

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
AT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY MAY 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012 AT 7.30pm**

|                 |                      |   |                   |   |
|-----------------|----------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| <b>Present:</b> | Cllr Hitchins        | * | Cllr White        | @ |
|                 | Cllr Wills           | * | Cllr Murch        | * |
|                 | Cllr Martin          | * | Cllr Cane         | * |
|                 | Cllr Gray            | * | Cllr Jessop       | * |
|                 | Cllr Oates           | * |                   |   |
|                 | * Denotes attendance |   | @ Denotes absence |   |

|                        |                       |   |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Also attending:</b> | Members of the public | 3 |
|                        | County Councillor     | 0 |
|                        | District Councillor   | 1 |
|                        | Police                | 1 |

**12.112 APOLOGIES**

Apologies from Cllrs Hart and White

**12.113 ANNUAL REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN**

Brixton Parish Council - Annual Report for 2011-2012 from Chairman Liz Hitchins.

The Chairman, Liz Hitchins thanked Councillors for their work for the Parish Council over the past year. Councillors Sarah Gray, Debbie White, Gay Murch, Martyn Oates and Debra Jessop had joined the Council during the year. Elaine Tapper and Lynne Lang were thanked for their time on the Parish Council. She thanked Councillor Michael Wills, the Vice Chairman for his support, Councillor Ian Martin for Chairing the Planning Sub Committee, and Mike Stickland, the Clerk for his work for the Council. She thanked County Councillor John Hart and District Councillors John Squire and Basil Cane for their advice and support. The Police were thanked for their attendance at Parish Council meetings and for their efficient follow up to resident's concerns.

The Chairman gave the following summary on the work of the Council:-

In December 2011 South Hams District Council granted outline planning permission and approved the Section 106 Agreement to Red Tree Developers for a new town at Sherford. Brixton Parish Council engaged a barrister to oppose the application and to object to the planning process; however, there was a vote of 15:7 in favour by the District Council. Since the approval the Parish Council has met with the developers to set up a meeting later in the year to brief residents of Brixton, Elburton, Plympton and Plymstock on the plans for the new town.

Plans for Silver Bridge Way community path linking Brixton with Yealmpton have progressed. A permissive path on the north side of the A379 has been agreed, a contractor has been engaged and fundraising is progressing. Currently the outcome of the planning application to South Hams District Council is awaited.

New arrangements are in place to keep the roads clear in the event of heavy snow in collaboration with Devon County Council and with Steven Cane, local farmer.

The Village Green continues to be well maintained by Mr Tony Davis. The traditional

Christmas tree on the Green was decorated by Elaine Tapper and Maxine Jewell.

The Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm Steering Committee plans to appoint a Coordinator by the end of the year to raise awareness of dementia across the parishes and improve the quality of life for people with dementia and their carers locally. This project is considered as an exemplar and is receiving national recognition through the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia.

Brixton was allocated £3,000 by Active Devon to increase opportunities for physical exercise. The Parish Council has supported the setting up of the Gentle Exercise Class at Venn Court.

The Parish Plan was completed in February. An Action Plan has been drawn and progress will be reviewed in a year's time. The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who was involved in the compilation, distribution and completion of the Plan.

In 2011 The Friends of Brixton Play Spaces raised over £100,000 to improve play facilities for children and young people in Brixton at Brixstix and Silverwood Play Spaces. Plans to complete the play trail around the village in 2012 are being made.

The Parish Council continues to support the St. Mary's School during a period of change.

A Welcome Pack providing information about the community for new residents has been completed.

A proposal for development of housing on land north east of Venn Farm as part of the South Hams District Council's Local Development Framework has been the subject of local consultation by Barratt Homes.

Councillor Martyn Oates as P3 Coordinator, with Mr A Gilbery, continued to keep the public rights of way safe and clear.

The Community Partnership has been very beneficial for organisations in the Parish to meet and up date each other.

The Parish Council, in collaboration with Steven Cane, South West Composting, and local volunteers has developed a community composting scheme. The Parish Council will claim recycling credits from South Hams District Council which can be used to fund community projects.

The Police, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and the Parish Council, have recently brought the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme up to date.

The website, funded by the Parish Council and the Feoffee Trust, run by Graham Searle continues to be an excellent source of information.

