

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE
COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7TH 2011 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	9
County Councillor	1
District Councillor	1
Police	0

11.071 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllr Martin, the Police and the Clerk
A resignation letter has been received from Cllr Lynne Lang as she no longer qualifies on residential requirements. The Clerk will advertise the vacancy in the New Year.

11.072 POLICE MATTERS

The emailed report was read out by the Cllr Hitchins as follows:

3 x non crime domestic incidents (Police called to addresses where occupants are arguing and where no actual offences come to light).

1 x deception offence (failed to pay for taxi fare).

2 x assaults 1 x possession of controlled drug (small amount of cannabis resin) (these three offences arose from one incident).

11.073 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Hart took the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas.

- Budget season is now in full flow and significant cuts still need to be made. The budget will be reduced by £54million next year with further cuts in the subsequent years.
- DCC has reduced staff levels by 2000, £1.6 million has been saved by changes to working practices. There will still be a need to reduce services further.
- £8 million has been offered by the government in mitigation for the budget reductions but this cannot be spent on anything that would incur on-going costs.
- Schools that have transferred to Academy status may result in a further impact on the budget, possibly by as much as £6 million pounds.
- Devon is piloting a scheme for property owned by all Government departments in Devon (6,500 properties) to rationalise and reduce associated costs.
- Devon is also piloting changes to help for families with complex needs approx. 1300 families in Devon.
- The local enterprise partnership is continuing on target.

- Broadband second generation will be rolled out mid 2012. Again Devon will be a pilot for this project working with the Governments Preferred bidder at a cost of £70 million, (with £31million funded by central government).
- Funding for the South Devon link road (at Kingskerwell) has now been agreed, and should commence mid 2012 completing in 2016.
- Funding has also been agreed by Government for the Lee Moor / Hemerdon Mine route which should be commenced early next year.
- Police commissioner elections should be in November 2012 and a board is currently being established.

11.074 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Squire reported:

- 280 empty homes have been identified with the district. SHDC will be assisting owners to return these properties to use. SHDC has a good record with this scheme as the empty homes figure for 2010 was 612.
- Member's allowances will be reviewed next year by an independent panel.
- The budget for SHDC will be cut by £400,000 next year, and the council will be consulting with the public to help prioritise the services needed.
- The council is currently considering the level of council tax for next year there is a grant from central government of £128,000 if the decision is made to freeze at the current levels, however this could result in a larger shortfall or big rises in future years, so it is being very carefully considered.
- £808,000 has been recovered from the Heritable Bank and it is hoped that a further £442,000 will be reclaimed which would equal 96p for every £1 invested.
- Legal notices have been served on the Occupy Totnes protestors occupying land behind the civic hall.

11.075 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Oates expressed a personal interest in the Planning Matter 07/2679 and stated that he will not take part or voting in that matter.

11.076 MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2nd PARISH MEETING

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

11.077 LOCAL ISSUES AND REPORTS

7.1 Sherford 106 agreement.

Cllr Hitchins reported that the application and 106 agreement for Sherford had been approved by South Hams District Council earlier today. A Barrister appointed at an additional meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 5th December had opposed the application on behalf of the parishioners of Brixton. Thanks were extended to John Squire who spoke very eloquently against the proposals during the debate, but the vote was carried with 15 for and 7 against.

Due to the impact that the Sheford project will have on the village, with the changed phasing of the build, the traffic flow through the village and the viability of the project, which no longer appears to meet the original criteria for sustainability or affordability. The Parish Council are seeking to consider the views of the residents within Brixton particularly with regard to applying for judicial review of the decision.

The Public Forum for the January meeting will be to discuss this issue. Residents unable to attend are encouraged to contact Councillors or the Parish Clerk to express their views. Details of the Sheford application and 106 agreement are available on the South Hams DC website.

7.2 Silver Bridge Way.

Cllr Hitchins advised that an agreement has been signed between DCC, Brixton and Yealmpton Parish Council's, and the landowner for a permissive path along the route between Brixton and Yealmpton

The planning application for the bridge was submitted on Monday 5th of December.

Funding applications for £5000 each had been made to Brixton Feoffee Trust, South Devon Coastal LAG and Langage Grant Fund . A Big lottery initial application to Reaching Communities was submitted earlier today. This is in addition to the funding already secured.

