a second bin.

Q2. What is the position on potential housing sites in the village?

A2. SHDC will be issuing a statement early in the New Year.

Q3. Why have we lost some of our field access paths?

A3. Permissive paths had a lifespan of 10 years which has now expired. Monies are available for renewal if landowners wish to apply. This subject will be on the December agenda.

Q4. Footpath 26 may be a danger to users because the wall has collapsed in places and cattle have free access to a narrow lane. Will BPC please write to the landowner to avert a potential accident?

A4. The Clerk will write to Kitley and DCC.

S5. Cllr Wills invited all parishioners to the Remembrance Day service on Nov 8th at 10.45am in St. Mary's Church.