

BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 2009

Minutes of the Council meeting held in the Community Room, Brixton on Wednesday 1st April 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Chairman Cllr. D. Curtis

Councillors B. Cane M. Trower L. Lang I. Martin L. Hitchins M. Foweraker

Councillor J. Hart D.C.C. B. Cane S.H.D.C. J. Squire S.H.D.C.

Sgt. A. Teakle

Parish Clerk N. Powell

9 members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies from Cllr. J. Edwards, Cllr. Davies, and Mrs S. Axell

2. Declarations of Interests

Cllr. Cane states that he will abstain on all Planning matters as he sits on the S.H.D.C. Planning Committee. He also stated that he would leave the room when the DCC planning application naming Venn Farm was discussed.

3. Police Report

Sgt. A. Teakle presented the following crime report:

J1/09/217

Criminal Damage

Between 1000 hrs on Sunday 15th March and 0630 hrs on Monday 16th March a blue Ford Transit van, which was parked in Venn Drive, sustained damage by way of one of its rear tyres being slashed with a sharp instrument. There were no witnesses. CCTV did not cover the area. The crime remains undetected.

J1/09/235

Driving Whilst Unfit / Excess alcohol

At approx. 0350 hrs on Sunday 22nd March a motorist not local to the area, was stopped by Police Officers, driving along the A379 at Brixton. The motorist was breath tested and found to be driving over the legal limit. The motorist was charged.

J1/09/236

Possession of Cannabis

The above motorist was also found to be in possession of a small amount of cannabis. The motorist received a formal caution.

J1/09/237

Take or Ride a pedal cycle without consent

Between 2000 hrs On Saturday 21st March and 1100 hrs on Sunday 22nd March two pedal cycles were taken from a property in Court View. Both cycles were later recovered in the grounds of Brixton Primary School. One cycle had had sustained considerable damage. CCTV from the school has been viewed, and a local male has been spoken to by Officers. The male denied any involvement in the incident and unfortunately there is insufficient evidence to proceed against him.

A discussion then followed regarding the misuse of motorcycles in and around the village.

Several complaints by parishioners were made to Sgt. Teakle on this subject. Sgt. Teakle recorded details of the complaints and stated that they would be followed up. She emphasised the need for all complaints to be recorded. This can be done via the police contact number 08452 777444 or email ivybridge@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Sgt. Teakle then reported that in the last month two half hour speed checks had been conducted in the village. On each occasion three local people were stopped for speeding.

Force Action Day 29th April

A multi agency day aimed at curbing speeding in rural areas and curbing marine crime. Councillors are requested to join the event which will probably consist of either a morning or afternoon.

4. Clerks letter to The Council

A letter from the clerk highlighting his 'concerns' on the conduct of certain councillors at the last meeting was circulated to all Parish Councillors plus Cllr. Squire SHDC and Cllr. Hart DCC.

Cllr Martin questioned the validity/legality of this letter. The Chairman was unable to answer this question.

The chairman expressed his concerns over the conduct of Cllrs. Hart and Cane and detailed their involvement in the Traffic order since July 2007. A discussion followed and it was agreed that the council would set up its own formal procedures with terms of references to deal with these matters.

A vote was then taken asking if the Clerks letter reflected the view of the parish Council.

The Chairman D. Curtis and Cllr. Trower voted for the motion. Cllrs. Cane, Lang, Hitchins, Foweraker and Martin against the motion.

Cllr. Cane did not declare an interest.

5. Report of Cllr. J. Hart D.C.C.

Cllr. Hart reported that DCC had now become a four star authority.

He then stated that the signs for the Community Rooms and roundabout had been fixed.

Cllr. Hart then reported that government money had been allocated for the Plymouth East travel area plus Deep Lane junction. The turning into Rodgers Garage when travelling east was discussed. Cllr. Hart stated that he would get the Highways authority to look at it.

Cllr. Cane raised the ongoing issue of the overhanging trees from Brixton House obscuring the lights to the pedestrian crossing plus the 'corner' roadsign that is now virtually obscured. Cllr. Hart stated that DCC will write to the owners of Brixton House.

A request from the public was then made to return the road traffic chevrons to the Green as it was considered that this may have contributed to a recent accident in the area.

Cllr. Hart to ask DCC highways to investigate.

6. Open Forum

An issue was raised regarding an incident in Winstone Lane when a person was surrounded by 'angry dogs'. Cllr. Cane stated that he would follow up this issue.

Mrs B. Huxtable then started a debate regarding the issues relating to the proposed A379 footpath and the proposed Sustrans route. Mrs Huxtable wished to make it clear that she was not opposed to the Sustrans route as she has always supported both routes.

