

Draft Minutes of the Brixton Parish Council Meeting 30th July 2014,

Brixton Community Room, 7.00pm

Cllr Liz Hitchins (Chair)	*	Cllr Debbie Jessop	@
Cllr Michael Wills (Vice Chair)	*	Cllr Ian Martin	@
Cllr Ian Calvert	*	Cllr Gay Murch	*
Cllr Basil Cane	@	Cllr Martyn Oates	*
Cllr Sarah Gray	*		

Members of Parish in attendance: 10

* Denotes attendance

@ Denotes absence

OPEN FORUM

(These notes do not form part of the official minutes)

Cllr Hitchins welcomed everyone to the meeting. Devon County Councillor Richard Hosking was welcomed as the representative for Steer Point Quarry and here to give a presentation on Neighbourhood Plans.

- Cllr Hitchins: Drew attention to the pop up banner displayed in the community room. This banner promotes Brixton Composters and will be displayed in various locations around the village. The response letter objecting to the Steer Point Quarry Planning Application has been sent to Devon County Council. The letter can be viewed on the village website, there are also copies in the pub, the village shop and post office, the church, the fish and chip shop, Just Williams and Venn Court.

An information board has been erected on the bridge on Silverbridge Way. This is an explanatory board regarding the route and local flora and fauna. There is a QPR code on it making all the information accessible via a smartphone.

The granite Brixton stones have now been placed. Thanks were noted to Graham Lanning for donating the stones and to Cllr Michael Wills for all his work on this project.

The hard work and commitment of the Steer Point Quarry Working Group was noted. It was requested that, if there is room in the Parish Magazine, the letter of objection could possibly be included.

Rosemary Deeley :the bus shelters in the village are in a terrible state. They are dirty and in the Winstone Lane one there is nothing to sit on. It was noted that **the Clerk will ask Cllr Cane to follow up regarding the cleaning of the shelters and will also look into the installation of a bench seat.**

Rosemary Deeley has been sent a survey regarding improvements and priorities in Transport and Highways. Devon County Councillor John Hart confirmed that this has been sent on a random allocation to people across Devon.

Derek Curtis: the footpath behind Popplestone Gardens is still overhanging. **The Clerk to check with Cllr Cane.**

Open Forum closed

1. **Welcome & Apologies:**

Cllr Hitchins welcomed all to the meeting and noted thanks to Devon County Cllr Richard Hosking for representing the Parish regarding Steer Point Quarry and raising parish issues and concerns.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Basil Cane, Cllr Debbie Jessop and Cllr Ian Martin.

2. **Police Matters:**

1st July to 30th

Brixton area:

No reported crime

Staddiscombe area:

Overnight 3rd / 4th insecure car entered, property stolen [cr/086851/14]

19th shop lifting, enquiries ongoing [cr/091692/14]

It was noted that Charlotte Mathers is the new Neighbourhood Beat Manager.

PCSO Andy Potter can be contacted and can make patrols in the area if there are any concerns. A patrol can be a deterrent for any antisocial or concerning behaviour.

It was noted that 101 is the number to ring in a non emergency situation. 999 remains the number for emergencies.

3. Report from County Councillor John Hart:

Stated that the results at Brixton St Mary's Primary School had been excellent..

The County is currently spending money on highways. There is a fund of £9.1 million for new projects.

Restructuring of the whole of Devon County Council is taking place. Even after restructuring savings of £34 million need to be made by 2016. This is an enormous task.

The TAP fund: this is hoped to continue for at least one more year.

It was confirmed by the Chair that Brixton Composters is a facility only available for Brixton Parishioners. Wembury Parishioners had queried with County Cllr Hart whether or not they could use this facility as currently they have to take green waste to Ivybridge.

Derek Curtis: why, when County Cllr Hart cannot represent Brixton Parish on the planning application for Steer Point Quarry, he has been negotiating with the landowners and not informed the Parish.

County Councillor Hart made clear that he had attended one meeting on site as minuted June 2011 and had stated that he did not wish to have any further involvement.

