

Draft Minutes of the Brixton Parish Council Meeting 29th April 2015

Brixton Community Room, 7.30pm

In attendance: Cllr Liz Hitchins (Chair), Cllr Michael Wills (Vice Chair), Cllr Ian Calvert, Cllr Gray, Cllr Gay Murch, Cllr Martyn Oates, District Councillor John Squire, County Councillor John Hart & County Councillor Richard Hosking

Members of Parish in attendance: 18

Open Forum (these notes do not form part of the official minutes)

Rosemary Deeley – attended the South Hams District Council (SHDC) Development Management Committee Meeting in April regarding the planning application for variation of planning conditions for Brixton Caravan and Camping Site. Noted that no member of the Parish Council had been in attendance, was grateful to District Councillor Squire for requesting a site meeting regarding this application and it therefore being deferred until after a site meeting on 22nd June, time to be confirmed.

It was noted that this was an important point; as volunteers Parish Council members often have full time jobs as well as Parish Council duties and cannot always attend meetings. In this instance prior commitments meant that no one was able to attend. Councillor Squire has always ensured that the best interests of the Parish are forefront and it the Parish Council are very grateful for his representation. The Parish Council will have a representative at the site meeting and members of the public can also attend. A decision will be made at the Development Management Meeting on 1st July 2015, the Parish Council can make representation at this.. Clerk will put details of the site visit on facebook and the Parish Website once it is known.

Cllr Oates stated that the SHDC Planning officer for this application – Alex Sebbinger - has recommended approval. There is genuine concern that what is a very important issue to a community is not always viewed as such by District Councillors who are removed from the community.

Cllr Oates has been informed by Wendy Ormsby – Planning Officer, SHDC, has stated that any Enforcement procedure will not take place whilst an application is in process unless nuisance or disturbance is proved.

Parishioners were reminded that the Parish Council can only make a recommendation regarding any application. South Hams District Council are the Planning Authority.

Jackie Lowe: The Planning Officer's report was not published for this despite searching online this was not available a copy had to be forwarded. Told that only planning conditions in the current application were to be changed but looking at the report this is not the case; the applicant mentions that workers will be living on site and this diverges from conditions. When queried over the landscaping theme SHDC had stated that an original agreement was not held on file and therefore cannot be enforced.

Clerk to request a copy of the Planning Officer's Report.

Councillor Hitchins: A co-ordinated response is required. Parish Council members will liaise with parishioners to ensure Parish is fully represented.

Ray Holland: 30th April there is a Consultation meeting in Noss Mayo Village Hall, 3pm to 7.30pm, Good Energy.

Jackie Lowe: Regarding the Section 106 funds from Canes Orchard Development: potential funding could be used to ensure public access to the swimming pool at the primary school?

Cllr Hitchins noted that there needs to be a recreation and leisure plan for the Parish. This will be discussed further in the full Parish Council meeting.

Open Forum Closed

1. Welcome & Apologies:

Cllr Hitchins welcomed everyone to the meeting

Apologies had been received from Councillor Basil Cane, Councillor Ian Martin, PC Charlotte Mathers, PCSO Andy Potter.

It was noted that at the discretion of the Chair and to enable continuance of Parish Council business an additional item – 8.10 was to be added to the agenda: to agree the insurance provider of the Parish Council.

2. Police Matters:

Brixton Parish Council Police Report March 2015

[From 21st March to 23rd April]

Brixton area:

21st March: Make off without offering payment [CR/022101/15] - Detected

27th March: Theft from a motor vehicle in compound, fuel siphoned. [CR/021354/15]

4th April: Dwelling burglary, property unoccupied was undergoing renovation. [CR/023605/15]

Between 20th Jan – 6th April: Theft of dinghy from secure compound. [CR/023822/15]

11th April: Assault [CR/024738/15] enquiries ongoing

Staddiscombe area:

13th April: Shoplifting [CR/024841/15] enquiries ongoing

3. Report from County Councillor John Hart:

The new waste energy plant in Devonport is due to start taking in waste by the end of this week.

Household waste will be taken in from South Devon, Torbay and Plymouth – 280 thousand tonnes per year. The steam is to be used by the Dockyard. This does not mean that Brixton parishioners can use Chelson Meadow, a new waste and recycling site is being built in Ivybridge.

Cllr Calvert queried regarding a possible clause in relation to Horsham Playing fields. It was confirmed that although Horsham Playing fields come under SHDC planning authority they are owned by Plymouth City Council and leased to Plymouth Albion Oaks long term. There is no clause. The Clerk is to invite Roger Croad to come and give a talk at a future Brixton Parish Council meeting to update on the new site at Ivybridge.

It has been confirmed that the embankment on the A379 between Brixton and Yealmpton is suffering subsidence. The time frame for repair is anticipated to be 6-9months and the cost £75,000-£200,000k. Silverbridge Way is currently unaffected, if this changes it will be publicised.