The Parish Council set up a group who are enthusiastically planning for the arrival of the Olympic Flame on the 20<sup>th</sup> May and the Queens Diamond Jubilee week end in June.

Finally, the Parish Council has made considerable progress on many fronts in the last year. his success is due to Parish Councillors and local people acting in the best interests of the whole community now and for the future.

## **12.114 ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Hart's report was read out by the Clerk:

- A busy and successful year.
- I have attended many Parish Council meetings but not all and have helped where I could in getting things done for Parish. Financial support with Community Budget Money Parish Council schemes.
- Introduced the County wide Parish Community Fund at £1 per Elector + 10p from District Council.
- I have had to spend a lot of time over the last 12 months in other parts of County.
- DCC spending was reduced by £80m for 2011/12.....and another £40m for 2012/13.....
- The County Council restructure is nearly finished with savings of some £30million per year.....Reducing Staff excluding Education by 27%.....Changing working practices .....Creating a Corporate Purchasing team to get better value for money.
- All of which has resulted in a Council Tax 0% increase for the 2nd year.
- DCC spending £5m extra on roads
- DCC will be investing some £10+ million in modernising the Residential Homes and at the same time convert 10 of them for Dementia care over the next 3 years.

## **12.115 ANNUAL REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Squire reported that:

- The Council Year commenced with the Elections and this saw the Conservatives retain control. The final result was 30 Conservatives, 5 Liberal Democrats, 3 Green Party, 1 Labour and 1 Independent.
- During the year the senior management team was reorganised to reflect the continued joint working arrangements with West Devon and this has resulted in substantial financial savings.
- The Sherford application was finally approved in November despite protest from Brixton, Yealmpton and Wembury Parish Councils We must now ensure that we are fully involved in the future of this major project for the benefit of the people of the area.
- Savings in the running of the Council have been made with the letting of sections of the Headquarters to the County Council.
- Savings in expenditure have been carefully considered and made wherever possible
- The budget was approved in April with an increase in the District Council tax of 2.5% approved. This was the first rise in 2 years and will ensure that the front line services provided by the Council are protected.
- It has been a difficult year but the District Council as always is putting the interests of the people of the South Hams first.

Cllr Cane reported:

- The appointment of Graham Swiss as our Link Officer should see benefits to the parish
- SHDC is putting on a road show called "Love food, hate waste" to highlight the amazing waste of food in this country. On average, every household wastes £50 per month.

- Locality budget has increased from £1000 to £1500 this year
- Localism Act should enable local communities to have a greater influence on decisions affecting their way of life.

### **12.116 ANNUAL POLICE REPORT 2011/12**

Crime figures researched from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

| <b><u>Offences</u></b>   | <b><u>Brixton</u></b> | <b><u>Carrolsland</u></b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Theft                    | 4                     | 2                         |
| Burglary non dwelling    | 8                     | 0                         |
| Criminal damage          | 3                     | 2                         |
| Criminal damage to m/veh | 2                     | 1                         |
| Theft from m/veh         | 7                     | 0                         |
| Theft of m/veh           | 2                     | 0                         |
| Arson                    | 1                     | 0                         |
| Assault ABH              | 3                     | 0                         |
| Assault common           | 7                     | 2                         |
| Possession of drugs      | 2                     | 0                         |
| Drink/drive              | 1                     | 0                         |
| Cruelty to animals       | 1                     | 0                         |
| <b>TOTALS</b>            | <b>41</b>             | <b>7</b>                  |
| Non crime Domestic       | 4                     | 7                         |

Figures show Brixton is a low crime area.

There were two occasions where a number of offences were committed by the same offender/s at the same location.

During August 2011 three cars were broken into overnight, fortunately a few days later the offender was stop checked in a vehicle in Plymouth ,within the vehicle was property from the Brixton car breaks ,he was arrested and dealt with at court.

During October 2011 a block of four garages were broken into during the same evening, these offences remain undetected.

PC 1454 Rob Batchelor and I are your local officers and will remain so for the foreseeable future: we are based at Ivybridge Police Station.

We are contactable by telephoning the non emergency telephone number of 101, or

[andy.potter@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andy.potter@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

[robert.batchelor@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:robert.batchelor@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

Cllr Hitchins vacated the Chair.

