

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE
COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY JULY 6th 2011 AT 7.30pm**

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

Also attending: Members of the public 9
 County Councillor 0
 District Councillor 1
 Police 0

The Chairman opened Part A of the meeting.

11.027 APOLOGIES

The Chairman advised that a resignation letter had been received from Cllr Tapper. A letter of thanks to be sent to Elaine Tapper. Apologies from Cllr Hart and the Police.

11.028 POLICE MATTERS

The emailed report was read out:
 JI/11/435 shoplifting involving a juvenile, foodstuff taken, enquiries to identify had negative result.
 JI/11/476 as above, juvenile located and will be interviewed in due course.

11.029 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Hart sent his apologies. Email report read out:

1. County Council had a balanced budget for 2010-11 - for the twentieth year.
2. New management structure is in place. Chief Exec plus 2 Directors, then 15 second tier officers instead of 29 - 12 now in post and more interviews in July.
3. Sherford development has now become more active in negotiations with District Council on Section 106 agreements. Devon County and Plymouth City are discussing educational needs for this development.
4. Broadband bid successful - £31 million towards second generation broadband which will give 85% cover over the whole of Devon in the next four years.
5. Snow wardens - where parishes have had people go on the snow warden course, the County Council is prepared to supply up to 5 tons of salt in preparation for next winter provided the parish is prepared to take responsibility for filling salt bins and has the capacity to store these dumpy bags in the dry.
6. Red Lion Hill to Plympton will be on the primary salt route next winter.
7. I believe in localism - and next financial year DCC will be allocating a sum of money equating to £1 per person on the electoral register for each town and parish to either do something for their own town/parish or work with other organisations or parishes to do joint projects. Parishes may wish to precept themselves to enhance this sum for special projects. I will be explaining more at the South Hams

Parishes and District meeting in Ivybridge on 13 July.

8. Draft Parliamentary Boundary Report for constituencies is due at the end of July. This could well create one or more joint constituencies between Devon and Cornwall. We need to be careful that this is only a Parliamentary Review and not a Local Government one as well.

9. Over half of the secondary schools in Devon are now academies including Ivybridge.

The Clerk was asked to check out the detail of paragraph 5 of the report.

Progress on Sherford will be established at a meeting with SHDC on July 26th.

11.030 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Cane reported:

- There are 4162 second homes in the district but only 10 in Brixton.
- Tor Homes have completed a housing project in Totnes with 100% as affordable homes. We need more in Brixton.
- West Devon and South Hams councils have been recognised nationally for their work on combining activities to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

Cllr Squire reported:

- SHDC has circulated a letter in which its vision is stated to be “full convergence of SHDC and West Devon by 2015 and continuous innovation to improve service delivery”.
- All private sewers will become the responsibility of the local water companies on October 1st, 2011.
- Localism Bill. A consultation paper has been published to revise the Town & Country planning act which will remove the need to get planning permission for transfer of commercial properties to residential properties.

11.031 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Cane expressed a personal interest in snow clearing and composting items and reiterated that he will not take part or voting in any planning related matters.

Cllr Martin expressed a personal interest in the councillor vacancy item.

11.032 MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1st PARISH MEETING

Proposed as accurate by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr Gray. Approved by the five councillors present at that meeting.

11.033 LOCAL ISSUES AND REPORTS

7.1 Brixton/Yealmpton footpath. Full costings have now been received at £50,000 to include the DCC bridge at £15,000. JWG meetings will now take place monthly. Fund raising has started. Work also needs to start early in order to complete this year. DCC contractor quote is valid until end September.

The Clerk was asked to write to Tor Homes to establish if their land adjacent to the A379 could be released as a ‘permissive path’.

7.2 Welcome Pack. Cllrs Martin, Hitchins and the Clerk will meet during the summer to provide a document for the September meeting.

7.3 Carrolsland ‘integration’ into the Brixton community. After some discussion, it was agreed that on August 17th all councillors will meet at Carrolsland at 7pm and carry out a door-to-door canvassing to ensure that residents are aware that they are in Brixton and not in Plymouth. A leaflet to be prepared by Cllr Hitchins and the Clerk.

