

## Draft Minutes of the Brixton Parish Council Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015

### Brixton Community Room, 7.00pm

**In attendance:** Cllr Liz Hitchins (Chair), Cllr Michael Wills (Vice Chair), Cllr Basil Cane, Cllr Debbie Jessop, Cllr Gay Murch, Cllr Martyn Oates, Cllr Ian Martin

**Members of Parish in attendance:** 9

#### **Open Forum (these notes do not form part of the official minutes)**

Richard Bowkett – Site Manager, was in attendance to answer queries regarding the Solar Farm Array: Confirmed that there had been an issue with the wattage of the panels and these had now been removed from the site for testing. All traffic to the site will cease from today with a date for recommencement to be confirmed. The roads will be cleaned.

Councillor Hitchins, Councillor Wills and Richard Bowkett had walked the site and surrounding roads to discuss concerns. Confirmed that any damage will be made good.

It was noted that the traffic plan has not been adhered to by all drivers and some large vehicles have been in areas they should not have been causing inconvenience and some damage. Richard is doing all he can to prevent this. 'No HGV' signs will be put in place. It was noted that the Parish Council appreciates Richard attending these meetings and dealing with any concerns.

Councillor Hitchins extended a welcome to Ray Holland from the Yealm Community Energy group. Devon County Council has recently provided a grant for identifying possible renewable energy projects in the Yealm area, which could be developed and owned by the community through a Community Benefit Society, rather than by commercial developers, and support the local economy. This is a new approach, promoted also by government (DECC) and by South Hams District Council. The projects would be chosen for minimal visual and other impacts and would generate income for a community fund and provide opportunities for even small investments from local residents, with a good return. Funding is available to get the projects to planning approval stage.

All electricity consumers are paying a small levy to subsidise renewable energy, so it makes sense to keep that money in the community, and help us to reduce the £6 million pounds that we spend collectively in Newton and Noss, Brixton, Yealmpton and Wembury each year on buying in electricity and gas for our homes and businesses.

Anyone with an interest in renewable energy who would be prepared to contribute a small amount of their time to help get these projects off the ground, is invited to get in contact by sending an email to: [Yealmcommunityenergy@gmail.com](mailto:Yealmcommunityenergy@gmail.com)

Any projects will have to go through the normal planning process, and it is planned to provide regular public information about progress. A website will be set up shortly.

Rosemary Deeley noted that there is a hole in the track leading to the community composter's area – could this please be filled. Councillor Cane confirmed that this will be filled.

#### **Open Forum Closed**

##### **1. Welcome & Apologies:**

Cllr Hitchins welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that under Councillors reports she would like to make a motion to make a donation of £420.00 from the Composters funds

to Brixton St Mary's School to fund a gardener, with £312.50 per quarter to be paid from April 2015.

Apologies had been received from District Councillor John Squire.

## **2. Police Matters:**

January 2015:

Brixton

19<sup>th</sup>, report of a dog not under proper control, a dog off lead had fight with a dog on a lead [CR/006834]

Overnight 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> quantity of copper wiring stolen from work's site on outskirts of Brixton [CR/006834/15]

Staddiscombe

No reported crime

February 2015

Brixton

Overnight 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> theft of copper wiring from site on the outskirts of Brixton [CR/0088273/15]  
9<sup>th</sup>, report of nuisance telephone calls [CR/010099/15]

Staddiscombe

Early hours of 11<sup>th</sup> burglary at the Co op, offender located nearby and arrested, on bail [CR/009647/15]

Early hours of 20<sup>th</sup> further burglary at above location [CR/0011994]

## **3. Report from County Councillor John Hart:**

Budgets went through last Thursday with a reduction of £46 million. Gritting routes have been maintained and reductions to public transport funding have been cushioned. Devon County Council (DCC) have also opted to keep Crisis Grants funding. Council tax is up by 1.1%.

Ofsted is about to commence a review of Children's Services.

The Clerk confirmed that there was no ongoing contract for grass cutting services and County Councillor Hart agreed to cushion proposed cuts with £500.00.

It was noted that the cheese blocks in the centre of the village had been put in place. Potentially this may lead to something more permanent.

The Public transport Review will be put on the parish council agenda for comment March 2015. View the proposals and submit your response here: <http://new.devon.gov.uk/publictransportbudget/>

## **4. Reports from District Councillors:**

### **District Cllr Cane**

A nil Council Tax increase has been approved for the District and a grant has been taken from the Government. This is only for the South Hams District Council (SHDC) part of the Council Tax. The Transformations program is helping with savings.

£10k extra is being given to CAB to help stop small problems becoming bigger. Acknowledgement of the invaluable service they provide.

The Government has changed their affordable homes contribution and this could mean a potential loss of £500k per year and the loss of open space and recreation money. SHDC is drafting a letter of support to other councils pursuing a Judicial Review of this policy.

