

Minutes of the Brixton Parish Council (BPC) Meeting 28th January 2015

Brixton Community Room, 7.00pm

In attendance: Cllr Liz Hitchins (Chair), Cllr Michael Wills (Vice Chair), Cllr Ian Calvert, Cllr Basil Cane, Cllr Sarah Gray, Cllr Gay Murch, Cllr Martyn Oates, District Cllr John Squire, County Cllr Richard Hosking

Members of Parish in attendance: 19

All in attendance were informed that this meeting will be recorded for the purposes of the minutes.

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

Richard Bowkett – Newly instated Site Manager for the Solar Farm, Balls Wood – r.bowkett@yahoo.co.uk 07527 979986, was in attendance to answer questions regarding the solar farm development. Concerns had been raised about mud on the road and a road sweeper was now on site and operational daily until the end of installation works. The hours of work had now been reiterated and apologies were given for previous weekend out of agreed hours working.

It was noted that it has been very muddy and icy; there has been a warning sign from one direction of approach but not the other. It was confirmed that this will be looked into.

There has been an incident of a very large vehicle following Sat Nav directions and ignoring site traffic instructions resulting in the vehicle getting stuck. Driver has been spoken to and all drivers reminded of traffic plan regarding this site.

The weight limit on Red Lion Hill was reiterated. It was noted that large vehicles can have access but no through way.

Cllr Wills queried when the project was due to end. Richard will confirm, estimate is approximately one month. Thanks were extended to Richard for attending the meeting.

Greg Webb spoke regarding the proposed land development at Winstone Lane. Land is currently for sale through Luscombe Maye. This is in the AONB; the woodland area surrounding it is subject to a preservation order. SHDC have confirmed that this land is not included in their current plans. There is potential for a significant number of houses and it is unlikely that young people wanting to buy will benefit as the landowner would be wishing to maximise profit and minimise affordable housing. This land is at the heart of the community. Cllr Hitchins thanked Mr Webb for bringing this to the attention of the meeting. The Parish Council will be involved once this site reaches the planning process.

Mrs Budge has passed an unpleasant note to Cllr Hitchins to read out which had been left on her car when she mistakenly parked in a disabled bay in the village. The Clerk is to clarify whether or not the disabled parking bay is specifically reserved for an individual or whether any disabled person could use it.

Phil Fuller spoke regarding his recent planning application. He thanked the Parish Council for their support but expressed dismay that despite this support and eight letters of support from parishioners, this application had not been supported by SHDC. Mr Fuller had spoken to both District Cllr Squire and District Cllr Cane and had requested the opportunity to speak at the next Development Management meeting. The Planning Officer had stated that he would have this opportunity however Mr Fuller has subsequently received notification of refusal; the recommendation of refusal having been supported by both district councillors.

Mr Fuller had received the reasons stated for refusal and feels that some of the reasons given do not accurately reflect the facts. In light of this it would have been useful to have had the opportunity to speak regarding his application however he has not had the chance for his three minute representation.

Cllr Hitchins noted Mr Fuller's right to appeal and also to complain regarding the process. A discussion took place regarding the role of the Parish Council in the planning procedure and how this is reflected in SHDC decision making policy. It was noted that District Cllr Cane recommended refusal although he was aware that the Parish Council had no objections to the application.

DC Dan Parkinson, Devon & Cornwall Police, Financial Investigation Unit, was welcomed to the meeting. He gave a talk on Fraud Prevention:

- High pressure selling techniques, often very plausible, usually over the telephone
- Those with money to invest are targets, often vulnerable or lonely but not exclusively
- "Guaranteed return" – phrase that should spark doubt
- Traditional investments are not performing well so it is tempting
- Products to avoid include Art, Wine, Coloured Diamonds, Carbon Credits
- Always use a Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) Registered company/individual (check)
- Advise friends and family if you are concerned – DO NOT give any more money
- Contact the bank quickly to possibly reverse any transactions
- Contact the Police and Action Fraud

It was agreed that contact details and a sentence outlining the talk would be included on the back of the Emergency Plan flyer that will be distributed to the Parish in the coming weeks. Thanks were extended to DC Parkinson for an informative talk.

