

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE  
COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 5<sup>th</sup> 2014 AT 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Hitchins \* Cllr Calvert \*  
 Cllr Wills \* Cllr Murch \*  
 Cllr Martin \* Cllr Cane \*  
 Cllr Gray \* Cllr Jessop \*  
 Cllr Oates \*  
 \* Denotes attendance @ Denotes absence

**Also attending:** Members of the public 22  
 County Councillor 1  
 District Councillor 1  
 Police 0

**1. APOLOGIES**

The Police

**2. POLICE MATTERS**

The Clerk read the report from PCSO Andy Potter as below:

Brixton area

Between 31<sup>st</sup> Jan and 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb a quantity of scrap metal stolen from a yard on the outskirts of Brixton [JI/14/92]

22<sup>nd</sup> non crime domestic [JI/14/142]

Staddiscombe area

1<sup>st</sup> non crime domestic [JI/14/142]

**3. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Hart reported:

- Council Tax increase of 1.99% for the first time in 4 years
- Cuts are still to be made with another 1200/1500 staff to go. Staffing levels will be halved over 6 years
- 4 consultations still running
- Highway potholes. There are now 34 teams repairing holes (up from 14) as a result of the awful winter weather. Another 8000 holes were reported in last 2.5 weeks.
- Sherford. Access to site from A38.
- Flashing speed sign (provided by DCC) could be shared between Wembury and Brixton Councils. Chapter 8 training needed for those handling the signs. Clerk to speak to Wembury PC
- £20million spent annually on school transport
- 176,000 free bus passes in Devon costs £5 million p.a.
- There are more people over 60 than under 25 years old living in Devon

**4. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Squire reported that:

- SHDC decision to increase rates by 1.9% yielding total income of £45 million.
- Boundary Commission has recommended 'no change' for Wembury and

Clerk

Brixton Parishes

- The increase in second home ownership in the South Hams is concerning councillors because of the ‘ghost town’ potential effect in the winter months
- 1/3 of South Hams residents earn less than the basic cost of living levels
- John has served 50 years as a Councillor – congratulations

Cllr Cane reported that:

- SHDC will be improving its IT systems to reduce long term costs
- Swimming pool at Ivybridge has been refurbished. Cllr Cane agreed to investigate possibility of reducing pool charges for car park users.
- Beware fraud from cold calling salespeople. Check with Trading Standards on 01823 357261 or [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk)

Cane

## 5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Oates expressed a private interest in item 8.1

## 6. MINUTES OF PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on February 5th 2014. The chairman asked councillors on a page-by-page basis if there were any amendments required. There were none. The minutes were proposed by Cllr Wills as an accurate record & seconded by Cllr Cane. Carried by 7 votes to 1 against with 1 abstention.

Concerns raised by Cllr Oates will be discussed at a business meeting in April.

Minutes will be issued as ‘draft’ until approved at a subsequent meeting.

All Cllrs  
Clerk

## 7. LOCAL ISSUES AND REPORTS

**7.1 Silverbridge Way.** The Information Board design is now complete and Cllr Hitchins will order this. This board is to be gifted by Brixton Composters.

**7.2 Silverbridge Way direction signs.** Cllr Oates stated that we cannot attach our sign to any public sign. It was agreed that the church PCC be approached for permission for a sign in the church grounds.

**7.3 Reprint of Parish Paths pamphlet.** A) A proposal by Cllr Wills, seconded by Cllr Gray, “to approve the payment of £250 for artwork changes and purchase of copyright” was passed. B) A proposal by Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Oates, “to get 1000 copies printed by OTM” was approved. Cllr Hitchins to order.

**7.4 Road naming at Canes Orchard.** The Clerk confirmed that SHDC has written to confirm the two street names as orchard Road and Bramley Close.

**7.5 Land at Brixton Torr.** A) It was reported in Open Forum that SHDC has fenced off their piece of land at Cofflete bridge to prevent use by travellers.

