

BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MAY 2008
Minutes of the A.G.M. of the Parish Council held at Brixton Community Hall on 7th May 2008 at
7p.m.

Present

Chairman P. Lowden/J. Davies

Councillors D. Curtis, L. Hitchins, B. Cane, M. Trower, J. Davies, J. Edwards, I. Martin, Mr M. Foweraker

Councillors J. Hart D.C.C., B. Cane S.H.D.C., J. Squire S.H.D.C.

Parish Clerk N. Powell

1. Apologies

Apologies from Cllr. L. Lang, Mrs S. Axell and P.C. J. Nolan

2. Chairpersons Report

The Chairman, Cllr. Lowden, presented a detailed report .

Chairman's Annual Report 2008

Sherford continues its torturous progression through the planning procedure and has recently received conditional planning consent from South Hams District Council whilst Plymouth City Council has approved the application in so far as it affects them. This momentous building development of some 5,500 houses together with full supporting infrastructure has of course continued to dominate our thoughts and influence many of our considerations and decisions as well as demand a great deal of work from us. This will unfortunately continue for the next few years.

You will no doubt recall that we have informed South Hams District Council that we seek to exclude the whole of the Sherford Development from our Parish and this request has been passed to the Boundary Commission which is carrying out a Local Government Review of the administrative boundaries. Whether we like it or not we could soon be paying our community charges to Plymouth City Council. This also contributes to the uncertainty which has been with us for a number of years and I repeat that our decisions and considerations are often affected by these factors.

Carroll Island the development of some 160 dwellings is nearing completion and its first occupancies are taking place at this time. In addition to these two major developments we as a council have advised on some 33 planning applications during the year.

We have been instrumental in securing an improvement to Elburton South pumping station thus helping to improve the quality of our River Yealm and no doubt you are aware that South West Water were successfully prosecuted in respect of this matter.

Mary Green Post Office has continued to receive our support, as do all our local businesses and it is perhaps at this stage that I mention the very successful partnership between the Feoffee Trust and Brixton Parish Council, because Mrs Sally Axell and Mr Norman Powell, our clerk, have worked very hard to bring about a new Web Site for our Village. I am pleased to report that last Friday night, myself and Mrs Axell had the pleasure of viewing most of the proposed web site as constructed at our request by Mr Graham Searle. Mr Searle has put together a very interesting website which is easily navigated. Not only does he deal with local business, but also local history and many other matters, I have to say it is tremendous. Read all about it and visit the site Brixton-village.co.uk Thank you to Graham, Sally and Norman. I anticipate the site will be live tomorrow morning.

I like to think that our Council have played some part in the campaign by the residents of Venn Court to have their lift installed which will now facilitate easier access for residents.

I am pleased that Mike Trower has come out of Footpath retirement and has taken on an apprentice. I think Mike deserves special mention. His tireless efforts for the benefit of this Parish go mainly unnoticed, but I have to tell you his efforts and commitment is outstanding. You will not find a more willing and reliable worker for this Parish.

This year we have gained two new Councillors, namely Lynn Lang and Liz Hitchins, we welcome you both and look forward to your help.

During the year we have gained a newly named road - Fordbrook Lane; you would be amazed at the amount of work involved in this project. Which leads me nicely to say that in my five years on this council I have learned that it is not easy to achieve anything in local government.

Rodgers Garage have kindly continued to sponsor our garden between Brixton Lodge Gardens and Lodge Lane and Mr Mike Lethbridge has again this year looked after our grass and bus shelters. As you know I resign from the council tonight and I would like to express my thanks to all the Councillors who have helped me so much. I have made many friends that I would not have become acquainted had I not been a councillor. Also I have met many good and interesting people in our village during the course of my duties.

I would like to make one special thanks and that is to Councillor John Squire. John it has been a privilege to work with you. 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. Finally I thank Mr Norman Powell who works extremely hard on our behalf and does far more than that which he is paid for. He has kept me on the right path and I appreciate all his efforts.

Thank you all very much.

Paul Lowden 7.5.2008

Cllr Lowden formally stepped down as chairmen and resigned from the council.

