

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD IN THE BRIXTON COMMUNITY HALL ON WED MAY 6th 2008 AT 7.00PM**

Present:	Cllr. Cane (Chairman)	*	Cllr. Searle	*
	Cllr. Hitchins	*	Cllr. Tapper	*
	Cllr. Martin	*	Cllr. Wills	*
	Cllr. Lang	*	Cllr. Aylett	*
	Cllr. Foweraker	*	District Cllr Squire	*
			County Cllr Hart	*
	* Denotes attendance		@ Denotes absence	
Also attending:	Members of the public			9
	Police			0

ACTION

5.1 Councillor Cane introduced, Mike Stickland, the new Parish Clerk to the meeting. Mike is also the Clerk at Yealmpton and brings five years experience to the post.

5.2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies recorded.

5.3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2008/9

Mr Julian Davies gave his report as below:

In my 12 months as chairman it has been a rollercoaster ride and sometimes I've been holding on by the skin of my teeth. We have had good times and bad times.

I have the pleasure in reminding you all that Derek Curtis was awarded an MBE for his tireless work for Motability. Councillor Basil Cane has served a successful year as Chairman of South Hams District Council. Ex Chairman Paul Lowden and Mike Trower won awards at the Devon County Council Awards Ceremony. John and Mrs Edwards were invited to attend a Queens Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

The village web site is fully up and running, and I feel this is an important tool in keeping the parish informed. My thanks go to Graham Searle, Sally Axell and Norman Powell for their hard work in bringing this alive and kicking to the world. The parish council and the FEOFFE trust jointly fund this web site, and I hope this will continue.

Our parish still has the Sherford Development rolling slowly along behind closed doors, and must stay vigilant in how it develops so as to retain the integrity of the village. This must be done, by refusing to allow the developer to build houses before any if indeed all the infrastructure is in place, and keeping them to the high standards our councillors have worked so hard to encourage. The council must still be alert to the 106 Agreement and not allow it to be watered down. Representation and strong voice at the Sherford Action Group will be paramount in influencing Sherford, to develop in a shape that will be acceptable to the parish.

Carrollsland the development of some 160 dwellings in now being occupied, and we welcome these new arrivals to our parish. In addition to this, we have as a council advised on some 30 planning applications during the year.

We are now fully aware, of how the Boundary Commission is looking to take Devon towards a Unitary Council. This council has made its position known to the Boundary Commission and it must follow that course throughout the consultation period. You the parishioners must make yourself fully aware of these possible changes. This will then make you able to make your voice heard on how you wish to see this change, if any be made. These changes if made will mean changes to the responsibilities of Parish Councils. It may mean that councillors will need to have more formal training. Possibly having to be accredited to equip councillors with the knowledge, to take on the added responsibility that will come with these changes.

I am pleased to say that Councillor Liz Hitchins has started a Village Plan and would like to thank her and the group of villagers who are assisting her with this plan. This is not a small task and encompasses every aspect of our village and touches on some very sensitive subjects.

As I arrived as Chairman there was a call for a questionnaire to be prepared to ask both this village and Yealmpton if they wanted and would use a footpath between both villages alongside the A379. This was completed by the council setting up a Sub Committee led by Councillor Liz Hitchens to make a questionnaire, distribute, collect and collate the responses. The result was a resounding yes. What we, as a council did not know then was that on the 31st October the landowner would give both villages an ultimatum that they would cooperate in the process of making land available for only one scheme. This placed our Parish in a very difficult situation because it had been working with Sustrans to promote a multipurpose scenic estuary route as part of a national cycle route between Plymouth and Poole for the past 12 years. A route alongside the A379 and this leisure route are not comparable in any way and I feel the landowner has manipulated the Council. I take some responsibility for allowing this to happen as I felt that we as a council should spend sometime after the response to the questionnaire in investigating the basics for a footpath along the A379. Having done this, I see no option but to put my support for the Sustrans route. This is not to say that in years to come another route along the north side of the A379 will not be made.