Clerk
Hitchins/Wills
Clerk

Clerk

Hitchins/
Martin/Clerk

Hitchins/Clerk

7.4 Community Partnership. The inaugural meeting on June 2nd was well attended. It was agreed that communications in the parish were essential. Ways of circulating the Brixton magazine to all homes is under review. The newly created “Brixton Alliance” will meet again on July 13th.

7.5. Active Village opportunities. A number of ideas were tabled

- Physiotherapy for the ‘Live Wires’ group.
- School sports/activities
- Junior badminton group need a coach
- Junior football team. Cllr Hitchins to contact Jim Riley of sbFrankfurt
- Dance group on Saturday mornings

7.6 Casual vacancy for councillors. Closing date for applications is July 8th with interviews at 7pm on July 14th. Clerk to advise final candidate list. It was agreed that interview panel would be 3 councillors with others invited to attend.

7.7 Sustrans path to Elburton. Sustrans have advised that they did not pay for the Brixton to Elburton path. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk would write to Plymouth City Council to ask for the cycle track to be properly finished between Dawes Lane and the city boundary.

7.8 Local composting. The Clerk advised that if Brixton started a local ‘green composting’ scheme, they could expect recycling credits of £50 per tonne from SHDC because of the landfill tax savings accrued. However, strict rulings have to be met !! The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Steven Cane for written confirmation of his previous offer to run the scheme for the parish.

7.9 Revised Standing Orders. Cllr Hitchins advised that ‘Model Standing Orders’ have been updated nationally. The Clerk had prepared ‘Standing Orders’ for Brixton which have been vetted and amended by Cllr Wills & Hitchins. The final document had been circulated to all councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr White that these Orders be adopted. Unanimously approved.

7.10 DCC savings. a) The Clerk advised that DCC was reducing the cutting of roadside verges from six times to four times per year unless safety was an issue. b) The Clerk also advised that DCC would be turning off all street lights in the village from 12.30am for 5 hours except along the A379. Programme likely to commence at the start of August 2011.

7.11 Councillors' reports.

a) Cllr White asked what can be done to reopen the ‘youth cafe’ which was successfully started in 2009 until the flooding at Tuscany’s caused closure. Cllr Wills advised that repairs were agreed but yet to be carried out. Cllr Hitchins asked that ideas be put forward for the support of Council.

b) Cllr Cane advised that all the overhanging hedges reported last month have been properly trimmed back to their boundaries.

c) Cllr Martin queried the non collection of waste from the end of Woodland Drive. This was an error by the collection team. It was corrected very speedily when reported.

d) Cllr Martin had been approached by a number of parishioners about the new garage sign. This has not received the necessary planning permission. Cllr Cane agreed to talk to the garage owners with a view to removal and planning application being made to SHDC.

e) Cllr Hitchins reported the following from Feoffee Trust: 1) meeting with SHDC to discuss plans for the Park to be part of the Playtrail 2) presentation made to Rev David Arnott for his support of the Trust 3) a promotional leaflet has been produced (copies circulated) 4) agreement to fund school towards cost of fencing, badminton lining, swimming pool cover & playground paint 5) meeting with scouts to discuss scout hut renovations.

All Cllrs

f) Cllr Hitchins requested that 2 or 3 councillors go to the 'Live Wires' weekly Thursday meeting (11-12) in the autumn to talk about the work of the councillors.

g) Cllr Hitchins spoke about the 'dementia friendly villages'. A steering group has been set up with a focus on Yealmpton (as no carer facility exists) and the creation of a Development Officer job to make all public spaces 'dementia friendly'. A visit to Holbeton Parish to be made next week.

Hitchins

h) Cllr Hitchins agreed to send information about 'Chimney Fire Safety Week' to Mr Searle for inclusion on the website.

All Cllrs

i) Cllr Hitchins reminded councillors of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year and asked how the village might celebrate.

j) Cllr Hitchins thanked the two school governors for their 'Open Forum' presentation and reiterated the ongoing support from the Council.

