

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 6th 2011 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	10
	District Councillor	1
	Police	1
	County Councillor	1

9.220 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllr Tapper

9.221 POLICE MATTERS

PC Rob Batchelor reported :

Jl/11/165: On 08th March 2011 a theft from Motor Vehicle occurred where £500 was stolen from. Enquires are ongoing.

Jl/11/180: A domestic incident occurred force dictates non-disclosure of information.

Jl/11/181: On the 18th March 2011 a person was assaulted. Enquires are on-going.

Jl/11/182: On the 18th march 2011 a window of a house was smashed by a stone. Enquires are on-going.

Jl/11/211: Between the 25th March and the 28th March 2011 a motor vehicle was broken into. Enquires are on-going.

Jl/11/218: On 28th March 2011 a taxi plate was stolen from the rear of a taxi. There are no more lines of enquiry.

Jl/11/219: A domestic incident occurred force dictates non-disclosure of information.

Jl/11/222: A burglary occurred to a garage. An offender was found at the scene and arrested. Enquires are on-going.

Jl/11/244: Between 5th and 6th April 2011 a wall was damaged at a property. Enquires are on-going.

COMMUNITY:

Recently an "Overt" CCTV camera has been installed on a lamppost in a road in Brixton. The CCTV camera has been installed to assist in deterring or catching offenders regarding an issue in that road. The camera is focused on a single location and does not "Roam" the street. The camera does not intrude into anyone's property and it will be in situ for a short space of time. I know some residents have felt uncomfortable regarding the Camera. The decision was not taken lightly, however the Camera is a vital tool to deter and catch offenders and to keep the community safe.

Cllr Martin spoke on behalf of 19 residents of the estate who were unhappy and insulted with the presence of the camera and felt that this was becoming "big brother "state.

9.222 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Hart advised that he will be away for the next 2 meetings on DCC business.

He reported that:

- The Local Enterprise partnership has finally been approved by Westminster
- On April 18th, DCC will be submitting a bid to Government for £530m for High Speed broadband for all Devon and Somerset residents. BPC and local residents need to reply to the interactive questionnaire please. It was agreed that this would be put on the Brixton web site for immediate action.
- DCC have been awarded £9.3m to fill all road potholes. This is in addition to the 200,000 already mended !
- Support has been given to the school from DCC
- Grass cutting in 2011. Visibility splays will be cut as previously for safety needs. Other grass cutting will be reduced from 6 to 4 times per year.
- Reorganisation continues at County Hall. The top management tier has been reduced from 7 to 3. The next tier will shortly be reduced from 20 to 15 people followed by a further 700 staff before September 2011.

9.223 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Squire reported that:

- The Localism Bill will allow local referenda on local issues if 5% of the population request one. However, the outcome will only be advisory and not compulsory.
- The Standards Board is to be abolished.
- Tor Homes report that they have invested £125m in Community projects including "Play Spaces" here in Brixton.
- Tor Homes will be amalgamating with 2 other Housing Associations by 2012.
- Broadband. Maybe all future 106 agreements should contain a clause incorporating high speed feeds to all new dwellings.
- There are 2 internet satellites available for Devon residents.
- Energy Share. There are grants up to £500k for community renewable energy projects.

Cllr Cane reported that:

- There will be no changes to front line services from SHDC
- Management changes and reduction in manager numbers continue at Follaton House
- There may be a new Council elected on May 5th.

Both District Councillors are under election threat on May 5th. Only 2 of 3 can be elected. They both expressed their thanks for support given over the last 4 years and Council reciprocated with thanks for the hard work and dedication from them.

9.224 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Pecuniary interest: Cllr Searle; Parish website.
- b) Cllr Cane advised that he will not take part in any planning discussions or voting as he sits on the District Planning Control committee

9.225 MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2nd PARISH MEETING

Proposed as accurate by Cllr Searle and seconded by Cllr Martin. Voted by 6 councillors with 2 abstentions due to absence from that meeting.

9.226 LOCAL ISSUES AND REPORTS

7.1 Brixton/Yealmpton footpath. The Working Group is expected to meet again at the end of April when the full project costing should be available. The footpath is not yet open to the public. 'No entry' signs will be removed when the permissive path is formally opened. The Clerk advised that there is no possibility of the path at the Brixton end passing between Tor Homes houses and the A379 as there is not a continuous strip of land behind the road

fence/hedge.

Martin 7.2 **Village Welcome pack.** Cllr Martin will put forward a proposal at the June meeting.

Martin 7.3 **Viridor.** The Clerk advised that there is only one existing application for a proposed Waste Disposal plant at New England Quarry. The new papers circulating are only additional information to support the original application. Cllr Martin agreed to attend the DCC meeting at Lee Mill on 13th April on behalf of BPC.

Clerk 7.4 **Community Partnership.** A disappointing response to our letter of invitation. Only 6 out of 14 organisations have responded. It was agreed to set up a meeting in June anyway and invite all 14 organisations.

Hitchins 7.5 **Parish Plan.** Cllr Hitchins advised that all the collation is now complete and that a presentation of findings will be made at the May meeting.

All 7.6 **Land Development.** Following a recent limited consultation, Barratt has agreed to hold a community “open house” day on 19th April in the Community Room from 2.30 until 7.30pm. All parishioners are very welcome to attend and see the plans for themselves. A letter of invitation is to be sent to all households. Some graphical presentation will be on our website.

7.7 **Chargeable Waste.** The Clerk advised that DCC will, from April 1st, be charging for some ‘commercial’ waste. There is also a restriction on certain vehicles entering the site. Full details are on the Village web site.