This was now causing traffic congestion as motorists are now parking in the turning bay. Cllr Cane agreed to visit site and then talk to SHDC about other ways of making more parking space available. B) It was reported that a standard fire engine had found access too narrow into Brixton Torr. The Clerk was asked to write to the Fire Brigade to advise of this problem and to seek confirmation that the ‘small’ fire engines be deployed to this location.

Cane

Clerk

**7.6 Sherford presentation.** This presentation has been deferred by Redtree until they have some new information to give to us. It was agreed that James Koe be invited to a full Council meeting in the meantime along with Nick McMahon

Clerk

**7.7 Plymouth Cycling campaign.** Cllr Oates has asked for a map of the planned cycle route. Cllr Hitchins agreed to follow up this request.

Hitchins

**7.8 Electoral Boundary review.** See item 4, bullet point 2, above.

### **7.9 Councillors' reports.**

**Calvert**

- Cllr Calvert reported that the Facebook page was working well in supplying instant information for users.
- Cllr Calvert reported that he has received a superfast broadband link offer from BT for his business for an extra £2 per month. Report back later.
- Cllr Martin reported the ongoing problem of vehicles driving across the pavement near the pedestrian crossing. Observers of this need to phone '101' to report the incidents.

**Jessop**

- Cllr Jessop asked what had happened to the S106 monies from the Carrolsland development. She is in contact with SHDC on this matter. Cllr Cane advised that he believed that these funds had gone to Plymouth City Council.

**Jessop**

- Cllr Jessop will be attending a Hele trust meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Cllr Jessop reported that about 20 old pine trees had been destroyed in the recent storms. As this applied to South Hams land leased to Plymouth CC any actions were outside our control.

**Gray**

- Cllr Oates reported that various bits of work are required on the footpaths.
- Cllr Gray reported a broken manhole cover at the bottom of Red Lion Hill and agreed to post the problem on the 'My Devon' website

**Clerk**

- Cllr Gray reported a water spring in the road 75yards north of the last properties going north from Red Lion Hill
- Cllr Murch advised that the puddling of water by the bus stop was creating a slippery pavement.

**Clerk**

- Cllr Hitchins reported that PC Batchelor is moving to 'frontline services'. He will be replaced by PC Charlotte Mathers. Clerk to write to say 'thanks' for his Brixton service.

**Clerk**

- Cllr Hitchins raised the issue of the SHDC imposition of a parking meter in their car park in Yealmpton. Clerk was asked to write a letter of objection to SHDC.

**All Cllrs**

- Cllr Hitchins reminded councillors of the opening of the Brixton Play trail at Elliotts Hill on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10.30 am. All invited.

**Hitchins**

- Cllr Hitchins reported that the 'Live Wires' group would like to plant Flanders Field poppy seeds on the bank along Steer Point Road. Council agreed in principle.

**Hitchins**

- Cllr Hitchins agreed to attend the Ivybridge & DALC AGM on March 19<sup>th</sup> in the absence of any other volunteers
- Cllr Hitchins advised that 2 local 'Dementia Awareness' evening sessions are to be held: March 12<sup>th</sup> in Brixton from 7 – 8.30 pm and Yealmpton on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **8. PLANNING MATTERS**

8.1 Application to DCC for importation of inert waste to Steer Point Quarry.

The presentation made in the Open forum by Mr Monk as spokesman for South Barton (and Steer Point Road) residents was excellent and informative. It was agreed that Hayley Stokes, DCC be invited to attend the Annual Parish meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and bring relevant documentation for presentation and discussion. This will be a Village Consultation event.

**Clerk**

8.2 07/0318/14/F. 7 Cross Park for amendment to consent 07/2340/13. Sub committee met on site and has no objection to these plans. Report circulated to the 4 participants.

**Clerk**

8.3 Approvals. None advised

**Clerk**

8.4 Venn Farm S106. Meeting suggested by SHDC to discuss allocations for

education and recreation.