Three years ago and at the request of a village group we asked for a short length of no waiting on the brow of Stamps Hill. We could not afford to meet the cost quoted by DCC highways. Two years ago we asked for some limited waiting around the green to help our new post office. Our County Councillor agreed to progress with the highway officer and to fund both the narrowing of the Green and the traffic orders. Our District Councillor met with the highway officer and in March a draft order was published which was far in excess of anything the Parish Council had requested. This caused a great deal of upset for a lot of people in the village and we were in the process of asking Council to agree a reduction in these proposals. In the three very short years I have been on the council I have been pleasantly pleased to see that there is no politicising at the council meetings. However I was very dismayed to find that at the meeting dealing with this Traffic Order and without any prior consultation with the chair both County and District councillors used this situation to their political advantage and blamed the Council for seeking so many yellow lines. This was embarrassing for me as the Chairman and to the rest of the council who had been working very hard to recommend a much reduced plan. The end result of this might be good for the village but has destroyed this hard working council as three Councillors and our most efficient clerk have since offered their resignation following this presentation.

Rodgers Garage have kindly continued to sponsor our garden between Brixton Lodge Gardens and Lodge Lane and Mr Mike Lethbridge has again under the direction of Paul Lowden this year looked after our grass and bus shelters.

I would like to make one special thanks and that is to Councillor John Squire. Not many people realise how hard you work on our behalf, and how well you represent us. Not only in respect of Sherford, but in many other aspects as well. Thank you.

It is now my sad responsibility to say good-bye and thank you to Derek Curtis, Mike Trower, John Edwards and Norman Powell who have announced their resignation. These gentlemen have loyally served this council for many years and their dedication to the council will be greatly missed. Unfortunately these resignations will leave the council short of the experience these three councillors possess for a while, but I am sure that this Parish council will rise like a phoenix from the ashes to become as good if not better.

As you know I am also resigning from the council tonight and would like to express my thanks to all the councillors who have helped me so much. I have made some good friends that I would not have become acquainted with had I not been a councillor. Also I have met many good and interesting people in our village during the course of my duties.

Councillor Cane thanked Julian for all his hard work for the Parish.

5.4 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chairman.

Cllr Martin proposed and Cllr Foweraker seconded that Cllr Cane be elected as Chairman. This was voted unanimously and Cllr Cane took the chair.

5.5 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Cane asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Cllr Martin proposed and Cllr Foweraker seconded that Cllr Hitchens be elected Vice Chairman. This was

voted unanimously.

5.6 APPOINTMENT OF NEW COUNCILLORS

The Chairman welcomed the four new councillors and introduced them to the meeting. They are Ian Aylett, Graham Searle, Elaine Tapper and Mike Wills. Cllr Cane proposed and Cllr Martin seconded their appointment. Passed by 5 votes to nil. The Clerk advised that they had received their letters of appointment and had signed their "Declaration of acceptance of office".

5.7 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES:

Cllr Cane proposed that the following be appointed:

Clerk

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Police Liaison Committee | Ian Martin |
| 2. Devon Association of Parish Councils | Lynne Lang |
| 3. PPP co-ordinator | Mike Trower |
| 4. Hele Foundation | Basil Cane |
| 5. Feoffe Trust | Liz Hitchins |
| 6. Elize Heal & John Lanyon Foundation | Graham Searle |
| 7. River Yealm Harbour Authority | Martyn Oates |
| 8. Yealm Estuary Management Group | Martyn Oates |
| 9. Sherford Steering Group | Lynne Lang, Mike Wills, Julian Davies |
| 10. Brixton Community Association | Liz Hitchins |
| 11. Ivybridge Cluster Group | Ian Aylett, Elaine Tapper, Mike Wills |

Clerk

This was approved "en bloc".

5.8 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Planning sub-committee would consist of all Councillors except Cllr Cane.
2. Cllr Hitchins proposed and Cllr Searle seconded that Cllr Martin be chairman of the Planning sub committee. Passed unanimously.
3. Parish Plan working group, Cllr Hitchins.
4. Finance Group, Cllrs Lang and Wills.
5. Brixton/Yealmpton Working group, Cllrs Hitchins, Aylett and Searle.
6. Tree Warden, Cllr Tapper.

5.9 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Clerk confirmed that meetings for the next year will continue to be held on the first Wednesday of every month except August in the Brixton Community Hall at 7.30 pm.

5.10 CLOSURE

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.26 pm.