

Minutes of the Brixton Parish Council Meeting 25th March 2015

Brixton Community Room, 7.00pm

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

Members of Parish in attendance: 15

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

It was noted that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of the minutes.

The Chair extended a welcome to Mike Parsons and Keith Murray from Tithegrove, the contractors carrying out the road works for Canes Orchard Developers. A comprehensive explanation was given as to the reasons behind the delays, multiple phases and request for extension. Working in accordance with Health and Safety regulations particularly in an area with high voltage areas and gas mains and high traffic flow has meant that very specific procedures have had to be followed. An unexpected seam of very hard rock was encountered and Utilities Company and site inspector's timetables also had to be worked around. The contractors were unaware that communication of these facts had not been carried out by the Developers. The representatives from Tithegrove are committed to communicating with the Parish and have left contact details.

Barriers were in place before any visible work commenced as scanning and radar work needed to be done to clarify where cables and pipes are underground.

Payment is made for a Section 50 agreement, traffic light licences etc for an agreed period. If it looks that the works cannot be carried out in this time a SWL4 form is filled out for an extension from Devon County Council.

An extension had been applied for. Phase 1 would have been completed within 2 days if the extension had been granted the road would have been resurfaced and the lights removed. Work would however have continued on the pavement area.

The workforce have been rotated but restrictions on working hours, hand digging, working with vibrating machinery and the size limit of the trench have all contributed to delays.

There will be further works taking place from 13th April 2015 for up to a four week period, seven days per week 7am to 7pm.

Thanks were extended to the representatives and it was noted that this communication is very helpful in a situation that is frustrating for the contractors and the Parish.

The Chair welcomed Clive Collier – Plymouth Albion Oaks Rugby Club and Colin Robinson – Splash, here to give a presentation on the proposed Trim Trail at Horsham Fields.

A Community Asset Transfer from Plymouth City Council has meant that the Rugby Club now has a long term lease on the playing fields. A significant sum has been invested to create a club building that serves not only the Rugby Club but the community. There are meeting facilities and a cafe now available (open Tues – Fri 10am -4pm and Sat 9am-2pm) and the venue can be hired. It was noted as a potential venue for holding a Parish Council meeting. They would like to improve the outside space and one idea is a Trim Trail providing an outside exercise space for public access. The medical centre at Yealmpton has expressed an interest as this is an ideal area for level exercises. It was also noted that potentially there could be good footpath links from Brixton Village.

It was suggested that there could be potential for a safe cycle/scooter track area for children. Splash is a company that specialises in working with communities on projects such as this, small to large. They have experience of working with local authorities and exploring different funding avenues and can design and engineer projects to suit requirements and budgets. Examples were circulated. Potentially an application could be supported for some funding from the Section 106 monies from Canes Orchard Phase 1 Development. Thanks were extended to Clive and Colin.

Public Transport Review: County Cllr Hart explained that reductions and amendments were being made to bus services to enable savings. A review of journeys had shown some that were running at significant costs per passenger per journey and the services which costed out at higher than £2.50 per person per journey were looked at. The aim was to reduce but not to cut off any areas and to maintain journeys scheduled for standard working hours services/employment links.

The age demographic of the region is high and bus passes have an impact on costs.

It is vital to keep routes and buses on the road as 19% of people in Devon do not have their own transport but it must be viable.

Comments: No. 93 is often late and not to timetable, this is off putting. No. 94 is more reliable. It would be a shame to lose Sunday service. Overall no support for any of the proposed changes from the parishioners present.

Mrs Deeley noted that the disabled parking bay in the village was in use a majority of the time by one individual. It was noted that there is no action that could be taken against this. As long as they are a blue badge holder they can park there and no time restrictions are in place. A further disabled parking bay can be requested if there is a requirement. This can go on the agenda for the next Traffic Management Meeting. (ACTION: Clerk)

Open Forum Closed

1. Welcome & Apologies:

Cllr Hitchins welcomed everyone to the meeting

Apologies had been received from District Councillor John Squire and Cllr Ian Martin. The Chair noted that Cllr Deborah Jessop had resigned from her position and thanks were noted for her excellent contribution as a member of the Parish Council.