A reminder to all to ensure that they are registered to vote as the Elections will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

#### **5. Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Martin Declared a personal interest in Items 8.3 & 8.4

Cllr Hitchins declared a personal interest in Items 8.3 & 8.4

Cllr Cane declared an interest in Items 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4 & 9

Cllr Oates declared an interest in Item 8.1

#### **6. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meetings**

Cllr Wills proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015 as an accurate record of the meeting.

Cllr Gray seconded.

The proposal was agreed by all members who had been present. Cllr Jessop and Cllr Martin abstained. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

#### **7. Matters Arising:**

**Disabled Parking Bay:** It was confirmed that the disabled parking bay in the village is an informal disabled parking bay and as such any blue badge holder can park there with their badge displayed.

**Bus Shelter Seats:** The Clerk has requested a further quote from Marcus Cane and contacted JC Devareux regarding the option of advertising funding.

**Grass Cutting Contract:** It was confirmed that no current contract is in place for grass cutting of DCC owned verges. County Cllr Hart will provide £500.00 towards costs.

**Cherry Tree Drive/Red Lion Hill Junction:** Nick Colton, Devon County Council Highways, has arranged to meet with representatives from the Brixton Traffic Management Group to assess this junction and discuss potential solutions.

#### **8. Local Issues and Councillor Reports**

**8.1 Steer Point Quarry Update:** The Steer Point Quarry Parish Working Group (SPQPWG) is proceeding to make an application for a Judicial Review. This application will go before a Judge to decide whether there is an arguable case. Cllr Hitchins confirmed that there was a financial cap of £10,000.00.

Cllr Calvert queried the fact that DCC were employing a barrister at a significant cost when money was not available to be spent in other areas and cuts were being made. County Cllr Hosking noted that although DCC have a legal department there are no barristers employed and therefore any case requiring a barrister would result in one being retained. It is normal policy for DCC to defend a planning decision. Cllr Hitchins noted that this is still in the pre-judicial review period.

Cllr Hitchins noted that the tone and content of some correspondence from DCC regarding this matter had been condescending and impolite. She will share and discuss this with Cllr Hosking outside the meeting.

**8.2 Solar Farm Development:** This had been discussed during Open Forum. It was again noted that the Site Manager is very approachable and good lines of communication have been established with the Parish Council.

**8.3 Canes Orchard Phase 2:** No update has been received on this. The Clerk has been in contact with Dave Kenyon, Planning Officer, to arrange a meeting but not received a response.

**8.4 Canes Orchard Section 106 funds:** Clive Collier has been in touch regarding a group who are keen to set up an outdoor play area and green gym in Horsham Fields. This is something that Brixton Parish Council (BPC) may be interested in supporting. There has not been any further indication of interest in this fund so far. A group of people needs to be established to take this forward.

**8.5 Emergency Plan:** the group met on 12<sup>th</sup> February and identified rest areas and places willing to offer facilities and support. A flyer containing a questionnaire as well as other information will be distributed in April to all households. The information will be collated by the group and a plan drawn up for a consultation period.

**8.6 Traffic Management Group:** This group met on 9<sup>th</sup> February. It was noted that timber barriers will be placed in the dip between Brixton Village and Yealmpton in this financial year. It was reported that on Steer Point Road past the cottages and over the bridge on the left hand side the fence has come down. Clerk to write to landowner. It was reported that there is no dead end sign for Mill Lane, Clerk to report to Nick Colton, DCC Highways. **ACTION: Clerk**

**8.7 P3 Review:** The deadline for responses is 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Cllr Oates confirmed that this would be met. It was noted that two stiles that could be converted to gates had been mentioned previously and an additional one at Mill Lane had been reported recently. Cllr Oates will follow up with landowners.

**ACTION: Cllr Oates**

**8.8 Public Transport Review:** This is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Councillors are requested to familiarise themselves with the consultation and response document.

<http://new.devon.gov.uk/publictransportbudget/>

**8.9 TAP Funding:** All projects that Brixton Parish had jointly requested had been granted. This included the Highways proposal with Wembury and Newton Noss (£8,000.00 granted rather than requested £9,000.00), the leaf clearing and weed spraying projects with Yealmpton and the car park feasibility study with Wembury.

The Clerk noted that there was £1280.00 to be spent on drainage work from the 2014/15 TAP Fund in this financial year. Suggestions included Spriddlestone, Stamps Hill and Chittleburn Hill. The Clerk will follow up and use the contractor agreed by Wembury for the TAP Funding money after obtaining the requisite quotes. Cllr Wills proposed that the Council members agreed that funds up to £1280.00 could be spent on drainage works as required. Cllr Gray seconded the proposal.

