

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 2nd 2011 AT 7.30pm**

Present:	Cllr Cane (Chair)	*	Cllr Searle	*
	Cllr Hitchins (Vice Chair)	*	Cllr Tapper	*
	Cllr Martin	*	Cllr Wills	*
	Cllr Lang	*	Cllr Aylett	@
	Cllr Foweraker	@		
	* Denotes attendance		@ Denotes absence	

Also attending:	Members of the public	7
	District Councillor	1
	Police	0
	County Councillor	1

9.209 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllrs Aylett, Foweraker and the Police

9.210 POLICE MATTERS

The email report was as follows:

J1/11/42: Over night on the 24th to the 25th January 2011 a motor vehicle was set on fire in the Brixton area. The vehicle was completely gutted by fire and is currently being identified. Enquiries are ongoing

J1/11/57: Relates to a domestic incident. Force rules dictates non-disclosure of information.

Searle

A report from Sergeant Teakle had been circulated to Councillors and was summarised by the Clerk. It was agreed to post the full report on the website as an appendix to these minutes.

9.211 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

**Clerk
Clerk**

Councillor Hart apologized for his recent infrequent attendance due to DCC business.

- 4 grit bins will be coming to the village. Locations to be agreed with Highways. Mrs Pavier of Cross Park (letter received) to be advised
- DCC budget will be put before 'cabinet' next week. Savings of £54.6 million will be made compared to 2010/11.
- There are 900 people less on the payroll compared to last year.
- Directors and senior managers to be reduced by 13 heads in total
- No County Council rise in Council tax
- Highways. Potholes will be repaired with a limited amount of tar & chippings. Very few road repairs will be carried out next year
- Bus services and car schemes are under review with reduced government subsidies.
- A grit spreader for local use (car tow) is to be demonstrated to John Hart. If successful, one may be bought for use by Wembury and Brixton parishes by DCC.

Hart

The problem of reducing numbers of pupils at St Mary's School was raised by the Chairman as a result of letters from the Community Association and a parishioner. Cllr Hart advised that the grant per capita was £4000 and a reducing role led to a reduced income. He expressed concern and promised to talk to the Education Dept in County Hall about the issues. He recommended the use of the County Publicity Department to allay local fears which appeared to come from 'playground rumours'.

9.212 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Cane reported that:

- No increase in SHDC part of Council Tax
- Council workers earning over £21k will have a pay freeze next year with other workers each receiving £250 increase
- Front line services will be retained
- SHDC looking to increase planning application fees to cover the costs of processing
- Dustbin lids on wheelie bins. Damaged bins not charged at present. Please ensure that your bin lid closes properly to avoid damage from emptying process.

Residents

Cllr Squire reported that:

- The government planning inspector's report on the LDF has been received and it will go to full Council on Feb 12th for acceptance.
- Management reorganisation will reduce directors and senior managers by 11 heads.
- More lead has been stolen from the roof of Follaton House. The loss is insured.
- Shared services with West Devon continue but convergence rather than merger is still the preferred option.
- Spare office space in Follaton House will be let where possible.

9.213 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Pecuniary interest: Cllr Searle; Parish website.

b) Cllr Cane advised that he will not take part in any planning discussions or voting as he sits on the District Planning committee

9.214 MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 5th PARISH MEETING

Proposed as accurate by Cllr Wills, seconded by Cllr Martin. Voted by 7 councillors with 1 abstention due to absence from previous meeting.

9.215 LOCAL ISSUES AND REPORTS

7.1 Brixton/Yealmpton footpath. The Working Group met on Jan 25th. The DCC representative took the meeting through the proposal in detail. The plan is to have the permissive path usable during 2011. A new stream bridge will be constructed at a later date when funding is available. Next meeting 25th Feb when the group will be considering all potential grant sources. DCC will carry out provisional costing in the meantime.

7.2 Village Welcome pack. Carry forward to April meeting

7.3 Best Kept Village competition. After some debate, it was agreed that no entry would be made for 2011. When the play spaces and play trail projects were completed, Council will reconsider the options and community involvement.

7.4 Community Partnership. Cllr Hitchins presented a draft paper to be sent to the following organisations/people to be invited to join the Brixton Community Partnership: Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, Yealm Medical Centre, Head Teacher/School Governors, Parents Group, Community Association, the Feoffee Trust and representatives from both District and County Councils. The purpose of the Partnership is to 1) exchange and update each other on work of each organisation and its impact on Brixton community 2) identify the most vulnerable in our community and endeavour to meet their needs 3) To look at strategic funding opportunities to develop sustainable services to meet the community's needs 4) to consider opportunities to work with other organisations/parishes to build on existing services in the wider community

7.5 Sherford records. Cllr Lang advised that 2 people had expressed interest in providing council with a film record of "Sherford today". Filming cost would be £400/500

Martin

Hitchins/
Clerk

per day. It was agreed that this project be postponed until further evidence of the Sherford start date was available. As yet, no agreement has been reached on the “106 agreement” between SHDC and Redtree.

