

## **BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2009**

Minutes of the Council meeting held in the Community Room, Brixton on Wednesday 4th February at 7.30 p.m.

#### **Present**

**Chairman** Cllr. J. Davies

**Councillors** D. Curtis B. Cane M. Trower J. Edwards L. Hitchins M. Foweraker

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

**Parish Clerk** N. Powell

1 member of the public

#### **1. Apologies**

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

#### **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.

#### **3. Police Report**

The chairman read out the police report:

J1/09/19 - At 1500 on the 26th December 2008 a male person drove into Rodgers garage and filled his car up. He then went to the cashier and said he had no money and gave false details as to how he could be contacted. He was allowed to leave and it has not been possible to trace him since. The crime remains undetected.

J1/09/20 - During the mid afternoon of the 9th January a house in Cross Park suffered an arson attack, a male person has been arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

J1/09/31 - Between the 7th and 12th January an electric fencer and heavy duty padlock and chain was stolen from a field at Venn Farm. The crime remains undetected.

J1/09/73 - On the 27th January a £20 note was stolen from a handbag at the Lawns Residential Home. The crime remains undetected.

#### **4. Report of Cllr. J. Hart D.C.C.**

Cllr. Hart reported that he anticipated that the County Councils budget increase would be below 3%. Extra money was being allocated for bus transport as the bus companies reported ongoing budget problems. He raised questions on how the bus companies were being run and if the extra money was really justified. He then spoke about the consultation on the design concept for one of the proposed sites (New England Quarry) for the waste/energy incinerator.

#### ***Cllr. Hart to forward full details to the clerk***

Cllr Hart then responded to a list of local issues and stated that DCC will fit a new 'Community Room' sign at the junction of Steer Point Road and Elliotts Hill. This is being funded from Cllrs. Hart budget.

He then stated that the issue of the dead beech Tree by Combe lane is ongoing and he would try to speed up the process.

Brixton Tor - No Through Road For Large Vehicles Sign - he stated that DCC were conducting a review of signs and that this would be incorporated in the review.

A379 Brixton-Yealmpton - Road plough - Cllr. Hart stated that he would report back on this issue.

Overhanging trees by the pedestrian crossing were raised as was the missing salt box at Cherry Tree Drive. A discussion then followed on the recent road works between Elburton and Steer Point Road roundabout. Several items were raised regarding unfinished items and poor workmanship. It was agreed that the clerk forward full details of these and other items to Cllr. Hart so that the concerns raised can be followed up.

***Clerk to email full details to Cllr. Hart***

#### **5. To consider and approve the minutes of the Meeting 7th January 2009 (Parish Council)**

They were unanimously accepted.

#### **6. Matters Arising**

##### **War Memorial**

The Clerk has obtained a new estimate for the restoration of the Memorial of £315. The Feoffee Trust have agreed to make a contribution with the Parish Council to complete the work. It was unanimously agreed to accept the above estimate and proceed with the work.

***Clerk to progress***

##### **Brixton Land Management - Grass Cutting**

Mr Robert Harkness SHDC has been advised of all grassed areas in the village that we consider that the council should cut.

##### **Communities in Control**

Cllr. Edwards reported on this consultation document. No council action or response is required.

##### **Youth of Yealmpton Organisation**

Cllr. Hitchins reported that 4 young people attend from Brixton. The Parish Council is being asked for a £100 donation to help cover costs of the existing services. It was agreed to discuss this item with other groups that have asked for financial help at the next meeting.

##### ***Agenda item for March***

#### **7. Report of Cllr. B. Cane S.H.D.C.**

Cllr. Cane was concerned that DCC were looking to raise their budget by up to 3% and were unable or unwilling to follow the District Councils lead of zero increase. He went on to report that preliminary budget meetings with the Police and Fire service were disappointing as they were looking for a 4.5% increase. He then stated that a District Council vote was due on the 5th February to enable each District Council member to have a £1000 annual budget to use for local events. Cllr. Cane finished his report by saying that Council Tax relief was available for 'needy' people. This would be means tested.

***Report of Cllr. Squire S.H.D.C.***

Cllr. Squire also expressed his regret that DCC were considering raising council tax by up to 3% during these troubled financial times. He also thought the Police and Fire Service were setting a bad example by asking for a 4.5% increase.

He stated that benefit payments are not totally funded by central government as 0.5% comes from the District Council. This equates to £363,000 coming from council tax payers.

Cllr. Squire then stated that the District Council had not signed up for the under 16 year olds to have free swimming. He finished by saying that negotiations on the Sherford 106 agreement were ongoing and a new finalisation date of June 15th had been set. He stated that the developers were still seeking concessions.

## **8. Sherford Update**

Cllr. Curtis reported that although there was little to report on Sherford he considered that the regular meetings of the Sherford group should continue and he had contacted the Chairman G. Streeter M.P. to express this view. Cllr. Cane then asked the question that as Plymouth C.C. had now stated that 5,000 new homes can be built on land within the city boundary - what is the need for Sherford. This was discussed and it was considered that the Sherford plans are too close to closure for the project to be abandoned.

Cllr. Squire then said that the developers 'Redtree' were looking for local councils and central government to help fund the infrastructure. He considered that the developers were using the 'recession' as a excuse to try and divert meeting the full development costs.