Unanimous agreement. **ACTION: Clerk**

**8.10 Neighbourhood Plan:** The inaugural meeting of this group is due to take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

**8.11 Environmental Policy:** The Clerk is to resend the policy to all Councillors and add to the agenda for March. It is noted that this policy needs to be considered in all decisions and actions of the Council. **ACTION: Clerk**

#### **Cllr Reports**

**Cllr Cane:** The traffic lights in place for the utilities connection work for Canes Orchard have once again been disruptive and no notice given to local businesses. Cllr Cane will speak to the Planning Dept about this and stated that Brixton Parish Council should have more input. Planning, organisation and notification have been lacking in the process. Cllr Hitchins to contact Nick Colton, Devon County Highways, to pass on concerns and query who authorises traffic lights and road works.

**Cllr Oates:** Sherford Liaison meeting has taken place. There had been no representation from Redtree or the Developers. The main discussion was regarding the set up of the Community Trust. Cycle routes had also come under discussion and it was felt that the assured commitment to cycle

friendly development was not as apparent as had been initially envisaged. It was noted that all the land, including green space was now owned by a consortium of developers.

**IDALC AGM & Meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Cllr Wills to attend.

**Highways:** A verge on Steer point road has been damaged by a lorry and the hedge at Chittleburn is overgrown and covering the white lines. These have been reported to Nick Colton, DC Highways.

**Yealm Energy Community Group:** Cllr Gray made the proposal to support the establishment of a group of individuals in the Yealm area looking into renewable energy and how it could benefit the local community, to attend meetings of this group and to find out more about their proposed projects. Cllr Murch Seconded. All present were in agreement. Cllr Calvert and Cllr Murch agreed to represent Brixton Parish Council.

**School Garden Project, Brixton St Marys Primary:** South West Composters have agreed to fund a gardener for a year in the first instance at the school. From 1<sup>st</sup> April there will be a quarterly invoice for this however as a donation to cover arrears it was agreed that a sum of £420.00 be paid from the Composters funds to the school.

Cllr Hitchins proposed that a donation of £420.00 from the Composters funds is made to Brixton St Mary's School to fund a gardener, with £312.50 per quarter to be paid from April 2015.

Cllr Wills Seconded.

Cllr Cane abstained from voting as he declared an interest. All others members present supported.

**Feoffee Trust:** The trust offer a car scheme for older people who are in need of it. This is a free scheme although many of the users do give donations which the Feoffee Trustees appreciate. Details are available in Venn Court and will be placed on the notice board.

**Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm:** AGM is being held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start, Brixton Community Hall.

**No further reports.**

## 9. Planning Matters

9.1 Planning Applications and Decisions: Cllr Cane left the room for this item.

### Applications:

#### 07/0159/15/VAR

##### **Barratt Homes Exeter (BDW)**

Variation of condition 2 of permission 07/2022/12/F

Development Site adjacent to Venn Farm, Brixton, Plymouth

Cllr Martin confirmed that a site meeting had taken place to discuss this application despite reluctance of the developer to meet outside office hours. Representation had been received from Mr Lanning. It was noted that there was an issue with overlooking properties and this could be solved with moving windows and obscuring one. The developer has responded with new drawings reflecting these suggestions. Dependent upon these changes Brixton Parish Council were happy to support the application.

#### 07/0395/15/F

##### **Mr & Mrs C Randle**

Erection of detached dwelling and associated works.

Sandaway, Lodge Lane, Brixton PL8 2AU

It was noted that a site visit will be arranged for this application.

## 10. Financial Matters:

### FINANCE ANNEX FEBRUARY 2015

#### INCOME

Gentle Exercise Cash Participants	100.00
TAP Funding surplus (drainage contract)	1280.00
Composters Recycling Credits (Jun- Oct 2014)	2564.69
	<b>£3944.69</b>

#### EXPENDITURE

Physiotherapy, Sarah Macpherson	84.00
Physiotherapy Sine Rickard	84.00
Clerk's salary & Expenses	525.30
Mark Westmoreland Smith – Steer Point Quarry Fees	4320.00
Charlie Hopkins – Steer Point Quarry Fees	750.00
Printing of Welcome Booklets	60.00
Donation to St Mary's School (Gardener contribution)	420.00
	<b>Total: £6243.30</b>

#### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2015

<b>Current a/c General</b>	<b>9012.38</b>
P3 funds	386.00
Composters funds	2433.63
Gentle Exercise funds	189.00
SBW funds	32.30
<b>Sherford Reserve fund</b>	<b>18466.69</b>
<b>Deposit a/c General</b>	<b>8095.95</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£38615.95</b>

Cllr Gray proposed to accept the financial statement for February.

Cllr Wills seconded.

All members present voted in agreement.

## 11. Correspondence for Discussion

**11.1 Horsham Playing Fields:** Cllr Hitchins will meet Clive Collier on 9<sup>th</sup> March to discuss proposals. It was noted that parking in the surrounding roads is still very much an issue on match days. Cllr Jessop will look at the car park area and the Clerk will let PCSO Andy Potter know. **ACTION: Clerk**

## 12. Date of Next Meeting

The next parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7pm, Brixton Community Room.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

**Clare Parkinson, Clerk to Brixton Parish Council**