

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup> AT 7.30pm**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr Hitchins	*	Cllr Calvert	*
	Cllr Wills	*	Cllr Murch	*
	Cllr Martin	@	Cllr Cane	*
	Cllr Gray	*	Cllr Jessop	*
	Cllr Oates	*		
	* Denotes attendance		@ Denotes absence	

<b>Also attending:</b>	Members of the public	15
	County Councillor	0
	District Councillor	1
	Police	1

**1. APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Martin and Hart

**2. POLICE MATTERS**

PCSO Andy Potter gave his report as below:

Brixton

8<sup>th</sup> report of a common assault after enquiries no further action taken [JI/13/1043]

18<sup>th</sup> report of non crime domestic [JI/13/1073]

Staddiscombe

30<sup>th</sup> report of a non crime domestic [JI/14/2]

Andy Potter advised that any residents who are being ‘hassled’ by cold callers should report the problem on phone number 101.

**3. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Hart apologies given. The Clerk read a précis of the email from Cllr Hart:

- Offer to fund camera inspection on drain at end of Lodge Lane
- Flooding on road to Plympton more complex
- Mobile library cuts will not affect Brixton
- Consultation on Youth, Day Care Centres and Residential Homes ongoing
- Budget for 2104/15 will be very difficult. Still awaiting funding information from Government.
- Budget will be structured to support the vulnerable residents of the County

**4. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Cane reported that:

- SHDC budget still has a discrepancy of £583k to be resolved by mid Feb
- SHDC rates are third lowest in Devon
- Icelandic Bank monies all returned except £72,000
- SHDC Transformation Program is led by improved computerisation but will not benefit many of the older population.

- SHDC Chief Executive is retiring in March. On a temporary basis, one Corporate Director from SHDC and one Corporate Director from West Devon will run the 2 councils in collaboration.

Cllr Squire reported that:

- Attendance records for councillors will no longer be published.
- National Park Authority to reduce members from 22 to 19 to save money.
- Government Grant not cut. Grant is £3.696 million
- Council Tax increase under discussion but will not exceed 1.9%
- 19 seasonal public toilet closures have been published. Wembury OK
- Business rates collection achieved 99.2%
- Domestic rates collection achieved 99.0%

#### **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Gray declared an interest and advised that she would not be voting on TAP fund application for Dementia.

#### **6. MINUTES OF PARISH MEETINGS**

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on December 24th 2013 were proposed by Cllr Wills as an accurate record after amendment requested by Cllr Oates regarding Clerk absence. Seconded by Cllr Cane and agreed unanimously.

#### **7. LOCAL ISSUES AND REPORTS**

**7.1 Footpath leaflet.** Revised draft agreed. Cllr Hitchins will obtain 3 printers' quotes.

**7.2 Silverbridge Way.** a) The Information Board design still awaits comment from 2 of the working group. The magni posts have arrived. b) Cllr Oates has still to resolve the issue of improved signage.

**7.3 Traffic group.** Next meeting to be held on Jan 30<sup>th</sup> in the RBL office. Councillors have been emailed up to date notes by Cllr Hitchins. Cllr Calvert asked if the data could be circulated. Cllr Hitchins stated that the data would be seen and discussed by the 'working group' prior to circulation.

**7.4 Lane clearance.** After some discussion, it was agreed to monitor the condition of Coombe Lane and Hobby Lane until end May and reconsider at June meeting.

**7.5 DCC Transport Consultation.** The chairman read out the principles of the consultation document which sets out options to cut the costs of bus transport in Devon. It was agreed that responses would be made by individuals on <http://new.devon.gov.uk/publictransportbudget>

**7.6 Devon Flood Risk Management.** DCC are consulting on the policy document until January 27<sup>th</sup> 2014. BPC decided not to respond collectively.

**7.7 Locality Grants.** The Clerk reminded councillors that both DCC and SHDC have Locality Funds available for community projects within the parish. Application ideas to be emailed to the Clerk.

**7.8 SHDC Planning seminar feedback.** Cllr Wills summarised the seminar in two parts: a) Land Supply. SHDC are required to hold a 5 year supply of approved land for development based on the demographics for the district. At present, there is a shortfall which makes any developer appeals against refusal to be favourably considered by government inspectors. b) Sustainable Development. To maintain the vitality of all local communities. A pragmatic

Hitchins

Oates

All/Clerk

All Cllrs

approach has been adopted which even puts AONB at risk.

**7.9 Future use of Sherford ‘reserve’ funds.** Cllr Cane raised this matter in December for discussion in January. Cllr Hitchins made it clear that the discussion would centre about the principle of consulting about these reserve funds and Council would not be discussing any particular ideas or projects. After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr Gray to set up a ‘working group’ consisting of Cllrs Hitchins, Wills, Cane, the Clerk, Derek Curtis and Peter Morgan- Evans to make recommendations to Council. Approved unanimously. The Clerk to set up a meeting.