Derek Curtis: why, in April, he had told the Council that he could not be involved as he was a member of the Devon Waste Management Partnership, whereas the Council had been advised by the County Solicitor that the reason was his relationship with the family.

County Cllr Hart: both reasons prevented him from representing the Parish on this issue.

Cllr Calvert: The Parish needed representation from the outset and feel let down. It is good that there is now representation and the Parish are very grateful to County Cllr Hosking, however, up until recently there has been no representation and the process has been a shambles.

County Cllr Hart: County Cllr Hosking has been involved from day one of the revised application. An unexpected resignation had meant delays in representation and County Cllr Hosking had represented the Parish as soon as he was elected.

Cllr Hitchins: between March and May of 2014 there had been no County Council representation and this had included an important meeting on 2nd April 2014. As the plan had needed revision there is now representation but if this had not been the case then there would have been none.

County Cllr Hart extended his apologies and noted that Devon County Council should look at the process implemented when there is an absence of representation for a Parish.

Cllr Calvert: Queried why Hayley Stokes, County Planning Officer, is sending letters regarding the Steer Point Quarry to people outside the Parish yet not sending them to residents of the Parish directly affected?

Cllr Gray: the inefficiency of the communication process regarding this application. Had received a letter acknowledging email or objection but the mail merge had not been completed and information regarding the time and date of consultation was missing.

Cllr Oates: not all who had objected to the initial proposals had been informed of revisions.

The revisions were filed in the original application of February and were not easy to locate on the website.

Cllr Hitchins: Brixton Parish Council would be happy to offer constructive criticism in terms of

how the planning department had communicated information and could save money and operate more efficiently. Let the Clerk know if your letter or email of objection has not been acknowledged.

Derek Curtis: there is a feeling of suspicion in the Parish regarding this application. Has the leader of the Council felt under any pressure regarding this issue?

County Cllr Hart: this was not the case and in fact the County Council had deliberately wanted to make sure that all aspects of this application were conducted and dealt with properly.

Cllr Calvert: Why then was the quarry not restored in accordance with ROMP?

County Cllr Hosking: Devon County Council have stated that because the potential of the site has not been fully reached the trigger for final restoration has not yet happened. He would suggest that seeking legal advice on this issue would be recommended.

Cllr Hitchins: there would be concerns regarding whether DCC would police any conditions that might be applied.

Cllr Calvert: Hayley Stokes was at the site visit but has not attended any Parish Meetings.

Cllr Gray: the planning officer would need to remain impartial.

County Cllr Hart: It is not normally DCC policy for planning officers to attend Parish Meetings. He will feedback to DCC regarding the concerns of Brixton Parish Council regarding the processes used by the Planning Office at DCC in this matter.

Cllr Hitchins: Extended thanks to County Cllr Hart and stated that he had offered apologies and a line should now be drawn.

4. Reports From District Councillors:

District Cllr Squire:

Update on the Connect Strategy 2011-2015: This is an ongoing partnership between parishes and districts across South Hams and West Devon. There have been some key achievements recently regarding community life, environment and homes.

The Plymouth and South West Peninsular Deal has been agreed and signed. This will create over nine thousand jobs.

£1.5 million has been secured for supported living for older people in Totnes with a particular focus on specialist care for those living with dementia.

Affordable housing update: The estimated start on Frogmore is 2015. Under the Affordable Housing Rural Housing Scheme several areas have been identified around the District.

In the Executive a decision had been made to put the Plympton St Mary Rural District Chain on display in Plymouth. Four members of the authority, including District Councillor Squire, did a 'call in' resulting in the decision that the chain will now be kept securely at Follaton House and if any Parish wishes to use it for a Civic occasion they can apply to do so.

The transformation program at SHDC is ongoing. The revised structure is for two executives, four service leads and the establishment of a trading company. Staff are being kept fully informed of the situation regarding redundancies. An assessment had been carried out of 70 roles. 16 requested voluntary redundancy, 48% of those who went through the selection process got their first choice of role, 26% secured their 2nd or 3rd choice and 9 people were not successful.