4. Reports from District Councillors:

District Councillor Squire:

Councillor Hitchins noted that this was the last report to Brixton Parish Council that District Councillor Squire was going to make as he was retiring after 36 years of service as a District Councillor and 51 years as a Councillor for the Parish of Wembury. District Councillor Squire gave his report: New IT solutions have been introduced to support District Councillors. New, iPad based solutions will enable a move to paperless meetings and cost reductions. Training is to be provided. Stronger clear and blue recycling sacks have been ordered with handles.

Customer Services at SHDC have been extremely busy with unprecedented calls and customer visits. 59 staff, including a number of senior and experienced staff will have left SHDC by the end of the month. This will have an impact on the authority.

A card and gift were given by the Chair with thanks, this was endorsed by applause from parishioners present.

District Councillor Squire extended his own thanks to councillors and members of Brixton Parish.

5. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Hitchins declared a financial interest in Item 10 and a personal interest in item 8.3 and 8.4

Cllr Oates declared an interest in item 8.1 as tenant of the landowner

Cllr Calvert declared a financial and personal interest in Item 9, as an applicant.

6. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meetings

Cllr Wills proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting on 25th March 2015 as an accurate record of the meeting.

Cllr Murch seconded.

The proposal was agreed by all members present as a show of hands. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

7. Matters Arising:

Tap Funding, drainage works: It was noted that the money allocated had been brought forward. Waiting for confirmation of when the contractor is available to carry out works, in the meantime let the Clerk know of any drainage works needed.

Bus Shelter Seats: This matter is ongoing. It was agreed the Clerk would look into the possibility of construction and fitting separately.

8. Local Issues and Councillor Reports

8.1 Steer Point Quarry Update: A barrister had been instructed to make the case appealing the decision; papers had gone forwards to Her Majesties Courts and Tribunal. The outcome was that this would not be considered as a case, the costs requested from Devon County Council (DCC) had been reduced. This is as far as can be reached in the process. There is extreme disappointment in the result. Other avenues will be explored but this is the current situation. It is important to remember that a year ago there was to be 10 years of disruption and now this has been reduced to 4 years with fewer lorries. This is a positive outcome. County Councillor Richard Hosking has been the representative for the Parish at County level for this matter; thanks were extended to Richard for his representation.

8.2 Solar Farm Development: Cllr Calvert noted that Richard Bowkett had been a good Site Manager, could he be contacted as fires have been noted on Steven Cane's land that have a chemical smell as if plastic is being burned and trailers have been seen coming from Catson Green to the site of the fires. Can the waste plan be confirmed and evidence seen as to where the packaging is being disposed of. It was specifically said that the waste was not to be burnt. This is a further planning issue that is causing a lack of trust and respect in the village as it appears that rules are not consistently applied.

Cllr Oates proposed that Brixton Parish Council contact Richard Bowkett and request to see the waste management plan and evidence that this is being adhered to.

Councillor Wills seconded. There was unanimous agreement by a show of hands.

It was also recommended that Environmental Health be contacted. Cllr Murch reminded parishioners that they can contact agencies directly and do not have to wait for a Parish Council meeting if they feel something needs reporting.

8.3 Canes Orchard Phase 2: The Clerk has confirmed that Wendy Ormsby is now the correct contact for this development and a meeting date is to be set up. The Clerk will refer to previous minutes from 2nd April 2014 to confirm areas of concern.

8.4 Canes Orchard Section 106 funds & Traffic Management: The road works have been completed within time by the contractor. In reference to Section 106 Recreation Funds, Ross Kennerley, SHDC, has confirmed that a Parish wide Sport and Recreation Plan is required before any funds can be allocated. This needs to show a well rounded approach and meet the needs of parishioners of all ages. Cllr Oates queried why the need for this plan had not been mentioned months ago when the funds were first discussed. Has the money been paid from the landowner to SHDC? Cllr Gray noted that after 5 years the money goes back to SHDC. There are a number of barriers and obstacles to small parish councils accessing such funding. **The Chairman will start to get a small group together to plan how to move the Sport and Recreation Plan forward.**

8.5 Sherford Development: The next meeting of the Sherford Liaison Group is scheduled for 21st May. The planning meeting for Reserve Matters was helpful. Cllr Oates noted that the percentage of affordable housing was below 20% in the Reserve Matters & the percentage of renewable energy 0%. The original proposals had emphasised cycling and walking however cycle routes are not being put in until the end of the development and this is too late for the intended habits of cycling or walking to be ingrained for residents. There is also limited parking.