Clerk 7.8 **Devon Active Villages.** Cllr Hitchins explained a little about how the scheme is aimed at setting up a healthier Devon with more exercise and activity groups. It was agreed to invite Mr Ben Ayres, the scheme coordinator, to come to our June meeting and make a presentation to Council and attending parishioners.

7.7 **Councillors' reports.**

Clerk • Cllr Searle reminded Council that a new trustee would be required for the Elize Hele and John Lanyon Trust as he is not standing for re election.

• Cllr Searle reminded Council that new photos and contact information will be needed for the website after the elections

Clerk • Cllr Hitchins spoke of the urgency to write a letter to DCC regarding the Broadband Campaign. Maximum support from the parishes is essential. Speeds vary between 2 and 4 megs at present.

Clerk • Cllr Hitchins expressed concern that we were not involved in “Plymouth Urban Fringe” consultations. The Clerk advised that the papers pertaining to villages to the east have yet to be written. The Clerk was asked to write to remind Plymouth that they have yet to complete the footpath from the city out to the Brixton as promised a long time ago.

Hitchins • Cllr Martin was delighted with the success of the new play park. Please can we have a suitable rubbish bin.

• Cllr Martin expressed concern that it was widely rumoured in the village that this new park was only for the children from the south and west of the village. **THIS FACILITY IS FOR ALL BRIXTON CHILDREN (and visitors).**

Lang • Cllr Lang advised that Redtree have now shown an interest in filming/recording the current Sherford scene prior to the start of building. Prices and final plans are awaited.

9.227 PLANNING MATTERS

Cllr Cane handed the chair to Cllr Hitchins for this item in which interest has been declared.

Council discussed the following application earlier considered by the subcommittee:

1. 0523/11/F. Replacing and upgrading the play equipment at Silverstream Way. Cllrs Martin and Hitchins declared an interest in this project and Cllr Wills led the subgroup site meeting as a result. The Tor Homes rep had explained the uses of the tubular equipment and the new layout for use by all village children. Cllrs Wills,

Tapper, Searle and Foweraker recommended acceptance of the scheme.

2. 0226/11/AD. A revised application had been received from the Co-op for new garage signing at Carrolsland. No objections from subcommittee.
3. 02524/11/F. Mewstone, Arcadia. This building is an old one and in need of upgrading. The subcommittee had no reason for objections for the proposed work.

Proposal to approve the decisions of the sub committee work was proposed by Cllr Lang, seconded by Cllr Searle and approved.

9.228 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) The tabled expenditure of £6550.66 for the month of March was approved. The clerk explained that £4000 of this was for the new play area near the school. £1000 had been received for DCC towards this donation. A further £1993 had been spent on the external administration for the Parish Plan (to DCC).
- b) Tabled expenditure for April of £1040.97 was approved.
- c) The Clerk explained that HM Revenue & Customs have now made it compulsory for all Parish Clerks to be employees. It was proposed by Cllr Lang and seconded by Cllr Martin that Brixton should use SHDC as our payroll agent for Mike Stickland's wages. Approved.

Clerk

9.229 CORRESPONDENCE

- Councillor Training. It was agreed to reserve 4 places for new councillor training at Ivybridge on June 16th
- Neighbourhood Watch. It was agreed that Cllr Martin and Jack Gilbury attend the meeting on April 12th at the Watermark Centre, Ivybridge.
- A letter had been received on behalf of the Guides Association which wants to open a new pack: the 1st Yealm Guides. It will be open to girls from all the Yealm riparian parishes. The letter is seeking financial help to set up the new pack. It was agreed that the Clerk would get some more details and invite the leaders to attend the May meeting.

Clerk

Martin

Clerk

Prior to closing the meeting, the outgoing Chairman thanked all retiring Councillors for their hard work and dedication during their term of office. Enjoy your retirement.

9.230 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday, May 11th, 2011 at 7.30pm.

Note that this is one week later than usual as the Council Elections take place this year of May 5th

The meeting was declared closed at 9.34 pm

OPEN FORUM held at 7.30pm.

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

**Hart/
Clerk**

1. Mr Robin Davies expressed concern on behalf of all the residents of Cross Park that the new 'sand and grit' bin was clearly in the wrong place. After a long discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Hart and the Clerk would separately make pertinent enquiries and get the bin moved up the hill into Cross Park. This became a more sensible option after Cllr Hart advised that he has just obtained agreement from DCC Highways to put Red Lion Hill and the lane through to Deep Lane A38 Junction onto the "primary gritting route" for the future. Cllr Hart will obtain new "gritting" maps for the Council.

Hart

It was confirmed that DCC Highways were responsible for refilling the bins. Please ring the 0845 number given on the bin.

The Chairman and Clerk apologised for any offence caused by recent letters.

Cane

Cllr Cane confirmed that it is the intention of Council to review the whole issue of mobility during snow difficulties in the village. Contingency monies have been budgeted and Council will report on this later in the year.

Clerk

2. Mr Mark Jeffery explained that he had submitted Election papers to SHDC to be considered as a Councillor. These papers appear to have been rejected on admin grounds. Mr Jeffery told Council that he is still interested in filling the vacancy that will exist on May 6th. The Clerk advised that the "Casual Vacancy" (please ignore the old fashioned terminology!) would be advertised during the summer and that Mr Jeffery will be welcome to apply along with any other interested parishioners.

M J Stickland, Clerk to Brixton Parish Council

April 9th 2011