7.3 Welcome Pack.

Cllr Gray reported that a few final adjustments were to be made but the pack has now been given to 1 new resident. Councillors were encouraged to inform Cllr Gray if they were aware of new residents in the village.

7.4 Active Village opportunities.

Cllr Hitchins reiterated that £3000 has been allocated to help villagers become more active, the Parish Council are still looking for further ideas for how best to use this money. It has already been used successfully to establish the Tuesday morning Gentle Exercise group in Venn Court.

1st Aid Training is being investigated for Coaches and possible as a whole village activity.

Jayne Wootton is the new coordinator and met Cllr Hitchins in November.

7.5 Jubilee Celebrations on June 2nd to 5th 2012

Cllr White reported that plans for a street party in Old Road were progressing, but due to Christmas workloads the 1st meeting of a working group will be in January. The celebration will also coincide with a "Big Lunch" run by the Eden project. Plans are underway for a cake and the group will investigate the costs for a beacon for the church tower.

It was proposed by Cllr Hitchins that as the Jubilee is such a rare event, the village should consider commemorating with a new piece of village furniture and tree or other planting, similar to the lamppost erected for Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

Cllr Oates discussed the current state of the lamppost and asked if Feoffee would consider funding renovation. Cllr Hitchins to investigate.

7.6 Olympic Torch Relay 2012

Cllr White reported on plans from SHDC The torch is planned to arrive in Brixton on the morning of Sunday 20th May, Brixton is the first point of the day. There will be a convoy of 12 coaches but no official road closures will occur. Ideas for the event are required by Cllr White to help celebrate the arrival.

7.7 Local composting.

A start date is still awaited but a small group needs to be set up to discuss the final arrangements Cllrs White and Murch agreed to meet with Mr Cane to take this forward. Any parishioners interested in assisting in the establishment of the

scheme which will help bring income into the village and free compost for those participating are welcome to join the group contact Cllrs White or Murch.

7.8 Councillors' reports.

a) Cllr Oates reported that the Harbour Authority has set the budget for 2012, As capital expenditure projects have ended there will be a reduction in fees to 2008 levels.

b) Cllr White reported that the FOBPS had a very successful opening of the new Silverwood Play Park in Woodland Drive /Silver Steam Way with tree planting. Funds have been raised by the group for the £73,000 redevelopment through the Big Lottery – Changing Spaces and Tor Homes. The new play space is really appreciated by the children.

c) Cllr Hitchins reported the Feoffee Trust had agreed to a grant of £5000 for the Silverbridge Way Community Path. They have also funded a new floor and windows for the Scout Hut and the scouts are now painting the inside and outside. Grants have been made to the school to improve the fencing to the playing field and the lines on the badminton courts.

The Feoffee Trust currently has a vacancy on the board of Trustees and parishioners are invited to express an interest if they wish to be considered.

11.078 PLANNING MATTERS

1. Application number 07/2679 for a new dwelling in the grounds of Huntleigh Lodge was discussed. Cllr Wills proposed and Cllr Murch seconded the approval of this application. Approved by all voting, Cllr Oates did not vote.

2. Application number 07/2723 for Retrospective advertising consent at South Devon repair Garage was discussed. Rejection of the application in its current form was proposed by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr White agreed by all.

3. Application number 07/2708 for 36 Solar panels to the Cart shed at Proctors Barn, Spriddlestone. Cllr Wills proposed and Cllr White seconded the approval of this application. Approved by all voting,

11.079 FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) The tabled expenditure of £590.00 for December was approved after proposal by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr Gray.

11.080 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received

11.081 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Brixton Parish Council will be held on Thursday 15th of December 2011 at 7.30p.m. in the Brixton Community Hall, to discuss the development brief for land at Venn Farm and east of Venn Farm.

The next monthly Meeting of Brixton Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, January 11th 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in the Brixton Community Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.43 pm

OPEN FORUM

Mr Gilbury made the council aware that orange fencing had been placed over the kissing gate adjacent to the new Silver Woods play area on Saturday 3rd December

by Tor Homes. Tor Homes had been contacted and the fencing has been removed.

SE Gray, Cllr Brixton Parish Council

December 9th 2011