2. Police Matters:

Brixton Parish Council Police Report March 2015

[From 22nd Feb to 22 Mar]

Brixton area

26th Feb, report of a minor assault, enquiries ongoing [CR/013598/15]

Staddiscombe area

Overnight 4th / 5th theft from a car [Cr/0148326/15]

4th, shoplifting, offender arrested and charged to court [CR/014943/15]

PCSO 30540 Andy Potter

3. Report from County Councillor John Hart:

It was noted that following 8th May 2015 the Clerk can invoice for £500.00 contribution towards Grass Cutting as the amount received from Devon County Council was reduced significantly for the financial year 2015/2016.

Money for LED street lighting is available in the County. Street lighting cuts can make significant savings.

Cllr Calvert queried how, when cuts are being made in all areas, there is a policy to defend planning applications with costly barristers?

County Cllr Hart replied that there is money held in the legal department. The position of the County Council needs to be clarified or statute law will be called into question. There is a requirement for a Council for a position it feels is right and money must be available to do this.

4. Reports from District Councillors:

District Cllr Cane

The firm that previously carried out the recycling of waste paper for South Hams District Council (SHDC) has gone into administration. A new firm is now in place. The amount received per bale has significantly reduced but the recycling is ongoing. The cost impact stands at up to £150,000.00 over 12 months.

It was clarified that SHDC do not currently recycle glass bottles as the current system of using bottle banks seems to be sufficient.

SHDC has received a gold award for delivering through its efficiency drive and a silver award for Council of the Year.

The two new Directors are settling in and motivation seems high. This has been an unsettling and difficult year for staff at SHDC and it will be good to look to a positive future.

5. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Cane declared an interest (personal) in Items 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4

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

Cllr Hitchins declared a financial interest in Item 10 and a personal interest in item 8.3 and 8.4

6. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meetings

Cllr Wills proposed to accept the minutes of the meeting on 25th February 2015 as an accurate record of the meeting.

Cllr Gray seconded.

The proposal was agreed by all members present. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

7. Matters Arising:

Community Composting Area: The reported hole had been filled in. It was noted that this facility is open during the day in the week.

Bus Shelter Seats: This matter is ongoing.

Letter to Landowner re damaged fencing: It was confirmed that the Clerk had written.

P3 Stiles to Gates: Cllr Oates confirmed that this had been followed up. One gate had been purchased to replace a stile in Mill Lane as discussed last meeting and this would be fitted.

Parking at Horsham Playing Fields: The Clerk had followed this up with PCSO Potter who had agreed to look into it. The best course of action would be to report any nuisance or obstructive parking on match days by telephoning 101 and if a unit is available they can attend the area.

8. Local Issues and Councillor Reports

8.1 Steer Point Quarry Update: County Cllr Richard Hosking was welcomed to the meeting. Steer Point Quarry Parish Working Group (SPQPWG) has made a case through a barrister and this has gone to DCC for their comments and barrister to make their response. This response has now been received. It is now up to a Judge to decide whether or not there is a case for review.

Cllr Gray queried whether or not work could take place in the Quarry.

Cllr Hitchins confirmed that work can take place but this would be undertaken at risk.

County Cllr Hosking confirmed that he was content with this update.

8.2 Solar Farm Development: Richard Bowkett, Site Manager had sent his apologies and an update by email. All modules are now on site so HGVs should stop. They are aiming for the bulk of the work to be completed by the end of March, there will be some ongoing works but on a smaller scale.

Connection date is estimated for June, exact date to be confirmed.

8.3 Canes Orchard Phase 2: No update has been received on this. It was noted that the Clerk is to send an official letter to Dave Kenyon outlining the Parish Council's wish to arrange a meeting and reiterating concern over the lack of communication. (ACTION: Clerk)

8.4 Canes Orchard Section 106 funds & Traffic Management: Traffic management was comprehensively discussed in Open Forum. S106 money – Cllr Hitchins reiterated that a group was needed to take this forward. It was noted that this had previously been discussed several times and no interested parties had come forward. The funds are not available for the use of the Parish solely indefinitely. It was agreed that Cllr Hitchins would speak to Clive Collier and let him know that if his group would like to approach SHDC for some of the Sports and Recreation funds from S106 Canes Orchard Phase 1, Brixton Parish Council would be supportive. The potential of linking this with footpaths would also be discussed and Cllr Oates would look at the geography of this.

(ACTION: Cllr Hitchins and Cllr Oates.)

8.5 Public Transport Review: This item had been discussed in Open Forum. It was noted that the Clerk will fill in and return the questionnaire indicating not to support any of the proposed cuts affecting the parish.