## **9.FINANCIAL MATTERS**

9.1 The tabled expenditure of £1387.62 was approved after proposal by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr Cane. This was made up of the following items:

Pepper Communications for P3 artwork changes	250.00
Clerk's salary (net) for March	482.05
Clerk expenses	38.50
Cllr Hitchins expenses	47.61
Sine Rickard – exercise classes	40.00
Signs for SBW – No horses	33.46
PAYE for clerk for quarter	358.00
Sarah Macpherson – exercise classes	138.00

Cllr Gray requested that the 'running balance' for Gentle Exercise Classes be stated monthly.

Clerk

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Hitchins

- Ivybridge & DALC invitation to AGM on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Hitchins to attend
- Venn Farm S106 emails. See 8.4 above.
- Emails from SHDC re mud on roads. Clearly both SHDC and DCC Highways have been involved with this problem and have spoken to the contractor. With better weather, this problem should disappear.
- The question of correspondence acknowledgment will be considered at the business meeting.
- Letter from D.Foley re Chittleburn development. Reply approved by Council. Clerk to send to Mr Foley.

Clerk

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.00 in the Community Room.

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm

**The meeting was declared closed at 10.22 pm**

## **OPEN FORUM**

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

1. Tracey Weaver, the South Hams Dog Warden spoke to us about the national problem of dog fouling. This problem creates a danger to life for both older people and young children.  
Whilst there is a fixed penalty of £80 for anyone allowing the dog in their charge to foul the areas listed in the Dog Control Orders, the difficulty for the authorities is to actually catch someone committing the offence of non-collection.  
Tracey therefore appealed to us all to report offenders to her at SHDC. Information needed is the time and place of the offence plus identification of the offender either by description or by photograph. Car registration numbers are useful too.  
Tracey is pushing SHDC for a professionally run campaign and it was

suggested that she should apply to go on live TV such as “The One Show” in order to escalate awareness of the public and guilt of offenders. Alternatively, Claire Casson who lives in the Parish could possibly assist with South West TV coverage. Tracey agreed to visit the Rugby Club Ground at Staddiscombe and to see what signage could be placed down by the river at Brixton Torr.

2. Mr Monk advised us that he was the spokesman for the South Barton dwellings and wished to explain their objections to the proposed restoration of Steer Point Quarry. The main points raised were:
- Why is there a need to reinstate the quarry?
  - The programme is planned to take 10 years during which time, there will be 242 lorry loads per week = 1 every 13 minutes.
  - Steer Point Road is not capable of taking this volume of heavy traffic which is ‘single lane’ in places.
  - Danger to villagers. There is now a Primary School, a Nursery school and an Old People’s Home fronting onto Steer Point Road which were not there during the 100 years of rock extraction.
  - There is a significant danger to all pedestrians walking down this road towards the river. There are no pavements and the road is narrow.
  - Daily noise nuisance from 7.30 am til 5 pm on weekdays and from 7.30 am til noon on Saturdays. Compactor noise will be at 100Db on site and below 55Db at South Barton but still unacceptable for 10 days let alone 10 years.
  - Request support from BPC to block proposal

All Cllrs

Cllr Hart advised that there is to be site visit by DCC Planning. He stated that the quarry does need infilling as it is a huge hole and needs reclaiming, landscaping and grassing.

Cllr Hitchins stated that a public consultation would be organised.

Cllr Oates expressed concern that much of the proposed traffic would use Red Lion Hill (ignoring the weight limit).

3. David Barry spoke about the new problems at Brixton Torr. The SHDC land being used by travellers has been fenced off so that no cars can park. Walkers are therefore parking at the end of the lane (cul-de-sac) which prevents other vehicles from turning around. What can be done ?? Cllr Cane agreed to visit the site and then talk to SHDC about possible options. Clerk to ask DCC for ‘No parking’ notices.
4. Mike Matthews asked about the uses of the parish precept. The Clerk explained that the precept covered costs such as amenity work, bus shelter maintenance, highway weeding, subscriptions, donations to causes such as Citizens Advise Bureau and Guides, office expenses, clerk salary, insurances, audit costs, councillor training etc.

Cane

Clerk

M J Stickland, Clerk to Brixton Parish Council

March 9<sup>th</sup> 2014