Clerk

k) Cllr Hitchins asked that subject of snow clearing be put on the September agenda.

Martin

11.034 PLANNING MATTERS

a) Cllr Martin raised the issue of feedback from SHDC when they do not agree with BPC observations about any application. 07/1281 has been refused for a second time despite changes to meet the planner's needs. Cllrs Cane and Squire asked that they be involved in these cases for discussion with the SHDC officers.

b) New application 07/1635 for 6 Canes Cottages would be reviewed by 25/7.

11.035 FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) The tabled expenditure of £1623.24 for the month was approved after proposal by Cllr Wills and seconding by Cllr Cane.

b) The new Financial Regulations were explained by Cllr Wills. He then proposed their acceptance which was seconded by Cllr Cane and approved unanimously.

11.036 CORRESPONDENCE

a) 'Thank you' card received from the 1st Yealm Guides for the £100 donation

b) SHDC parish cluster meeting next Wed, July 13th

c) South Hams CVS AGM meeting on July 12th

11.037 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly Meeting of Brixton Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, September 7th at 7.30 p.m. in the Brixton Community Hall.

Part A of the meeting was declared closed at 10.00 pm

Part B of the meeting was opened by the Chairman.

The Government require that, as from April 1st 2011, all clerks must be employed by the Council. The Clerk's new contract was discussed and amended. Cllr Wills proposed and Cllr Martin seconded approval of the amended contract. Passed unanimously.

M J Stickland, Clerk to Brixton Parish Council

July 8th 2011

OPEN FORUM notes (not part of the Council minutes)

1. Cllr Hitchins introduced Gitte Lindberg, a Brixton School Governor, who wanted to update the Council on the activities and organisation at St Mary's. Graham Searle, Governor, was also present.

Gitte advised that, at last, the budget for next year had been agreed by DCC. With a falling role it was inevitable that income would be reduced and that staff reductions and reorganisation would be required. Some teachers are taking reduced hours in order to fit into the new arrangement. (There is a potential for roles to increase and therefore to reinstate full working hours.)

DCC had been working with the school to arrange a two class curriculum.

There will be one full time teacher plus a full time teaching assistant for Class 1 (Reception, KS1 & KS2) and three part time teachers for Class 2

(KS3,4,5&6). The Head Teacher will be one of the three part time teachers for Class 2 with headship duties covering the rest of his hours. Additionally there will be a full time teaching assistant for one statemented (special needs) pupil and another to be recruited for a second pupil.

There has been a measurable improvement in standards with an achievement within the top third of the country on national standards for Foundation and KS1 pupils.

Training of staff continues both for leadership and management.

At a recent parents meeting, parents showed a really positive approach to the school and many have offered to help with non teaching duties which is seen as good OFSTED practice.

Gitte thanked the Council for their support and promised to visit on a termly basis to update councillors. It is recognised by all that a thriving school is key to a thriving village community.

Questions to Gitte:

Q1. How do you teach four age groups in one classroom?

A1. Tasks are set for each age group and the teacher moves around the class monitoring progress. Effectively, some streaming also takes place.

Q2. How many children will be attending in September?

A2. In the low 50's with a minimum of 50 children.

Q3. Public relations seem to be low on the agenda compared to other schools.

A3. We are aware of this and are proposing a new website, improved links with Ladybirds, and improved local press contacts.

Q4. What progress is being made about reducing the financial deficit?

A4. The deficit is expected to be paid off by March 31st 2012.

Q5. What percentage of the village children attend St Mary's ?

A5. Not known but clearly painfully aware that some children go elsewhere.

Q6. The problem of children going elsewhere has been going on for at least ten years. Why no improvement?

A6. This has to be part of our improvement of communications with the local parents and the improvement of school standards.

2. Mr Steven Cane said he had received a letter from the Clerk about the cost of the salt/gritting service that he offered at the last meeting. He calculated that at £35 per hour for equipment and labour, each gritting 'cycle' would take two hours. He would need road plans indicating gritting priorities. Storage of salt would be £1 per pallet per month ie £12 per year.

DRAFT