Has put on record his concerns regarding Steer Point Quarry application with SHDC Planning Office. The clerk confirmed that Donna Crabtree had been in contact requesting information regarding the position of the parish on this matter.

5. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Oates declared an interest in Item 9.1 as he is the tenant of one of the proposed beneficiaries of the Solar Farm application 07/1814/14/F. He will abstain from voting.

Cllr Hitchins will abstain from voting on the financial annexe as one of the items to be

approved is a cheque reimbursing her for the prize voucher for the primary school.

6. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meetings:

Cllr Wills proposed to agree the minutes of the 25th June 2014.

Cllr Gray seconded.

The vote was unanimous agreement by all present.

Cllr Gray proposed to agree the minutes of the meeting of the 23rd July 2014.

Cllr Wills seconded.

The vote was unanimous agreement by all present.

7. Matters Arising:

CAB – The Clerk confirmed that a representative of Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach had visited the community room to assess suitability for providing an outreach service in Brixton. The representative had felt that the room would not suit the lone working policy requirements and was not happy to provide the service. There will be an outreach service in Yealmpton Medical centre starting in September. Day and time to be confirmed.

TAP Funding: Inform the Clerk if you know of any lanes, drains, roads that need clearing and this will be recorded and listed on the requirements for the lengthsman. The Clerk will email to request responses.

Clerk

Sherford Filming: This is virtually complete. Cllr Calvert will contact Cllr Cane to confirm the names of the farmers leaving.

Cllr
Calvert
Clerk

Silverbridge Way Sign: This has not yet been received by Cllr Oates. Clerk to follow up.

Road Signs: It was confirmed that the Clerk had been advised that multiple warning signs are not recommended and therefore the signs on Fordbrook Lane would remain as horse warning signs as there are cyclist warning signs already in place. The Clerk has arranged a recce around the village looking at the maintenance of road signs and the request for a dead end sign on Tapps Lane, date to be confirmed.

Clerk

It was noted that County Councillor Hart had said that DCC would contribute to the cost of the signs on Fordbrook Lane.

Cllr Oates noted that on roadsigns direct website warning signs were available much more cheaply than quoted by DCC. The issues of health and safety, maintenance and erection were to be looked into by the Clerk.

Clerk

Cllr Calvert proposed that the Council should agree that up to the sum of £810.00 should be available to be spent on the signs at Fordbrook Lane.

Cllr Gray seconded the proposal.

This was unanimously agreed by all those present.

Newsletter: Cllr Hitchins reported that Bryn Davis, a graphic designer was assisting on this.

The newsletter was on schedule for autumn. This will be revisited in the September meeting. Clerk to add to agenda.

Clerk

Parish Recreation Group: there is an article in the current Parish magazine, written by Cllr Jessop, asking for ideas about sport, leisure and recreation facilities.

Cllr Hitchins encouraged large scale ideas that could potentially benefit from grants or match funding. Once ideas are received a group will be set up to take this forward.

Cllr
Hitchins

Cllr Hitchins to send Clerk information to put on facebook.

8. Local Issues and Councillor Reports:

8.1 Steer Point Quarry – The letter of objection has been sent. There is a meeting next week to plan towards the meeting on 17th September (next DCC Management Committee) and feedback will be given at the Parish Council meeting 24th September.

8.2 Neighbourhood Plan – County Cllr Richard Hosking presented on his knowledge and

experience of creating a neighbourhood plan for Ugborough Parish:
Ugborough Parish Council is part way through their Neighbourhood Plan two and a half years into the process.

Neighbourhood Plans derive from the Localism Act. They were introduced to enable development and are not about preventing development.

Emerging at SHDC at the moment is a South Hams Land Availability Assessment. It is recommended that any Council look at this before proceeding with a Neighbourhood Plan.

Reasons to have a Neighbourhood Plan could include: A Housing Needs Assessment, amendments to proposals for developments ie. could be split into smaller areas of development rather than one large one; Community Infrastructure Levy, if there is a Neighbourhood Plan this could potentially be a higher percentage than if not.