7.6 Carrolsland. It was agreed that a leaflet be created by Councillor Searle advising residents that they resided in our parish and inviting them to the March Annual Parish meeting to learn more of our activities. It was felt that a Carrolsland resident standing for election in May would bring the communities closer together. The leaflet to be circulated by councillors.

7.7 Councillors' reports.

- Cllr Searle reported briefly on the recent SHDC cluster meeting at Ivybridge. In addition to the budget information, the problems of our aging population and poor broadband speeds were discussed. Please advise if local businesses are suffering commercially from this broadband problem.
- Cllr Searle reported that the village website now has links to both the 2011 Census and the Council elections on May 5th.
- Cllr Wills reported on a visit to the Langage Industrial Park and the Solar Farm proposal. As industrial applications for the land are scarce, they are reviewing possibilities of creating a solar farm with an output of 5MW (peak) which would service 850 homes via the National Grid.

Searle

9.216 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Council discussed the following application earlier considered by the subcommittee:

Application by 5 The Crescent for removal of front conservatory and replace with new extension. Cllr Martin explained the application and proposed “support”. This was seconded by Cllr Searle and unanimously approved

- b) A new application had been received from the Co-op for new garage signing at Carrolsland. After some discussion, it was agreed that the subcommittee would make a site visit.

Clerk

Martin

9.217 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) The tabled expenditure of £589.15 for the month was approved.
- b) Parish Plan funding. Cllr Hitchins agreed to follow up the DCC promised grant
- c) Play Park funding. Application has been made by the Community Association which will receive the £1000 directly from SHDC Community fund. The money from DCC needs to be applied for from the County Locality budget.

Hitchins

**Hitchins/
Clerk**

9.218 CORRESPONDENCE

- Reminder that the Police “drop in “ event will take place at Ivybridge Town Hall on Feb 10th between 4 and 7pm. Cllrs Cane and Hitchins hope to attend
- The Clerk advised that a “Local flooding survey” has been received. It was agreed that no action was necessary.
- Papers received from DCC regarding Snow Wardens were discussed. It was agreed that Brixton would not appoint an official warden because of all the “red tape” and training involved for such a simple community activity.

**Cane/
Hitchins**

The correspondence file was given to the Chairman for reading and onward distribution.

9.219 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This will be the

Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday, March 2nd, 2011 at 7.30pm.

The meeting agenda is set to advise parishioners about the work of the parish council and to explain why it is important to vote on May 5th. Council is also seeking a full election this year and hopes that more parishioners can be persuaded to stand for election as Parish Councillors. See website for more details.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.20 pm

OPEN FORUM held at 7.30pm.

(These notes do not form part of the Council Minutes)

1. Jack Gilbury asked the Chairman about the missing 7.5 tonne weight limit sign at the Deep Lane Junction which allows heavy vehicles to enter the village down Red Lion Hill. The Chairman agreed that this be reported to the Highways Authority.

Clerk

M J Stickland, Clerk to Brixton Parish Council

February 4th 2011

POLICE REPORT Brixton Parish Council Meeting 2nd February 2011

Sergeant Teakle

Intro: I am the Neighbourhood Team Leader for Ivybridge, and have been stationed at Ivybridge since 2002. I have seen the development of Neighbourhood Policing and have been the supervisory Officer for PC's Phil Fuller, Dave Cook, Clare Rowland, Dave Richards, John Nolan, and latterly Rob Batchelor and Sid Lawrence. Policing has developed over the years and unfortunately we now enjoy less Neighbourhood/Community Officers than we did before. eg PC Fuller used to have 3 Parishes, whilst PC Batchelor now has 6 and the increase in work that comes with the additional Parishes. However, as the Beat Manager he has the able assistance of PCSO Sid Lawrence who acts as the eyes and ears for his patch and helps provide a link between the Police and the Public.

Low Crime

We are lucky that **Brixton** is a very low crime area.

In 2010 there were a total of 34 crimes, on average 1 every 10 days. For a population of approx 1200 this is very low.

Policing Brixton

The local Police deal with more than crimes as you are probably well aware. I will try and give you a flavour of 'policing' that is undertaken by your Neighbourhood Team.