## **9. Brixton - Yealmpton Footpath/Cycle Track**

A new set of terms of reference were presented by the Chairman for the steering group. They were unanimously approved.

Cllr. Hitchins then reported that a site meeting had been held with the Environment Agency on 5th February to discuss proposals regarding the footpath. The Environment Agency did not support the view that the land could be filled in or that a footpath could be constructed. It was decided that the steering group would discuss the event at their next scheduled meeting at the end of the month and report back.

## **10. Correspondence**

### ***Sustainable Communities Act***

A Community Partnership Forum event will be held on 23rd February to discuss the above Act

***Cllr. Hitchins and the Clerk have agreed to attend.***

### ***DAPC Training Events***

A list of training events for Councillors and Clerks.

### ***Parish Cluster Meeting***

Being held at the Watermark Building, Ivybridge on Monday 23rd February at 7pm.

***Cllr. Hitchins agreed to represent the council***

### ***Council Representation - River Yealm Harbour Authority***

The appointment of a Council representative on the River Yealm Harbour Authority is due for renewal on 1st March 2009 for a period of 3 years. Mr Martyn Oates has agreed to remain in position. It was unanimously agreed that Mr M. Oates remain in post.

**Clerk to write**

***Killian Pretty Review***

A Government review of how the planning process can be improved.

***The Power of Well Being***

A briefing event is being held for the Chairman and Clerk at the Watermark Building on Wednesday 18th March

***Cllr. Davies, Hitchins and the clerk agreed to attend***

***Road Closure - Choakford Cross to Stoney Cross, Yealmpton***

Due to take place between the hours of 0800 to 1800 from 16th to 18th March inclusive. Traffic will be diverted during the closure via Red Lion Hill.

**12. Stop The Drop**

Cllr. Hitchins presented the document and issued a report. It was agreed that Cllr. Hitchins would follow up her recommendations with a letter in the Village magazine and with discussions with the Headmaster regarding involving the school children. Cllr. Hitchins also agreed to discuss with the Village Shop and Post Office the practicalities of using biodegradable bags.

**11. Open Forum**

Concerns were raised about the excessive weeds on the pavement from the wall by the parish notice board to Winstone Lane on both sides of the A379.

***Clerk to raise with DCC and SHDC.***

**12. Finance**

***(a) Current Financial Situation***

Full financial details given to all councillors prior to the meeting

***Council Assets***

It was unanimously agreed to move funds from the Lloyds/TSB deposit account to the Abbey National Building Society to enable a better return on the councils money.

***Parish Plan***

Cllr. Hitchins presented a detailed estimate on the costs involved in producing the Village Plan. She stated that outside financial help will be sought and may be available. However she asked that the council agreed to 'underwrite' the costs of the project. The council unanimously agreed to 'underwrite' the costs involved in producing a Village Plan

***(b) Payments***

The following payments were unanimously agreed:

826 Mr G. Searle (Village Website) 75.00

827 Mr N. Powell (Foxhound costs) 20.00

828 St. Mary's Church (Floodlighting) 16.51

### **13. Planning New Planning Application**

**Applicant:** Mr P. Brown

**Application number:** 07/0060/09/F

**Proposal:** Amendments to planning consent 07/0022/07/F for conversion of outbuilding to ancillary accommodation.

**Location:** Honeysuckle Cottage, Yealmpton, PL8 2LB

Date of receipt of valid application : 16th January 2009

Cllr. Cane abstained

Cllr. Foweraker reported on the above application. It was unanimously agreed to support it.

**Clerk to advise SHDC**

**Tree Preservation Order**

SHDC have confirmed a tree preservation order for The Lawns

**Planning Permission Granted**

07/1930/08/F Dr. P. Land, Little Spriddlestone Barn - Installation of two stainless steel flues plus associated environmental improvements.

07/2210/08/F Mr Lanning, Kingsland - Conversion of dwelling to four self contained flats.

An Official notice of Street naming and numbering has also been received for the above development.

07/2371/08/F Vodafone Ltd. - Extension and alterations to telecommunication tower at Coombe Farm.

**Planning Permission Refused**

Mr D. Hodge, 12 Hilltop Cottages - Siting of mobile home.

### **14. Councillors Reports**

Cllr Cane: Reported on the Carrollsland Development which is within the parish boundary of Brixton. He stated that Wimpeys would not supply a Parish notice board for the site. It was agreed that the council supply the new residents with a information pack about the village that included a letter from the Chairman.

Cllr Trower: Stated that 16 cm. Of rain fell in January.

Cllr Curtis: Requested that the council purchase bollards so that they can be sited at the end of Lodge Lane to prevent vehicular access to the green area between Lodge Lane and Brixton Lodge Gardens. It was unanimously agreed. Clerk to purchase

Cllr. Hitchins : Stated that Paddington bound trains now stop at Ivybridge where parking is free. Agreed to supply the information for the Parish magazine. Cllr. Hitchins also suggested that the village website title [www.brixton-village.co.uk](http://www.brixton-village.co.uk) be put on the front page of the magazine.

**Cllr. Hitchins to discuss with Mr J. Ward.**

Meeting closed by the Chairman Cllr. J. Davies at 9.35 p.m.

**Next Meeting** Wednesday 4th March at 7.30 pm

**N. Powell** Parish Clerk

**Date:** 6th February 2009