

**Draft Minutes of the Brixton Parish Council Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

**Brixton Community Room, 7.00pm**

**In attendance:** Cllr Liz Hitchins, Cllr Michael Wills, Cllr Ian Calvert, Cllr Brenda Huxtable, Cllr Patrick Loxdale Cllr Gay Murch, Cllr Roger Wakeham, Cllr Helen Williams, County Councillor John Hart

**Members of Parish in attendance:** 31

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

It was noted that Brixton Parish Council (BPC) minutes format is to be amended to follow best practice guidelines. Individuals will not be referred to by name and the level of detail will decrease whilst salient points will still be included in order that a useful record of discussions can be published.

A parishioner who had represented the parish at a South Hams District Council (SHDC) Development Management meeting to discuss the planning application for the variance of conditions for Brixton Caravan and Camping Site, read a statement: It was noted that they had been strictly kept to the allocated three minutes to speak. They felt that the decision had been made on incorrect information. They requested that Brixton Parish Council (BPC) help to enforce conditions – prevent cars from parking off site and ask for the Register kept by the Warden to be published. Stated that they had been the subject of untrue gossip. Left the statement with the Chair for information.

A parishioner asked BPC for full backing and support to ensure the Post Office and shop remains open. It was noted that BPC supports all local shops and businesses and this is stated in the Parish Plan.

It was requested that if parishioners publish statements or write letters could ownership be taken rather than anonymously.

A parishioner noted that there were a significant number of posters on telegraph poles advertising new developments.

A parishioner stated that comments from parishioners in the village regarding the Post Office had included: Villagers had raised money for Post Office Services; public had not been invited to attend meetings; what action had historically been taken by BPC? Older people do not have online access; shop has declined since reduction of Post Office hours; Post Office hours do not fit with bus timetable; village becoming a drive through destination.

A parishioner noted that the date of the next meeting had been given in the magazine minutes but not the time. It was noted that the time is always seven o'clock and this had appeared on the agenda. The time will be recorded in subsequent minutes.

The poor quality of waste disposal bags was raised This is a matter that has been raised with SHDC before and assurance has been given that the latest order is of higher quality. Noted that waste collection staff are very good.

Colin Pound – Regional Manager of the South West Team for Post Office Ltd, was welcomed to the meeting. He had received 10 letters and 30 emails from parishioners. He stated that there was no intention of closing the Post Office (PO) services within the village. When PO closed for specific reasons in 2013 the only option available was Outreach services; the pub and the shop were the two venues considered by the PO and shop chosen. The hours of opening (14) were reached by analysis of footfall during the time when the PO was operating full time hours. Current footfall warrants less hours however the intention is currently not to reduce hours. Elburton Manager is looking into

changing hours, this will go to consultation, other local PO services will be affected. BPC offered to facilitate any consultation exercise.

All parishioners encouraged to respond to consultation when it takes place – respond to actual proposals rather than what would be ideal as it is only responses to proposals that will be taken into consideration.

Thanks were extended to Colin Pound.

## **Open Forum Closed**

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

Cllr Hitchins welcomed everyone to the meeting

Apologies had been received from District Cllr Brown and District Cllr Cane.

It was noted that the future format of the minutes will be less detailed and without reference to individual unless necessary or in regard to a proposal or motion.

### **2. Police Matters:**

Brixton area

27/6 report of assault, after enquiries were made there was no further Police action CR/044669/15

9/7 criminal damage to motor vehicle, car had tyre slashed CR/048052/15

15/7 report of an assault, no further action as complaint later withdrawn CR/049597/15

Staddiscombe area

15/7, offence under the sexual offences act [on line grooming] enquiries ongoing CR/050402/15

16/7 report of assault, offender arrested and charged to court CR/049473

PCSO 30540 Andy Potter, Ivybridge Police Station, Tel no 101

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

Road works on the A379 between Brixton and Yealmpton – notification had been circulated of 10mph speed restriction whilst exploratory dig takes place. BPC to publicise.

Noted that traffic control for Yealmpton show had been successful with fewer delays than in the previous year.

Reserve matters for phase 1 of Sherford had been signed off.