8.6 TAP Funding: Cllr Wills proposed to ring fence the money allocated for drainage works as the contractor could not carry out the work in this financial year.

Cllr Calvert seconded the proposal.

Unanimous support. The Clerk is to follow up. (ACTION: Clerk)

8.7 Neighbourhood Plan: The first meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group had taken place current membership is David Croot (Chair) Ray Holland, Jon Capel and Liz Hitchins. The terms of reference and the area to be covered were discussed. The group proposes that the area covered be the whole of the Parish including the Sherford Development area. It was noted that there is the potential of a grant application for this group.

Cllr Gray proposed to accept as written the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Cllr Murch seconded the proposal.

Unanimous support.

Cllr Gray proposed that the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan should be the whole of the Parish.

Cllr Wills seconded the proposal.

Unanimous support.

8.8 Environmental Policy: Cllr Oates noted that the first paragraph was not necessary. Clerk to remove. (ACTION: Clerk)

Cllr Murch proposed to update as above and then accept the Environmental Policy for Brixton Parish Council 2015.

Cllr Wills seconded the proposal.

Unanimous support.

8.9 Sherford Development:

It was noted that the green space was owned by the consortium of Developers but came under a development agreement. Cllr Hitchins queried when the S106 trigger was for the sum of £10,000.00 for administrative purposes. This will be raised at the Sherford Liaison meeting – 26th March 2015.

8.10 Emergency Plan:

The updated questionnaire will be delivered to all homes in the week commencing 13th April 2015.

8.11 Cllr Reports:

Cllr Gray noted that the Ivybridge Recycling Centre had been closed over a weekend. Follow up on this had revealed that a new facility will be available in the next 2 years. This is positive news as it was acknowledged that the current facilities are inadequate.

No further reports.

9. Planning Matters

9.1 Planning Applications and Recommendations:

Applications:

07/0566/15/F – Installation of new roller shutters, Co-Op Store, Wembury Rd, Staddiscombe

07_49/0548/15/F – Widening of Ridge Rd at two pinch points to allow it to be used for haul road to serve construction of Sherford New Community.

It was noted that site visits were not required for the above applications as full enough details were already known. Council members were requested to give their opinion via email to Cllr Martin so that a recommendation can be forwarded to SHDC.

07/0515/15/F – Householder application for construction of new detached garage with living accommodation over. Northlands, Lodge Lane, Brixton. Site visit to be arranged.

Recommendations:

07/0395/15/F – Sandaway, Lodge Lane, Brixton.

The recommendation of the Parish Council had been no objections to the application with acknowledgement of recommended conditions and concerns of neighbouring property. Neighbours had been advised to submit their own responses to SHDC in addition to the Parish Council response.

10. Financial Matters:

FINANCE ANNEX MARCH 2015

INCOME

Gentle Exercise Cash Participants	£174.60
P3 Funds	£ 50.00
	£224.60

EXPENDITURE

Physiotherapy, Sarah Macpherson	£ 84.00
Physiotherapy Sine Rickard	£ 84.00
Clerk's salary & Expenses	£ 518.90

Sharpe Pritchard – Steer Point Quarry Fees	£440.00
SHDC Grass Cutting 2014/15	£2233.80
Councillor Hitchins Expenses	£39.60
Community Room Hire	£102.50
Total:	£3502.80

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT 23rd MARCH 2015

Current a/c General	6117.58
P3 funds	436.00
Composters funds	2433.63
Gentle Exercise funds	195.60
SBW funds	32.30
Sherford Reserve fund	18026.69
Deposit a/c General	8095.95
Total	£35,337.75

Cllr Wills proposed to accept the financial statement for March.

Cllr Cane seconded.

Cllr Hitchins abstained.

All other members present voted in agreement.

The Clerk had circulated the Internal Control Policy Document and Financial Risk Assessment for Brixton Parish Council.

Cllr Wills proposed to accept the Internal Control Policy for Brixton Parish Council for the financial Year 2014/15.

Cllr Cane seconded.

Unanimous support

Cllr Gray proposed to accept the Financial Risk Assessment for 2014/15.

Cllr Wills seconded.

Unanimous support.

11. Correspondence for Discussion

None reported.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The Annual Parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th April 2015 at 7pm, Brixton Community Room.

The next Brixton Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 29th April, following the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Clare Parkinson, Clerk to Brixton Parish Council