

## **BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**Minutes of the MEETING of the Parish Council held at Brixton Community Hall on Wednesday January 7th at 7.30 p.m.**

#### **Present**

**Chairman** Cllr. J. Davies

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

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

P.C. J. Nolan

**Parish Clerk** N. Powell

4 members of the public

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr. I. Martin

#### **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**

P.C. John Nolan presented the following report: Criminal Damage On Wednesday 10th December 2008 a vehicle parked at Cross Park, Brixton sustained damage to both wing mirrors. One suspect has been arrested for this offence and is currently on Police bail until 13/01/09.

Criminal Damage Between 2300 hrs. on Wednesday 17th December and 0915 hrs on Thursday 18th December 2008, a vehicle parked on the outskirts of Brixton has had all four tyres slashed by person or persons unknown. There are no witnesses to the incident, and the location is not covered by CCTV. At this time the crime has been filed as undetected.

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

Cllr. Hart reported on the status of the Proposed Traffic Regulation Order For Brixton that will cover parking in the village and around the village green and also in Red Lion Hill and Stamps Hill. A discussion followed. The Clerk then advised the meeting that he had been advised by DCC that in January 2009 the proposed scheme will be advertised in the local press. Notices will also be posted around the proposed site. The Parish Council will also be advised and given full details. A Three Week period will then follow when the public will be able to submit comments/objections about the scheme. It was considered that any views on the scheme should be retained and submitted to DCC at the appropriate time. When full details are received by the Clerk these will be displayed on the Parish notice board with a copy for display given to the Village Shop and Post Office.

Cllr. Hart then reported that he had asked for the Red Lion Hill to Deep Lane junction roads to be included on the councils gritting schedule. He has also asked for the Steer Point junction roundabout sign to be replaced and be given a higher profile.

Cllr. Hart then reported on the 2009/2010 budgets. He congratulated the District Council on not increasing their budget but did not think that the County Council could follow suit. He thought that a increase of less that 3% was likely. He stated that a lot of money had been used in the 'freak weather' that we had been experiencing. A lot of money has been spent in the clear up of the of the N. Devon hail storm and now the very cold weather was increasing costs for road gritting.

Additional costs were also expected for Care Homes for the elderly.

Cllr. Hart then stated that he had been asked if a 'No Through Road' sign for large vehicles could be sited at Brixton Tor.

The Chairman then asked Cllr. Hart if he could 'speed up' the parish Councils request for a 'Community Rooms' sign leading from Steer Point Road into Elliotts Hill. The Chairman then entered into a discussion with Cllr. Hart regarding road traffic changes that have been made at the Deep Lane Junction. Cllr. Hart explained that the changes were made to improve road traffic safety. It was however expected that the junction would be totally reorganized when the building at Sherford starts.

## **5. To consider and approve the minutes of the Meeting**

3rd December 2008 (Parish Council)

20th December 2008 (Planning)

They were unanimously accepted.

## **6. Matters Arising**

### ***Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members and Employees***

Cllr. J. Edwards has given the Clerk response details. These have been forwarded to meet the December 24th deadline.

### ***Overhanging Trees***

The overhanging trees by bus stop were still considered to be a problem as they impede the street lighting which in turn makes the pedestrian crossing less visible. The road sign indicating a bend is also obscured.

*Clerk to contact*

### ***DCC Road sign for Community Room***

The clerk has contacted DCC who advise that they have no funds until April 2009. They will include in plans for 2009. This item was raised with Cllr. Hart who will try and speed up the process.

### ***War Memorial***

The Clerk gave a report on his effort to establish 'ownership' of the monument. It was established that the Monument is owned by the parishioners of Brixton, however the Local Authorities Act of 1923 give the Parish Council the powers to raise funds to maintain the Monument on a voluntary basis. The Parish Council do not own the Monument. The Council agreed that it would support repairs to the stone. Other village Charities have indicated that they may help with the costs. Clerk to obtain the necessary quotes for the work, contact the appropriate charities and report back.

*Clerk to complete*

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

Cllrs. Trower and Curtis to supply details so that the Clerk can supply SHDC with up to date village grass cutting details.

*Cllrs. Curtis, Trower and Clerk*

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

Cllr. Cane reported that the District Council had proposed not to increase the Council Tax, however it had yet been voted on.

He then stated that car parking revenue had decreased by £30k last year but charges would still remain the same. The council had saved £250k in concessionary bus fares; however he thought that central government may take this back in the future.

Council tax revenue had increased slightly by the addition of 300 extra houses in the District. The Council had bought new road sweepers which had incurred considerable capital outlay. He reported that savings are continuing to be made by sharing services with adjoining councils. He then stated that there was no news yet on the £1.25 million of District Council funds held in the failed Icelandic banks.

Finally the Chairman congratulated Cllr. Cane and the District Council on its proposed zero rate increase in Council Tax.