Midterm Budget – National Minimum Wage increase will have significant impact particularly in reference to care workers pay. Large additional amount to find alongside threat from Government of a reduction of £5-10 million.

Will forward the outline plan of the new recycling depot in Ivybridge – reports of poor service have been passed on.

Savings have been made as all County Council owned care homes are now empty. Same amount of people being cared for but in private homes.

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

District Councillors had sent apologies.

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

Cllr Hitchins declared a personal interest in Item 8.4 and a financial interest in Item 10.1

Cllr Huxtable declared a personal interest in Item 8.4 and Item 9.

Cllr Murch declared a personal interest in Item 9.

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

Cllr Wakeham proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 as an accurate record of the meeting.

Cllr Loxdale seconded.

Cllr Hitchins abstained as had not been present.

All others in attendance were unanimous.

Cllr Wills signed the minutes as Chair of the relevant meeting.

## **7. Matters Arising:**

**Transfer of Gentle Exercise monies to Dementia Friendly Parishes Around the Yealm:** It was confirmed that this had been actioned.

**Agreement to share cost of Silverbridge Way fencing repairs:** confirmed that Yealmpton Parish Clerk had been informed that BPC was happy to share costs.

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

**8.1 Post Office Update:** This item has been discussed in Open Forum. BPC will facilitate the consultation as to rearranging the current 14 hrs of Outreach Post Office Services when the proposals are available.

**8.2 Steer Point Quarry Update:** notification had been received that Devon County Council would not be pursuing court costs from BPC as a goodwill gesture.

An email had been sent to all Parish Councillors asking for agreement in principle to fund further enquiry work from an expert at £150 per hour for approx 1hrs work.

It was proposed by Cllr Wills that BPC agree to payment for additional enquiries up to the sum of £450 (3hrs work). Seconded by Cllr Calvert. Unanimous agreement by show of hands.

**8.3 Recreation Plan Update:** A questionnaire is to be sent out in September asking for feedback from parishioners.

**8.4 Canes Orchard Phase 2 Update:** There had been a meeting with David Wilson Homes, BPC and East of Venn Farm Action Group on 8<sup>th</sup> July. Issues noted included drainage of surplus water, development dominant at west end of site near Cherry Tree Drive, potential of flooding of existing septic tanks. A site visit is arranged for Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

**8.5 Sherford Development update:** Noted that reserve matters for phase 1 had been approved.

**8.6 TAP Funding Highway Contract:** Ideas had been requested from all Councillors in advance, these included: Weed spraying of streets, cleaning of road signs, "Please drive carefully through this village" signs and street sweeping. Clerk to send requests. Clerk to also raise issue of potential of SAT NAV signage with Dept of Transport.

**8.7 Appointment of New Clerk:** Thanks were extended to the Clerk and a gift given. A new Clerk has been appointed and a full handover is due to take place in the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**8.8 Composters Report:** The total amount raised from recycling credits so far is recorded as £8008.20; Grant application forms are available via the Composters website or can be requested from the Group. It was noted that once a cheque from SHDC for the correct sum has been received by the Clerk, the balance of money will be available to be transferred to the Group as they have set up their own bank account.

Cllr Wakeham proposed that a cheque be raised from BPC to the Composters Group upon receipt of the funds for the balance as approved by the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk.

Cllr Williams seconded. Unanimous support by show of hands.

**8.9 Emergency Plan Update:** Responses had been collated from questionnaire. Plan is being drawn up and will be consulted on in the autumn. A Community Emergency Response Team has been established. The plan will include links with Yealmpton to share facilities.

**8.10 Neighbourhood Plan Report:** An awareness raising event had taken place at the village fete. 28 households had visited the display. A vision statement is being put together and good progress is being made.

**8.11 Councillors Reports:**

A Councillor reported clearing Silverbridge Way of brambles and weeds in advance of Yealmpton Show.

It will be requested whether the Hele Foundation has received any applications from the Parish.

The matter of drain clearance being needed on Forderbrook Lane was raised. **Clerk to action.**

The gate is broken on Footpath 6. The gatepost is broken on Footpath 21. Clerk to forward photos from Cllr Huxtable.