Open Forum Closed

1. Welcome & Apologies:

Cllr Hitchins welcomed all to the meeting

Apologies had been received from Devon County Councillor John Hart & Cllr Martin.

2. Police Matters:

Brixton area

Overnight 12th / 13th criminal damage to a car parked on A379, scratches made to paintwork [cr/129779/14]

Between 14th and 16th electric fencing and battery stolen from a field [cr/130638/14]

Staddiscombe area

Early hours of 12th , Co op burgled , tobacco and cash stolen , enquiries had a negative result [cr/129427/14]

23rd , shoplifting , offender arrested and charged to court [cr/132524/14]

PCSO 30540 Andy Potter

3. Report from County Councillor John Hart:

Apologies had been sent, the Clerk read the report:

County Cllr Hart is in London briefing the Devon MPs about the County Council Budget.

Biggest concern for Brixton is grass cutting. Devon County Council will no longer be doing this. Previously the Parish has had a sum of money in lieu of grass cutting and arrangements have been made to cut the grass. This will no longer happen unless there is an ongoing contractual obligation. If necessary Councillor Hart will try to cushion loss from discretionary fund.

The bus review has gone live; this may affect Brixton in regards to the number of buses going along the A379 to and from Plymouth. The County will still be subsidising buses by approximately £4 million. The cost of the over 60's bus passes to the County is over £4 million.

Looking to reduce staff numbers, already done so by 40% and having reduced expenditure by 40% also over the last 5 years. Balancing the budget is difficult this year, expecting to

have reduced spending by £34million in 2016 with a possible further cut of £28 million in 2017.

Clerk to look into grass cutting contract details **(Clerk)**

Clerk to put details of public transport review on facebook and forward to Parish Magazine.

Put on agenda for February Meeting. **(Clerk)**

4. Reports from District Councillors:

District Cllr Cane

The 2nd Head of Executive had been appointed – Steve Jordan, commences employment 2nd Feb.

Cuts are continuing. The Affordable Homes Policy has been extended to 2020.

The budget gap for 2015/16 is £381,000. There could be a nil Council Tax increase for 2015/16. The Council would accept a one off freeze grant from the Govt or implement a 1.9% increase. There is a restriction on the number of times you can obtain a freeze grant. It was noted that of every £1.00 of Council Tax SHDC get 12 pence and the Parish gets 3 pence.

District Cllr Squire

There has been a change in registration process for electorate voting. Previously the head of household could complete information for the entire dwelling, this system was open to abuse. Now the requirement is to register individually. Forms will come to your home and need to be checked.

2 District Councillors are going to try to persuade the Executive to make a one off donation to South Hams CVS of £10,000 to provide staff to give community information on funding access and training regarding problems facing communities including loneliness, dementia and caring.

5. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Cane declared a personal interest in item 8.1

Cllr Oates declared an interest in Item 8.1 as a tenant of the landowner

6. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meetings

Cllr Wills proposed to agree the minutes of the meeting on 17th December 2014

Cllr Calvert seconded

The proposal was agreed by all members who had been present. Cllr Gray abstained.

7. Matters Arising:

TAP Funding: All proposals supported by BPC are now in and will be decided on. Clerk will update once outcome is known.

Bus Shelter Seats: The Clerk has received a supply only quote from Stainless Steel. The Clerk is to contact Marcus Cane for a further quote. The Clerk has contacted JC Deveraeux regarding the possibility of bus shelter installation and maintenance in return for advertising space. This is a model used in many local authorities. **(Clerk)**

Letter of congratulations to School: The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been forwarded to St Mary's offering congratulations from the Parish Council on their Outstanding Ofsted result.

Horsham Fields and Recreation Area Ownership: The Clerk had looked into this and confirmed that this area is owned by Plymouth City Council and leased to Albion Oaks Rugby Club.

8. Local Issues and Councillor Reports

8.1 Steer Point Quarry Update: DCC published the decision notice on Friday 19th January. Steer Point Quarry Parish Working Group is currently challenging this decision. Any course of action must be taken within six weeks of the date of the decision notice.

8.2 40mph speed limit Brixton-Yealmpton: The Clerk has contacted Yealmpton Parish Clerk and confirmed that Yealmpton Parish Cllrs are not in support of a 40mph speed limit.