Cllr. Curtis then replied to Cllr. Lowden with the following statement:

" I do not think we should allow Paul to leave without recording our appreciation for what he has done for this Parish Council.

I joined this Council because of my past experience of dealing with planning appeals for my employer and when I started to delve into the this Council's involvement over the years in previous local and structure plans, I found they had not responded.

A sad example was when Sherford first appeared SHDC made no attempt to consult or inform us and we only learned about it from the media. That would not be the case today I can assure you thanks to Paul's dedicated interest and professionalism South Hams Officers know only too well there is a Brixton Parish Council that has to be consulted.

Paul represented us at three public inquiries and at one the Government Inspector remarked that our Council must be the most informed Parish Council in the country regarding the new local development framework planning process.

I have enjoyed working with Paul on Sherford and although the hard work is now over and behind us and planning approved, such a major project for a small Parish Council has taken its toll. Stress played no small part in our colleague Peter Morgan Evans having to resign and take things easy.

Some may not know that when Paul first joined the Council, we had no Clerk and he did both jobs. We used to meet every other month and when we did meet, most items which had not been resolved were too out of date to worry about. We could well have been in serious trouble because the accounts had not been audited for two years. Paul got hold of these problems, we now meet monthly but his most famous achievement was to find and recruit Norman our Clerk.

Paul - you brought this Council up to date, put it on its feet and now with our one extremely competent employee, I am confident whoever we vote to take your place will benefit from the respectability you have earned us in your term of office.

We hope you will continue to take an interest in what the Council has to undertake but we fully respect your reasons for reducing your commitments and wish you well and success in the duties as a local justice and your other interests."

Both John Squire SHDC and John Hart DCC thanked Paul for his hard work and both agreed it had been a pleasure to work with him. They both wished him well.

Cllr. Lowden then left the room.

3. Election of Chairperson

Cllr. Cane proposed that Cllr. Davies be elected as chairperson. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Davies become Chairperson. Cllr. Davies accepted the position. There were no other nominations for Chairperson.

4. To Elect a Vice - Chairperson

Cllr. Edwards proposed that Cllr. Curtis become vice - chairperson. It was unanimous Cllr. Curtis accepted the position as vice - chairperson.

5. To appoint or Reappoint Representatives to Outside bodies:

The following appointments were unanimously agreed:

The following appointments were made to represent the Council:-

Police Liaison committee - Cllr. I. Martin

Devon Association of Parish Councils - Cllr. L. Lang

P3 Co-Ordinator - Cllr. Trower/Mr P. Lowden

Hele Foundation - Cllr. Cane

Cluster Group - Cllr. I. Martin

Feoffee Trust - Cllr. L. Hitchins

River Yealm Harbour Authority - Mr M. Oates

Yealm Estuary Management Group - Mr M. Oakes

Elize Hele & John Lanyon Educational Foundations - Cllr. Edwards

Sherford Steering Group - Cllrs.J. Davies and L. Land

Brixton Community Association - Cllr. L. Hitchins

Staddiscombe - Cllrs I. Martin/B. Cane

6. To appoint Members to Committees/responsibilities:

The following appointments were unanimously agreed:

All members were appointed to the Planning Committee under the leadership of Cllr J. Davies.

Cllr. Trower and Mr P. Lowden were appointed as Tree Wardens.

Cllrs Edwards and Curtis to finance.

7. Clerks Employment

The Clerks salary remains in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils and S.L.C.C. scale LC1/SCP18.

8. Review of Standing Orders

The new Code of conduct for local authorities comes into effect on 3rd May 2007. Therefore all references to the Code of Conduct will refer to this new order.

Complaints Procedure No amendments

Freedom of Information Act No Amendments

9. The dates for future Council Meetings.

The following dates were unanimously agreed:

4th June 2008; 2nd July; August - No Meeting; 3rd Sept.; 1st October; 5th November; 3rd December

7th Jan 2009; 4th February; 4th March; 1st April; 6th May Annual General Meeting.

Mr M. Quest, Brixton Community Association has been advised.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 7.25 pm and the Parish Council Meeting took place.

Norman Powell, Parish Clerk

Date: May 8th 2008