Other policing issues we had in Brixton last year (2010) were:

- Domestic incidents (11) – Roughly one every month. Whilst these are not 'crimes' there can be significant work involved in these ie making sure those that need support receive it, looking at the factors that cause such problems ie alcohol, drugs, anger management and ensuring that the perpetrators get sign posted to the relevant Organisation. Force Policy states that we cannot disclose details of these incidents. A comprehensive Risk Assessment helps us prioritise the most vulnerable cases.

- Vulnerable adult referrals (2) – These are relatively new (terminology wise) and basically encourage joined up working between the agencies i.e. Social Services, Police, Mental Health, Housing Landlords etc when an elderly person is identified to be at risk or in need of safe-guarding, i.e. someone is at risk of exploitation from others – Fraudsters, an inadequate or undesirable Carer, elderly neglect etc. As well as the Police identifying these cases in the normal course of their duty, referrals can also be made by other agencies or persons.
- Child Protection Referrals – These require sensitive joined up working with other Statutory agencies. They are often protracted and need a high degree of ‘maintenance’ to ensure that the relevant children are kept safe and healthy.
- Missing Person reports and interventions
- Young person interventions
- Warrants and Bail enquiries
- PACT Days – House to House Surveys to help identify Safety or Quality of Life levels within the community and identify things affecting these. (yours was Aug 12th 2010)
- Problem Solving Plans – These are issues identified by the NBM/PCSO/Community which require a more concerted, multi-agency approach. i.e. speeding, noise pollution, Hate Crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour – including neighbour disputes.
- Community and Crime Intelligence reports – Our team on average submits over 700 pieces per year, by listening to people and being out on patrol
- Road Traffic Incidents
- Sudden Deaths – Police are required to be informed of most deaths in the Community.
- Diversity Issues – eg a tourist with Special needs who presented in a challenging way when visiting the Area. In order to support this person, but respond to the Public’s concern, involved much sensitive work and communication through interpreters etc. Such a piece of work took many Police hours, but still has a vital place in the jigsaw that is policing of today.
- Public Protection Issues – i.e. Sex Offenders visits, Out of Force tenants with an undesirable history
- Licensed Premises Visits
- Pro-Active Enquiries – Rural Crime
- Policing of Community Events
- Education - Schools - Frequent visits and educational inputs (Personal Safety or Stranger Danger). The school is a community in itself and as such will have other confidential matters which cannot always be disclosed in the Public forum. We enjoy a good relationship with this Establishment.

Summary:

i.e. Investigation, Detection, Prevention, Reassurance, Prioritisation, Sign-posting Education....the paperwork..... and then.....Patrol.

Are we the Right Agency? : Mis-reporting

It is important to ensure we filter our work effectively.

- Reports about Parking generally need to go to SHDC (unless clear obstructions)
- Private/Civil matters need to be addressed through appropriate channels i.e. solicitors for things such as Boundary disputes
- Noise Pollution – Environmental Health issues,
- Is your phone/property lost or stolen? There is much ‘mis-reporting’ of things that have been lost rather than actually stolen, which wastes much Police time i.e. mobile phones.

Communication with Parish Council

➤ Expectations:

I can confirm that our directive from the current Management Team is that **one of us will attend a Parish Council meeting once every 3 months i.e. 4 times a year**. You may see the NBM, PCSO, or Sgt. Rarely will you see the Insp unless there are specific issues that have been raised which cannot be dealt with by the other Officers. We try to plan in advance and give you notice when we will be attending. It is possible that if you have had no crimes/very low crimes, or we have an emergency, we may not attend. You should always get a Police report, including a non-crime related summary of Police activity.

➤ Crimes

If you experience a ‘series’ of crimes you may see more Police in the area.

i.e. Heightened patrols. Whilst we don't wish to raise the fear of crime, we have to offer reassurance at such times. Below outlines the action plan for one of those crimes.

The Future

I do hope that this helps paint a fuller picture of the challenging role of Policing today. The Governments 4yr spending review has meant Devon and Cornwall Police have to save £50 million over the next four years.

A team known as 'The Blueprint' Team are currently looking at the current structure to see where financial savings can be made and efficiencies improved. This will impact on all areas of policing. The structure has not yet been determined but as soon as it is confirmed we will let you know. We believe we will start seeing some of these changes implicated as early as May 2011.

What is a fact is that you currently have a very committed and passionate team of local Police Officers who work hard to keep **Brixton** a safe and enjoyable place to live.

We would be pleased to hear from you and welcome feedback, positive and constructive, regarding the service you receive.

Thank you.

PS Anya Teakle

Neighbourhood Team Leader - Ivybridge

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