**7.10 TAP Fund applications.** The following 4 projects were approved for submission to SHDC:

- Training for 12 people/helpers for a social inclusion programme “Getting into reading” for dementia sufferers. £4000.
- Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm. £500 for continued volunteer support beyond Nov 2014.
- SBW extension. Landowner wants the pavement to be widened to give safer access the east end of the path rather than create another permissive path. Cost £5000 estimate.
- Wembury proposal to include Brixton, Yealmpton and Newton & Noss Councils. To employ contractor to carry out a thorough ‘clean up’ of drains, culverts, buddle holes as DCC are cutting back these services. £20,000 cost.(ie £5k per parish)

**7.11 Councillors’ reports.**

- Cllr Wills advised that the “Brixton Rocks” road stones will be erected at the parish boundaries by end February. Highway to be traffic light controlled to achieve this.
- Cllr Murch reported some flooding in Cross Park. Clerk asked that this be reported on ‘My Devon’ website.
- Cllr Hitchins reported that Wembury PC has agreed that a ‘strong’ letter be sent to Plymouth City Council regarding the use of Chelson Meadow by Wembury and Brixton residents instead of Ivybridge Recycling Centre. Cllr Hitchins and Clerk to draft letter.
- Cllr Calvert asked that the information re planning application outcomes be put on agendas and in the minutes. The Clerk agreed to start this month with recent approvals.
- Cllr Jessop identified a problem of car parking at Staddiscombe. She agreed to contact PCSO Potter to discuss.
- Cllr Hitchins advised that consideration was being given to forming a new charity to handle all the ‘Dementia around the Yealm’ business beyond the life of the current project. Trustees will need to be put forward by all parishes concerned.
- Cllr Hitchins advised that a letter had been received from the Post Office regarding changes to the service in the village from April 2014. It is planned to retain the service in the Village Shop. Opening hours of Monday 13.30-16.45, Wed 09.30-14.00, Thursday 13.00-16.45 & Sat 09.30-12.00. This is open to local consultation until February 18<sup>th</sup>. Notices to be posted on the village notice board, website and Facebook.

Clerk

Wills

Murch

Hitchins/Clerk

Clerk

Jessop

Hitchins

Clerk

**8. PLANNING MATTERS**

**Martin**

8.1 07/3049/13/VAR. Gorlofen Farm. Removal of condition 4 of approval 07/1207/04/F. Site visit to be set up by Cllr Martin.

8.2 The following applications have been given conditional approval by SHDC: 07/2579, 07/2679, 07/2681, 07/1092, 07/2347. Details can be found on SHDC Planning website.

8.3 Cllr Oates raised a query about the Venn farm development.

**Cllr Cane left the meeting room**

**Martin**

The reference is 07/2714/13/DIS. There is no statutory consultation but BPC may comment if they so wish. Cllr Martin to review.

**Cllr Cane returned to the meeting.**

### **9. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

9.1 The tabled expenditure of £1628.88 was approved after proposal by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr Cane.

**Clerk**

9.2 Cllr Wills proposed and Cllr Cane seconded that the precept for 2014/15 be set at £16000. Approved unanimously. Clerk to submit to SHDC.

### **10. CORRESPONDENCE**

a. Letter from Post office – see item 7.11 above

b. Letter from J Edwards regarding the flooding at the junction of Lodge Lane and A379 with copies of letters to DCC and SHDC. Discussed in general in ‘Open Forum’. Clerk note: Devon CC attended today and believe that problem is now resolved.

**Clerk**

### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The next General Meeting of the Council will take place on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 in the Community Room.

**The meeting was declared closed at 10.04 pm**

### **OPEN FORUM**

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

1. Mrs Davis asked that the road drain adjacent to the bus stop on the north side of the A379 be cleared to prevent walkers getting ‘soaked’ by passing traffic.
2. Mr Dale of Lodge Lane expressed the concern and frustrations of many Lodge Lane residents that DCC was continually making excuses for not resolving the flooding problem at the lane end adjacent to the A379. This problem has been going on, in some form, for 30 years. After the ‘flood’ had been pumped out today, residents had cleared large quantities of mud brought on the tractor wheels from Venn Farm. Letters of complaint have been sent to DCC and SHDC with copies to

BPC.

3. Mr Dale then raised concern at the weight (20 tons ??) of the farm machinery using Lodge Lane. There is a 7.5 ton limit on the lane but this does not apply to vehicles seeking access to property, farms etc.

Cllr Cane advised that he would speak to Steven Cane about this as generally access to higher fields was via Chittleburn Hill.

4. Mr Curtis advised that a second A379 drain (to the west of Lodge Lane) was not collecting the road water efficiently.
5. Mr Curtis asked if he would be allowed to contribute to Council discussions during the official BPC council meeting. The Chairman responded that any input during the formal meeting would be at the discretion of the chairman and by invitation.
6. Mr Curtis expressed concern about the release of the Sherford Reserve fund. He believes that the fund should be retained for emergency use until the completion of the Sherford project.
7. Mr Morgan-Evans expressed concern that the Sherford new town project had gone on for so long. The original application was dated December 15<sup>th</sup> 2006 and only in November 2013 was the S106 agreement finally signed off. He considers that the project will not be starting for some time yet. Therefore BPC should not be considering fund release at this time.

(It was agreed in Council – see 7.7 above – to set up a small working group to review this matter and recommend to full Council)

8. Mr Curtis stated that the minutes do not show the breakdown of the monthly expenditure. He suggested a return to the pre 2009 situation.