The Chairman then gave a brief history of how the discussions on the proposed routes had evolved. He stated that as far as he was concerned both routes should be considered as separate issues and it was only the Kitley Estate that were making the two routes an either/or to suit their own political aims.

A parishioner, Mr Ian Sherriff, then congratulated the council in the way it had dealt with item 4. Clerk's letter to the council.

He considered that the actions that were taken would help to unite the council and enable it to move forward.

7. Parish Council Vacancy

The Chairman then stated that Cllr. Davies who resigned at the last meeting is attending the May AGM but only to present the annual Chairman's report.

Cllr. Curtis then stated that he had received a letter of resignation from Cllr. M. Trower. Cllr. Cane thanked Cllr. Trower for his many years of dedication and hard work on the council. Cllr. Trower agreed to continue with his P3 Work.

The Chairman then stated that he had also been advised that Cllr. Edwards has submitted his resignation from today. Cllr. Cane suggested that Cllr. Edwards be invited to the next meeting so that he could be properly thanked for all his work.

The Vice Chairman Cllr. Curtis then stated that he was resigning.

Cllr. Cane thanked Cllr. Curtis for his many years of council service and emphasised that he had represented the council throughout 'Sherford' saving the local community thousands of pounds in not having to pay professional fees.

Mr P. Lowden the council's ex Chairman has also stated that he will no longer organise the grass cutting in the village.

The Chairman then stated that the Clerk is also resigning from today. His Official notice is one month. The chairman expressed his regret that the Clerk was leaving but stated that he fully understood his reasons for doing so. He then thanked the Clerk for his excellent work during the last five years.

It was emphasised by Cllr. Curtis that the remaining councillors were in urgent need to find a Chairman to provide a focal point for the council and meet the necessary arrangements in appointing a new clerk and new councillors.

It was proposed by Cllr. Martin that Cllr. Cane become chairman.

Cllr. Cane accepted and it was unanimously agreed.

8. To consider and approve the minutes of the Meeting

4th February 2009 (Parish Council)

4th March 2009 (Parish Council)

They were unanimously accepted.

9. Matters Arising

Letter to Chief Constable and Police Authority

The Clerk has written to the Police Authority re. The 4.94% rise. Mr Smith the Chairman of the Police Authority has replied. His response has been circulated.

Letter To Inspector Chivers, Ivybridge Police Station

Inspector Chivers has responded to the Clerks letter outlining the position of the constabulary. His response has been circulated.

Letter to Forward Planning Officer

Mr Graham Swiss the Forward Planning manager has responded outlining the timetable that is planned for the consultation etc.

Email to Tor Homes

No response.

Clerk to contact Tor Homes again

10. Report of Cllr. B. Cane S.H.D.C.

Reported that a motion from Cllr. Bavister SHDC to provide bus passes for 14 to 19 year olds had been agreed by the District Council and was now being passed to DCC and central government for consideration.

Stated that the Citizens Advice Bureau had been granted a additional £29,000+ to increase opening times.

Free swimming for the over 60's starts today.

He then stated that the £1.3 million that the District Council had invested in Icelandic banks had still not been recovered.

Cllr. Cane then stated that the District Council had allocated £1000 to each ward member to provide grants for local projects. Conditions apply - Cllr. Cane can supply details. Cllr. Cane then complemented the parishioners that had help create the display of spring flowers at both ends of the village.

Report of Cllr. Squire

S.H.D.C. Cllr. Squire expressed his regret at the number of council resignations. He said it was a sad evening.

He then reported on problems with the bus companies stating that concessionary bus passes were no longer any good for park and ride. He keeps hearing that bus services must be profitable. This in return leads to a fall in services.

Cllr. Squire then stated that a new radio station 'Heart' had replaced South Hams Radio. It was aimed at the 25 to 44 year old age group.

He finished his report by saying that a recent survey had stated that traffic levels in Rural areas had increased by 40% in the past 15 years.

11. Sherford Update

Cllr. Lang reported that she had attended the last meeting on Friday 13th. She stated that she would give details of future meetings to the clerk. Cllr. Lang also reported that Cllr. Davies had indicated that he would be prepared to attend future meetings if the council wished. Clerk to include on AGM agenda

12. Brixton - Yealmpton Footpath/Cycle Track

The next meeting of the joint working group is scheduled for Friday 3rd April. Starting at 2pm at Yealmpton. Cllr. Hitchins will represent the council. Cllr. Hitchins stated that full details of the 'A379 Footpath Survey' are now displayed on the website at www.brixton-village.co.uk

13. Village Plan

A grant for £500 has been received from DCC. This money has been given from Cllr. J. Hart's allocation of funding for local projects. A grant for £500 has also been promised from the Feoffee trust Cllr. Hitchins stated that the next meeting will be held on 7th April.