8.6 SHDC Planning Decisions: Cllr Oates noted that it is very difficult for Parish Councillors, who are not paid professionals, to have input into the planning process and this leads to a decided lack of trust between the community and the planning authority. Other Parishes share this frustration. The potential of getting the 5 parishes around the Yealm together to discuss planning procedure was raised. District Cllr Squire pointed out that many officers are leaving SHDC and this could be an opportunity to meet with new officers to air concerns and the widespread disillusion with the planning procedure. He feels that Parish Councils should be given the same amount of detail as SHDC. Cllr Murch noted that transparency would be a good starting point.

Clerk to contact other Parish Clerks to request consideration of a meeting of local parish council representatives i.e. Wembury, Brixton, Yealmpton & Newton & Noss how an approach can be made to SHDC to improve the information provide to Parish Councils on planning applications.

8.7 Emergency Plan: Leaflets for the emergency plan will be distributed in the week beginning 11th May. The results will be collated and the plan drafted for consultation.

8.8 Neighbourhood Plan: At the meeting in March it was agreed that the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan would be the whole of Brixton Parish including the Sherford Development Site. It has since been noted that regulations will not allow this. Sherford will have its own Town Council and therefore the designated area will now not include this. A revised proposal excluding the area covered by Sherford was considered.

Cllr Gray proposed to accept the new designated area.

Cllr Wills seconded the proposal. There was unanimous support indicated by show of hands.

8.9 Grass Cutting Contract: The Clerk noted that funds from Devon County Council (DCC) for cutting verges in the Parish had been considerably reduced. In light of this quotations had been sought from 4 companies for the grass cutting contract –Brixton Parish. All companies had been sent the map showing the areas highlighted by DCC as requiring maintenance and some other areas as highlighted by the Parish and included in the previous contract. Two quotes had been returned. These were read out to the meeting. The most reasonable and comprehensive quotation was noted as South West Ground Maintenance. This company currently has the contract for maintenance of Silverbridge Way. Cllr Gray proposed that the quotation from South West Grounds Maintenance be accepted and the contract offered for 2015/16.

Cllr Wills seconded the proposal.

Unanimous support by show of hands.

8.10 Parish Council Insurance: Insurance renewal is due for the Parish Council from June. The Clerk had requested 3 quotations and received 3. The current provider had been contacted and had agreed a lower premium for the same level of cover. Two other quotations providing the same cover had come in at a higher premium.

Cllr Wills proposed that Brixton Parish Council renew with the current provider.

Cllr Calvert seconded the proposal.

Unanimous agreement by show of hands.

8.11 Cllr Reports:

Cllr Oates reported that on the road north of Catson Green there was spoil and inert waste being transported to an agricultural setting from Canes Orchard. This was not just topsoil but plastic, metal tarmac etc. SHDC Planning Officer Wendy Ormsby had been to site to see this and stated that the alternative would be lorries on A379. The lane will be cleared by the end of the week. This once again raised a question regarding the consistency of the enforcement procedure. **The Clerk is to query what is in the waste management plan for the development.**

Cllr Oates reported that Footpaths 27 & 2 go near Horsham Playing Fields. The Land Registry would be a good starting point for developing any future paths and links. There is a blocked path at Torr Hill, this is an historical issue. DCC should be contacted and asked why this has not been followed up. There is now a gate to replace a stile at Mill Lane.

Cllr Calvert noted that the extension to the Chip Shop in the village looks good. He has been to the Albion Oaks facilities at Horsham Playing Fields and can confirm that this is a nice venue and could be useful for meetings. **Clerk to make enquiries.**

Cllr Hitchins noted that Cllr Wills is to liaise with interested parishioners regarding the site inspection of the campsite on 22nd June.

South West Composters:

- i) The AGM of the Composters Group is on 1st June 2015 in The Foxhound.

- ii) Albion Oaks Rugby Football Club made an application to the Composters Group for financial help for a planning application. The sum applied for was £585.00. The group granted a sum of £300.00.
- iii) 2 payments of Recycling credits have not reached Brixton Parish Council's bank account and are currently with SHDC to be reinstated. The Composters had understood that when the group was set up a separate bank account was set up for the Recycling Credits. This was not the case; the money was accounted for separately as it is for other projects. The composters would like to set up their own account and Ruth Edwards, SHCD has agreed that this would be satisfactory. Cllr Gray feels that this goes against the original Terms of Reference of the Composters Group and setting up an account of their own would incur additional costs of audit, insurance etc. Cllr Hitchins noted that the communication process would remain the same.
- Cllr Wills proposed that the Composters Group run their own financial state of affairs reporting to Brixton Parish Council on a monthly basis.
- Councillor Calvert seconded the proposal.
- Three councillors voted for the proposal and two voted against. Carried by 1.

Feoffee Trust: Training is being provided by South Hams CVS on the role of a trust and trustee.

No further reports.