A Public Consultation is paramount. Without public support and the time and commitment of people in the parish, it will not work. Post it note ideas, surveys and questionnaires can all help to gauge public opinion.

Define the Neighbourhood area. Often this is the Parish boundary but not necessarily. Note that the Neighbourhood area is not necessarily going to be the referendum area.

Once a Neighbourhood Area is registered you can apply for funding. There is less available now than there previously was. You will need assistance with a mission statement, timeline, budget and consultation scheme.

DCLG have entered into a contract with Locality to provide access to volunteer consultants to assist with the process.

Q&A

Cllr Hitchins: Has membership in Ugborough remained the same for the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group?

It started with a Working Group of 10 people, then there were approximately 30 people involved in focus groups and now there are five focus groups on specific areas. Membership has dropped slightly.

There are a large number of people who do not wish to see any development and this has not yet been resolved.

Cllr Hitchins: there are parallels with the Parish Plan. It is worrying that the time and work commitment is long term but there are no guarantees of commitment.

Cllr Wills: what is the extent of SHDC support.

Once a plan is put forward SHDC are obliged to assist. You will be allocated an officer. SHDC have received funding and are looking towards blending with the local plan although this could be seen as potentially having different goals.

Cllr Gray: How far off the timeline is Ugborough in the process?

As yet there is still not even a plan drafted, it has not been agreed what will go into it. The estimate of approximately 5 years is probably the most accurate.

Cllr Hitchins: It is very important to know that this is about enabling development and not preventing it.

Cllr Oates: How much development has Ugborough had recently?

Relatively limited. There has been some mid scale, Moorhaven for example, but on the whole has been relatively piecemeal. The initial aim was to inject some life into the village.

Cllr Hosking had been employed in the capacity of consultant but once elected as Devon County Councillor this could not continue.

The amount of work involved is great and the cost can be large too. It could potentially end up being a waste if policy changes or if rejected at referendum.

Until the plan is approved it holds very little sway in the planning process.

Cllr Murch: it seems that a lot may depend on the criteria for inspection and potential demographic changes.

In the Ugborough plan an information base has been developed which includes up to date

demographic data.

Cllr Hitchins extended thanks to County Cllr Hosking for a very informative presentation. The main message is that the plan is all about development and there are no certainties. This will be discussed in the Parish meeting in September.

8.3 Emergency Plan

Cllr Hitchins and Cllr Wills had attended a meeting regarding Emergency Planning. It was noted that the responsibility is on the community to contact appropriate agencies if potential risks were identified.

It is important that the community formulates a plan to deal with emergencies. In the Autumn, a group will get together and draw up a document. A template is to be provided. Clerk to invite Peter Dale, South Hams District Council Emergency Planning Officer, to the meeting in September to discuss. The aim is to have this completed by December.

Clerk

8.4 Brixton Parish Council Logo

Bryn Davis has offered to design a variety of logos and these can be voted on by the Parish. This is to be brought to the October Parish meeting.

8.5 Sherford Liaison Meeting

Cllr Oates reported.

There had been no Redtree representation at the meeting due to a family emergency. MP Gary Streeter had been in attendance, there was representation from Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council and Brixton Parish Council and the Sherford Implementation Team.

They have outline planning permission and are submitting Reserve Matters.

Work has commenced on the main sewage pipeline.

A panel has been set up to scrutinise planning applications before they come to Councils.

The initial phase, adjacent to Elburton in the Plymouth City Council area is being developed by three separate developers. There is the potential for an uncoordinated approach.

Another meeting is planned for September. A Redtree representative is expected to be in attendance.

There will be significant time pressure considering the deadline for submissions and the proposed start date of development – Spring 2015.

8.6 Councillors Reports

Cllr Gray: The gate on Silverbridge Way has dropped. Cllr Jessop has reported this to Mike Stickland. Clerk to follow up.