It was noted that Newton & Noss Parish have a very good example of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The policies for the Feoffee Trust are being reviewed and developed, particularly those regarding Vulnerable Adults and Declarations of Interest.

**9. Planning Matters**

Applications:

07/1196/15/F & 07/1197/15/O Development site at SX 550 522 adjacent to Venn Farm (discussed in item 8.4)

Recommendations:

07/1219/15/F, 07/1220/15/F Three Corners, Lodge Lane, Brixton: No objections , some suggested conditions and opinions of neighbouring properties noted.

07/1225/15/F 3 Chittleburn Hill: No objections, some suggestion conditions.

07/0677/15/RM, 07/0678/15/RM, 07/0679/15/RM, Sherford Development: Report sent raising issues including: renewable energy percentage, consistency of design standard, parking, retaining Devon hedges where possible, school places demand and transport concerns.

07/1272/15/RM, Sherford Development, further 25 houses: same concerns raised as above with additional concerns regarding listed building and trees raised.

Decisions:

07/2752/14/VAR, Brixton Caravan and Camping Site: Approved by SHDC Awaiting publication of proposed conditions.

**10. Financial Matters:**

Receipts:	Amount	Fund
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	

Payments:	Amount	Fund
DCC Horse Warning & Slow sign	£852.72	General
DCC Gardener Primary School 1st Quarterly payment	£312.50	Composters
DCC Gardener Primary School 2nd Quarterly payment	£312.50	Composters
Antony Jinman - Charitable Donation	£150.00	Composters
P Burrige Verge Maintenance May 2015	£94.20	General
Clerk Pay	£511.50	General

Clerk Expenses (Postage, Stationery & Mileage)	£47.43	General
Clerk Office	£20.00	General
P Burridge Verge Maintenance June 2015	£94.20	General
Transfer of Gentle Exercise Funds to DFPAY	£89.00	Gentle Ex
Grant Thornton External Audit Fee	£240.00	General
DALC Councillor Training evening	£295.20	General
Expenses - Plants for Green via Cllr Hitchins	£20.00	General
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£3,039.25</b>	

<b>Statement balance 17th June 2015:</b>	
<b>Current Account:</b>	£20,593.88
<b>Deposit Account:</b>	£24,180.65
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£44,774.53</b>

<b>Current Balance: 27th July 2015</b>	
<b>Gentle Exercise</b>	£0.00
<b>P3</b>	£332.50
<b>Composters</b>	£1,165.51
<b>Sherford Reserve</b>	£14,858.69
<b>Silverbridge Way</b>	£552.00

**10.1** Cllr Williams proposed to accept the financial statement for June.

Cllr Wills seconded. Cllr Hitchins abstained. Unanimous agreement by all others in attendance by show of hands.

## **11. Correspondence for Discussion**

Tim Pollard – Locality Officer, SHDC has requested suggestions to attend local activities to promote the new Locality Team. Clerk to suggest Venn Court Coffee Morning followed by time in the Village Shop.

Mr Stephen Cane had written to the Chair requesting a retraction of a statement in the April 2015 minutes where a Councillor has asked that the waste plan for the Solar Farm Development be requested as fires had been noted on Mr Cane's land that 'have a chemical smell as if plastic is being burned'. It had been confirmed that licensed recycling companies had disposed of waste from the Solar Farm site. Mr Cane stated in his letter that he would never allow the burning of hazardous materials on his farm and goes out of his way to help the Parish particularly through the facilitation of the successful composting site.

A discussion followed in which it was noted that it is good practice to for Parish Councillors to inform the Clerk of any issues raised by parishioners and then to speak directly to individuals or landowners regarding the issue. This was not carried out in this instance. Minutes of Parish Council meetings will also reflect good practice; a retraction is not possible as the minutes reflected proceedings.

Mr Cane has registered his view with the Parish Council; this has been noted, reflected on and discussed and subsequently resolved. The Chair reiterated that BPC supports all local businesses as they form an important part of our community and economy.

**12. Date of Next Meeting:** Brixton Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015, 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 9.23pm

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