9. Planning Matters

9.1 Planning Applications and Recommendations:

07/0736/15/F Vodafone, replacement of existing tower, above Knapps Close, Elburton – It was noted that a site visit was not required for this application. The agreed response was no comment with a note to ensure that Plymouth residents had been informed.

07/0681/15/F – Otter Nurseries, Extension to restaurant. Cllr Calvert proposed to accept this application with no objections following a report from Cllr Wills who had attended the site. Cllr Wills seconded. Unanimous support by show of hands.

07/0674/15/F – 28 Greenhill Road, Plymouth. New conservatory. Support Application.

07/0628/15/F – Spriddlestone, change of use office – residential. Support Application.

07/0652/15/F – 19 Cross Park, Brixton, single storey extension. Support Application.

10. Financial Matters:

Receipts:	Amount	Fund
1st Instalment Precept SHDC	£9,129.50	General
From Deposit Acc. (Sherford Reserve) to Current Acc. to cover payments to date for SPQ fees.	£13,683.31	General
DCC Grass cutting payment for 2014/15	£1,100.00	General
Cash from participants Gentle Exercise	£200.00	Gentle Ex
Donation to Gentle Exercise	£25.40	Gentle Ex
TOTAL:	£24,138.21	

Payments:	Amount	Fund
S. Macpherson, Physiotherapist	£126.00	Gentle Ex
S Rickard, Physiotherapist	£84.00	Gentle Ex

DALC Membership 2015/16	£348.69	General
DALC Audit Training Clerk	£30.00	General
J R Serpell & Son P3 Gate	£103.50	P3
Grounds Maintenance SW SBW Quarterly Fee	£120.00	General
G Searle Parish Website Fee 1 of 2	£125.00	General
G Searle Hosting fee for Website 1/2 share	£59.86	General
Charlie Hopkins Consultant SPQ	£750.00	Sherford Res
Clerk Pay	£493.50	General
Clerk Expenses	£25.18	General
Clerk Office	£20.00	General
Cllr Hitchins Expenses	£12.20	General
Grant from Composters to Plymstock Albion Oaks	£300.00	Composters
Sherford Planning Meeting	£18.00	General
Alan Powell Cement for Posts	£13.94	Composters
Leaflets, South West Composters	£49.18	Composters
TOTAL:	£2,679.05	

Statement balance 15th April 2015:	
Current Account:	£17,047.37
Deposit Account:	£24,177.64
TOTAL:	£41,225.01

Current Balance: 28 April 2015	
Gentle Exercise	-£93.00
P3	£332.50
Composters	£2,070.51
Sherford Reserve	£14,858.69
Silverbridge Way	£552.00

Cllr Wills proposed to accept the financial statement for April.

Cllr Gray seconded.

Cllr Hitchins abstained.

All other members present voted in agreement.

Cllr Calvert proposed to accept the annual summary of accounts.

Cllr Murch seconded.

Unanimous agreement by show of hands.

11. Correspondence for Discussion

Potholes on the A379 between Brixton and Yealmpton had been reported. Some had been filled in, others had not. The issue with subsidence has now taken precedence. **Take to traffic management.**

Reports have been made to the Clerk of excessive speeding on Red Lion Hill. **Take to traffic management.**

TAP funding: Cornwood Parish has queried TAP funding process in regards to fairness. Cllr Hitchins noted that the application from Cornwood Parish had been for an ongoing project which was clearly against the regulations of TAP funding applications.

Communication regarding events celebrating the signing of the Magna Carta will be brought to the next meeting.

Notice has been given of an uncontested result for Brixton Parish Council. Successful applicants will be written to following the 7th May. There will be a vacancy that will be filled via the process of Co-Option. **The Clerk will publicise.**

Election Posterboards – UKIP signs had been damaged in the Chittleburn area. This had been reported to the police and the Parish Council.

It was noted that this was the last meeting of the current members of Brixton Parish Council.

Cllr Basil Cane has served on the Parish Council for 36 years, he has not put forward for election to the Parish Council in 2015, thanks were extended for his hard work by the Chair.

Cllr Martyn Oates has not put forward for election to the Parish Council in 2015. Thanks were extended by the Chair, in particular for his work regarding the Parish footpaths and the importance of his questioning role that will be missed.

Cllr Sarah Gray has not put forward for election to the Parish Council in 2015. Thanks were extended by the Chair for her hard work, especially on the Welcome Pack, and for the pertinent questions raised over her term.

It was noted that the next four years will be important ones.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The Annual Brixton Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 20th May 2015.

Open Forum (these notes do not form part of the official minutes)

It was noted that lorries are using Red Lion Hill and turning right at Woollaton Cross to access the Solar Farm. This goes against the traffic plan for the site. **Clerk to query.**

Meeting closed at 10.35pm

Clare Parkinson, Clerk to Brixton Parish Council