Clerk

Cllr Wills: Nothing to report

Cllr Oates: The steps on footpath 30 from the railway cutting to the edge of the river are damaged. This has been reported to DCC and a contractor will repair.

Cllr Calvert: Nothing to report

Cllr Murch: The verge at the bottom of Red Lion Hill near the junction is overgrown. Clerk to report this to Devon and Cornwall Housing to cut back.

Clerk

Cllr Hitchins: The Council has reinstated funding a prize for the Village School. A voucher of £25.00 was awarded to Poppy Hawkin for outstanding progress in achievement in reading and enjoyment of reading at home and school.

9. Planning Matters:

9.1 Planning Applications and Decisions

07/1668/14/F Erection of garage on existing hardstanding, Grindstone, Elliots Hill.

It was noted that this approval was for a changing or words – commercial not private.

Cllr Wills proposed to accept with no objections.

Cllr Gray seconded.

The vote was unanimous in acceptance.

07/1814/14/F Solar Farm adjacent to Balls Wood, Brixton.

It was noted that an additional Parish meeting was required for this application. A site visit had been arranged for Wednesday 6th August at 6pm. A Parish Council meeting would follow at 7pm. Clerk to send out agenda and establish exact meeting point for site visit,

Clerk

07/0983/14/F Mrs R Finighan, 23 The Crescent. Household application for extension and alterations to rear of property.

It was noted that planning permission has been granted.

10. Financial Matters:

INCOME

Contribution to Lamp Refurb (Feoffee Trust)	400.00
Deposit for Gentle Exercise (cash payments)	150.00

Total	£ 550.00
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EXPENDITURE

Clerk's salary (net) for June & July 2014	540.00
Office rental for June & July	30.00
Stamps	11.16
Clerk, Mileage	63.45
St Mary's School Prize Voucher	25.00
D. Furzeland, Silverbridge Way Board	29.70
Martin & Sons, Brixton Rocks	325.00
Mike Stickland, Mileage	27.00
Community Room Hire & Affiliation	191.50
Silverbridge Way Interpretation Panel	582.00
Steer Point Quarry Planning & Environmental Consultant	1125.00
PAYE	402.80
Physiotherapy, Sarah Macpherson	126.00
Physiotherapy, Sine Rickard	124.00
Pull up Banner (composting)	80.00

Total:	£3682.61
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STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT as 26/7/14

Current a/c	13,478.24	(£9795.63 after above expenditure)
P3 funds	434.00	
Composters funds	1,775.00	
Gentle Exercise funds	597.00	
SBW funds	132.30	
Sherford Reserve fund	29,750.00	
Deposit a/c (excl Sherford)	8,095.95	
Total	£51,324.19	(47641.58 after above expenditure)

Cllr Wills proposed to accept the financial statement for July 2014.
Cllr Gray seconded.
Cllr Hitchins abstained from the vote.
All others in attendance voted in agreement to accept the statement.

11. Correspondence for Discussion

It was noted that the Clerk had received a document asking for feedback on the polling station. Information to be put on facebook and Cllr Jessop to be asked to ensure this is noted for Carrolsland as comments had previously been made regarding having to go to Brixton Village to vote.

**Clerk
Cllr
Jessop**

Canes Orchard Phase 2: The Clerk had been unsuccessful in contacting Gareth Kendall, David Wilson Homes and had requested contact details for an alternative individual to update on Phase 2. Cllr Oates expressed concern that Brixton Parish Council had not submitted a written response regarding this especially on the issue of affordable housing.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th August to discuss the planning application 07/1814/14/F Solar Farm.

The next planned meeting of Brixton Parish Council will be on Wednesday 24th September. Parish Meetings may be called in the interim if planning application deadlines require recommendation.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.25pm

Open Forum

(These notes do not form part of the minutes of the meeting)

It was noted that the grass may grow quickly around the newly placed Brixton stones and would need to be maintained.

Thanks were extended to Derek Furzeland and his wife for their continued voluntary time and work for the Parish.

C Parkinson, Clerk to Brixton Parish Council 1/8/2014.