8.3 Parish Poll regulations: The Clerk summarised the changes outlined in the Parish Poll Regulations. The Parish Council were in agreement with the recommendations as they brought the regulations in line with other election regulations and clarified the process. Individuals are able to offer comment on this matter: Deadline for responses is 30th January 2015.

8.4 Devon Countryside Access Forum: currently recruiting members. This is a voluntary role with expenses paid. The Forum advises on the improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area. For details and an application form please see: www.devon.gov.uk/dcaf the closing date is 20th Feb 2015. Clerk to put information on facebook.

8.5 Cherry Tree Drive/Red Lion Hill Visibility: an email had been received expressing concern about visibility at this junction and a potential application for a warning sign to be considered; Increased traffic from Sherford being a concern in terms of collision potential. This will be raised at the next Traffic Management Meeting. **(Clerk)**

8.6 Canes Orchard Section 106 funds: Cllr Hitchins noted that a working group needs to be set up to gain some ideas and impetus for this. Money will be lost if no decisions are made. Proactive approach needed. Identify potential groups or landowners that may be interested in coming on board. Keep this item on the agenda. **(Clerk)**

8.7 Emergency Plan: A draft flyer has been drawn up for distribution in the Parish. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th February 2015.

8.8 Road Warden: Cllr Hitchins agreed to follow up on the expression of interest in the role of Road Warden. The Clerk confirmed that training requests would have to be placed as soon as possible.

8.9 Neighbourhood Plan: Three names have been put forward to the Clerk expressing an interest in joining this group. It was agreed that a member of the Parish Council should be present at the first meeting.

8.10 Cllr Reports:

Cllr Murch: Noted positively that pavements have been gritted in the Cross Park area in response to cold weather conditions and action had been taken regarding the mud from the solar farm development.

Cllr Cane: Noted that the Horse Warning signs were in now in place in Spriddlestone. The cheese blocks are also in place but do not enhance the village. Is there any way of making them look more appealing? Also noted that sinks are full in several areas. Cllr Hosking confirmed that there is a shortage of gully clearing vehicles. The system may at times appear illogical but DCC have implemented a programme and the workforce are required to follow it. Reporting any issues on the DCC web is the best course of action as these reports are addressed relatively quickly.

A map is available of the drainage features. Print on a transparency and overlay to be made for the parish. **(Clerk)**

Cllr Calvert: Good news re the Horse Warning signs. Further problems in Spriddlestone with silt and mud; the drain near Polston Park being the main problem.

Cllr Gray: Cheese blocks – not attractive, reiterated the need to tidy their appearance. Has reported a pothole on the A379, noted that the reporting website was very easy to use. Queried legality of large lorry parked on Winstone Lane, possible obstruction to school bus. It was noted that this could be mentioned to the PCSO if it was thought that there was an obstruction but there was no law to stop the vehicle parking there.

Cllr Hitchins: Noted the helpful response regarding the site manager of the solar farm in addressing concerns raised.

Three quotes obtained for 50 Parish Welcome Packs to be printed. From these quotes proposed that the Parish Council votes to accept the quote of £60.00 for 50 A5 booklets. Cllr Calvert seconded the proposal. All members present were unanimous in agreement. Cllr Hitchins will get the booklets printed.

P3 review. This will be on the February Agenda (**Clerk**). Cllr Oates will complete the required forms. (**Cllr Oates**) The importance of community involvement was reiterated. Many parishioners walk the paths and could report any problems or compliments.
No further reports.

9. Planning Matters

9.1 Planning Applications and Decisions:

Applications:

07/0112/15/VAR

Mr & Mrs J Serpell

Retail Shop and Store, Blackpool Farm, Yealmpton.

Variation of Condition 4 (uses) for planning approval 07/2385/14/F

The Clerk noted that this was an application in response to an acknowledged error on the last application discussed in the December meeting. No site visit was required. The Parish Council had previously supported.

Cllr Wills proposed to support.

Cllr Oates Seconded.

Cllr Cane abstained all other members voted to support.