14. Correspondence

Campaign to Protect Rural England

The South Hams and Plymouth Group AGM is being held at the White Hart Hotel, Modbury on Tuesday 28th April at 7.30pm.

NHS Foundation Membership

Gives details of how to become a member of the Foundation Trust

National Litter Campaign

Gives details with posters regarding the campaign. Cllr. Hitchins requested that the council write requesting a team be deployed on the lanes adjacent to the A38.

Clerk to write

Work within the village was then praised both with regard to grass cutting and litter collection.

Clerk to write

Dogs Trust

Gives details of this free service operated by the Dogs Trust. It enables dog owners, to belong, without cost to the Dog Trust who will look after their dog indefinitely until a responsible owner can be found should they unfortunately die. Details to Mr J. Ward

Parish Cluster Meeting

Scheduled to take place at Ivybridge on Wednesday 22nd April

Cllrs. Martin and Hitchins stated that they would attend.

South Hams Tree Planting Year 2009

A funded scheme to support tree planting in the South Hams.

Copy to Mr J. Ward

South Hams Public Space Strategy

Cllrs. Hitchins and Cane attended a recent briefing at Follaton House. Cllr. Hitchins reported that up to £10000 was allocated to spend on the Play area by the school. She stated that she was consulting with local groups to discuss on the best way to proceed.

Langage Grant Fund

Guidance notes for the Langage Grant Fund. Local parishes can obtain grants of up to £2000 for specific projects.

The Boundary Committee

Because of legal action the deadline for comments on the draft proposals has extended to 14th May 2009.

The Boundary Committee will then advise the Secretary of State by 15th July. The Boundary Committee's draft proposals have not changed since the Parish Council responded on 18th September 2008. Our original views are still valid and will be carried forward.

The Power of Well Being

Cllr. Hitchins attended the briefing day on 18th March. Details have been distributed to all Councillors. Cllr. Hitchins requested this item to be placed on the June Agenda.

Applying Policy when making Decisions

Advice from the Monitoring Officer Delyth Jenkins Evans regarding the determination of planning matters.

15 Finance

(a) Current Financial Situation

Full financial details given to all councillors prior to the meeting

(b) Payments

The following payments were unanimously agreed:

833 Youth of Yealmpton 100.00

834 S. Hams Citizens Advice Centre 100.00

835 Modbury Tourist Information 100.00

836 Vitalise 100.00

837 Samaritans 100.00

838 Brixton Community Centre 100.00

839 Mrs E. Hitchins 14.00

840 Mr P. Lowden 20.00

841 Mrs E. Hitchins 16.10

842 Devon Playing Fields Association 15.00

16. Planning

New Planning Application

Applicant: Mrs T. Lippell

Application number: 07/0484/09/F

Proposal: Extension to Dwelling

Location: Longmeadow, Fordbrook Lane, PL8 2FD

Date of receipt of valid application: 16th March 2009

Cllr. Cane abstained

It was unanimously agreed to support this application.

Clerk to advise SHDC

Devon County Council Planning Application

23rd March 2009 - Application for composting of shredded green waste at land south west of Wollaton Cross, Venn Farm.

Cllr. Cane left the room.

It was unanimously agreed not to support this application because of the following:

Concerns raised about the dangers of the overhead power lines when working with large vehicles.

Access to the area is also considered to be dangerous and difficult and it is considered that other road users would be put at unnecessary risk.

The access road up Red Lion Hill and Stamps Hill is narrow, as is the turning from the crossroads prior to reaching the field. These roads are considered by the council to be unsuitable for this type of heavy traffic.

The entry and exit to/from the field is considered to be 'unworkable' for large vehicles.

Because of the layout of the proposed site it is considered that in wet conditions 'slurry' would run down onto the highway causing a road hazard to other road users.

Planning Application Granted

07/0231/09/F Mr L. Mullens - Carroll land - Replacement garage window with door.

Planning applications Withdrawn

07/1758/08/F and 07/1759/08/LB - Coombe Farm, Wembury Road - Listed barn conversion.

17. Councillors Reports

Both Cllr. Cane and Martin reported on the recent Civic Service held at the village church. Both councillors considered it to be a honour for the village.

Meeting closed by the Chairman Cllr. D. Curtis at 10.25 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday May 3rd starts with the AGM at 7p.m.

N. Powell

Parish Clerk

Date: April 2nd 2009