### **12.117. TO APPOINT A CHAIRMAN.**

The Clerk advised that Cllr Hitchins was prepared to stand for a further year. No other nominations were forwarded. Cllr Wills proposed and Cllr Cane seconded that Cllr Hitchins be elected Chairman. Passed unanimously. Cllr Hitchins resumed the Chair.

### **12.118 TO APPOINT A VICE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Gray proposed and Cllr Martin seconded that Cllr Wills be appointed for a further year. No other nominations received. Cllr Wills duly elected.

Cllr cane expressed his thanks and those of Council for the good work done in the last 12 months by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

**12.119. TO APPOINT REPS TO OUTSIDE BODIES.** The following were proposed, seconded and duly elected 'en bloc':

- P3 Coordinator. Cllr Oates with Cllr Jessop 'shadowing'.
- Hele Foundation. Cllr Jessop
- Feoffee Trust. Cllr Hitchins
- Sherford liaison. TBA
- Brixton Community Association. Cllr White
- Yealm Harbour Authority and Yealm Estuary Management. Cllr Oates
- Police liaison. Cllr Martin

**12.120 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES/RESPONSIBILITIES.** The following were proposed and seconded and duly elected 'en bloc'.

- Planning subcommittee. All councillors except Cllr Cane.
- Planning subcommittee chairman. Cllr Martin
- Finance Group. Cllrs Wills and Martin.
- Carrolsland liaison. Cllr Jessop
- Silver Bridge Way group. Cllrs Hitchins, Gray & Murch.
- Tree Wardens. Cllrs Oates and Jessop
- Works. Cllr Cane

Cllr Cane left the meeting.

**12.121 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Martin registered a personal interest in any discussions re composting through a family connection.

**12.106 MINUTES OF PARISH MEETINGS**

Minutes of the monthly meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> were proposed as correct by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Wills. Approved by all those at that meeting.

**12.107 LOCAL ISSUES AND REPORTS**

**12.1 Silver Bridge Way.** Cllr Murch advised that professional advice had been sought and that the project group is proceeding with the existing application. We have asked for determination within 6 weeks or we will take our case to appeal.

**12.2 Land to the NE of Venn Farm.** Council met with Barratts on April 30<sup>th</sup> to review their latest proposals. They are to consider our views and those of VFEAG. We have asked for a public exhibition when suitable.

**12.3 Sherford update.** Cllr Hitchins is arranging a date for a public exhibition with Redtree. Elburton, Plymstock and Plympton residents will be notified and invited. Contacts have already been made by the Clerk.

**12.4 Parish Plan.** The action plan was discussed. Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Wills seconded by Cllr Martin and adopted.

**12.5. Councillor reports.**

- Jubilee Celebrations

Cllr White requested, through the chair, for £208.79 for street party costs. Full information will be available in the Brixton Magazine and on the Parish website. A leaflet drop is planned to all houses.

- Olympic Torch day.

Cllr Hitchins reported the torch run will start at Lodge Lane at 8.59 am and finish at Red Lion Hill at 9.07 am. It is suggested that you need to be there between 8.15 and 8.30 to see all the fun !

- Cllr Gray expressed concern at the untidy state of the small area of grass by the post box on

Clerk  
Oates

Red Lion Hill. The clerk was asked to establish the owner. Cllr Oates to put up 'dog fouling' notices.

Hitchins  
/Wills

- Composting. Cllr Oates expressed his concerns about the state of the main composting site on Venn Farm. Cllr Hitchins advised that a recent inspection by SHDC and the Environment Agency has given full site approval. It was agreed that Cllrs Hitchins and Wills would visit Steven Cane.
- South Hams Connect are bringing their road show bus to Brixton village green on May 21<sup>st</sup>.
- A response to the Brixton Magazine article re the 'Sherford fighting fund' will be made.

#### **12.108 PLANNING MATTERS**

Application 0745 was reviewed April 25<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Martin raised concern that the SHDC Planning Officer showed no interest in a site meeting. Clerk was asked to take this up with our Link Officer. No objections raised to this application.

Clerk

#### **12.109 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The tabled expenditure of £1864.72 for April was approved after proposal by Cllr Wills and seconded by Cllr Gray with one abstention.

#### **12.111 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 7.30 in the Community Room followed by a short monthly meeting for urgent items only. There will not be an open forum on this occasion.

**The meeting was declared closed at 9.30pm**

M J Stickland, Clerk to Brixton Parish Council

May 4<sup>th</sup> 2012