07/0159/15/VAR

Barratt Homes Exeter (BDW)

Variation of condition 2 of permission 07/2022/12/F (Amendments to House Type for Plot 27, Garages and Accesses for Plots 26 & 27 and size of Curtilage for Plot 26)

Development site adjacent to Venn Farm, Brixton, Plymouth

Site visit to be arranged.

Decisions:

07/3037/14/F

Mr & Mrs P Fuller, SX 545 523 Hilltop Cottages, Brixton

Outline application for erection of 2 x residential dwellings

BPC decision: Support

07/3178/14/F

Mr & Mrs P Brown, Honysuckle Barn, Yealmpton.

Conversion of Barn to Holiday Cottage

BPC decision: No objections.

10. Financial Matters:

10.1 Financial Statement for January 2015

INCOME

Gentle Exercise Cash Participants	£120.00
	£120.00

EXPENDITURE

Physiotherapy, Sarah Macpherson	84.00
Clerk's salary	526.50
Office rental	20.00
Clerk, Mileage	2.70
Clerk Expenses (stamps)	6.36
SLCC membership annual fee	103.00
Elections Training Course	25.00
Lavigne Lonsdale – Steer Point Quarry Fees	4338.31
Composters – Domain and Web fees	33.90
Composters – Printing	14.52

Total:

£5154.29

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 26th JANUARY 2015

Current a/c General	9,597.68
P3 funds	386.00

Composters funds	1,034.88
Gentle Exercise funds	257.00
SBW funds	32.30
Sherford Reserve fund	23,536.69
Deposit a/c General	8,095.95
Total	£42,940.50

10.2 To agree the Precept for 2015/16

The Clerk outlined the proposed Budget and Precept for 2015/16 as circulated to all Parish Council Members prior to the meeting.

It was noted that the Precept sum would indicate a .38% rise (10 pence per dwelling) in the annual amount on a Band D Council Tax property from 2014/15. Any rise had been intentionally kept to a minimum with realistic projections for spending. It was noted that this was an election year and costs would be incurred in relation to this.

Cllr Wills proposed to support the sum of £16,141.00 being requested by Brixton Parish Council in the form of Precept with £1059.00 Council Tax Support Grant.

Cllr Gray seconded the proposal.

Unanimous support from all members present.

The Clerk and the Chair signed the Precept Form.

The Clerk is to return the form via Special Delivery to arrive in time for the 30th January Deadline.

11. Correspondence for Discussion

Thanks for Donations: The Clerk reported that acknowledgement and thanks had been received for the annual donations.

Rural Housing Spotlight: An email on this subject had been circulated by the Clerk. The Chair asked all Councillors to look through the document pertaining to the Role of the Parish Council in Affordable Housing (**Action: All**)

Elections Training: The Clerk has attended a DALC Elections training course. Some interesting points raised including electronic communications policy. This matter is to be put on the next agenda. Good Councillors guides are available, the Clerk will order. Anyone who is interested in standing for election to the Parish Council is welcome to talk informally to any current Councillor.

Dementia Friendly Parishes Around The Yealm: Open invitation to residents of the Parish to attend the AGM on Thursday 26th February 2015, 2.15pm, Brixton Community Room.

Canes Orchard Phase 2 Parish Council Response: (Cllr Cane left the room having a declared interest in this item) Following on from the email sent by Dave Kenyon, Planning Officer SHDC in December outlining the position of Phase 2 of this Development and queries raised by SHDC, alongside an Exhibition regarding the development; Cllr Oates noted that Brixton PC have not submitted a response to this. Cllr Wills read a summary of the presentation at the exhibition. Negotiation is currently taking place between SHDC and David Wilson Homes. It was noted that Bryn Howells, (David Wilson Homes) is ceasing employment at the end of the month and no replacement has been announced. SHDC had wanted proposals for 2a and 2b to be submitted together. The suggested course of action is to arrange a meeting between BPC representatives and Dave Kenyon to discuss issues of concern including – Affordable Housing, Footpaths, Open Space

Agreed Representatives – Clerk and Cllr Michael Wills. Clerk to email Dave Kenyon to set up. Agenda item for February. (**Clerk**)

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th February 2015 at 7pm, Brixton Community Room.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Clare Parkinson, Clerk to Brixton Parish Council