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

Cllr. Squire reported that he was disappointed to hear that the County Council were not following the lead of the District Council by not raising the Council Tax.

He reported that the government grant for the over 60's free swimming should cover the costs. He did not know when the scheme was due to start and also stated that South Hams have not 'signed up' to extend the scheme to the under 16's.

He then reported on the new Devon Home Choice scheme that is a choice based letting scheme for all of Devon. He reiterated that this scheme does not change the basic aim of still allocating houses to people in the greatest need.

He then reported on Sherford stating that he had heard that the provision of the school had been delayed.

### **8. Sherford Update**

The Chairman reported on the 16th December meeting at Follaton House to discuss the 106 Agreement. Because of the financial situation the deadline for agreement on the 106 agreement had been extended to June 2009.

Cllr. Curtis stated that he would draft a letter regarding 'bat' locations in the area for the clerk to forward to SHDC.

Cllr. Curtis then stated that he had been asked to write a 'Sherford Update' for the Village magazine and website.

This was circulated to members prior to the meeting. It was unanimously approved.

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

Cllr. Hitchins gave a brief resumé of the meeting in December with Yealmpton Parish Councillors.

She then talked about the follow up meeting held today 7th January that was also attended by Mr John Grimshaw the representative from Sustrains. Mr Grimshaw made it clear that Sustrains are not

interested in the A379 route. Sustrains plan to apply for full planning permission for the Estuary Route in the next three months. Further meetings are planned with Yealmpton councillors to plan how to advise parishioners of developments.

The Chairman then read out the 'terms of reference' for the group. It was unanimously agreed to adopt the terms of reference. A debate followed on the merits of the schemes. No further decisions were made as it was agreed to wait until more details are available.

## **10. Correspondence**

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

A letter from the Secretary of the Youth Club requesting funding. Cllr. Hitchins agreed to contact the leaders of the group to discuss how many young people from Brixton attend and how best the Parish Council can help.

### ***Affordable Housing Surgery***

Being held at Follaton House on Tuesday 13th January.

### ***South Hams LDF - Regulation 25***

Further consultation on the LDF. Any comments have to be in by Friday 30th January 2009. Cllr. Hitchins requested that the Clerk write stating that we have a Parish Plan in progress.

*Clerk to write*

### ***Local Government Reorganisation - Boundary Committee Announcement***

Notification from South Hams District Council that no decision is expected from the Secretary of State until at least March 2009.

### ***Parish Cluster Meeting - January 2009***

This meeting has been cancelled.

### ***Road Traffic Order***

Details of a temporary road closure from Thursday 19th February to Monday 23rd February (both dates inclusive) for the lane from Higher Spriddlestone Barns to Wembury Road. A diversion will be in place. Clerk to place details on notice board

### ***Charity Cricket Match***

Organized by Cllr. Cane to aid local charities. The event will take place at Ivybridge Cricket Club on Sunday 11th January starting at 12 noon.

### ***Plymouth City Council, Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment***

A study for PCC to locate sites for housing.

### ***Devon Home Choice***

A consultation event taking place at Follaton House at 2pm on the 12th January to discuss the introduction of Devon Home Choice, the new Choice Based Letting scheme which will cover the whole of Devon. This item was discussed in Cllr. Squires report.

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

A consultation document about passing power into the hands of local communities. The consultation period runs to 12th March 2009.

Cllr Edwards agreed to study the document and report back

### ***Devon & Cornwall Police Authority***

The Police Authority is currently advertising for Independent Custody Visitors and Independent Members to serve on the Local Police Authority (Four year post). For full details contact the scheme administrator on 01392 268318 or email [polauth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:polauth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

### **11. Village Plan**

Cllr. Hitchins reported on the second meeting of the group held on 6th January. Mr Graham Searle attended and ideas were formulated on how to display the groups work on the village website. Ways of consulting with parishioners were discussed and it was agreed that enquiries be made at the Foxhound, Venn Court, School etc. so as to establish local views. The group consists of six people and meet in the Community Room on the first Tuesday in each Month. Parishioners are welcome to attend

### **12. Open Forum**

Ownership of the Village Green was raised. Cllr. Cane replied that it was considered that Devon County Council either owned the Green or had assumed responsibility (as the Local Authority) for the Green

The A379 between Brixton and Yealmpton was reported to littered each side with debris and in need of clearing out.

*Clerk to contact DCC*

### **13. Village Green**

Cllr. Hitchins stated that a group of parishioners had volunteered to maintain the Village Green and fit tubs of flowers on the site. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the scheme providing names of volunteers were submitted to the Clerk and Insurance obtained. Also any costs would need to be approved by the Council prior to purchase.

Cllr. Cane then stated that a parishioner had volunteered to maintain the telephone box on the Green.

*Clerk to supply details of BT contacts.*

### **14 Finance**

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

Full financial details given to all councillors prior to the meeting. Because of the dramatic decrease in interest rates it was agreed that the finance committee would look at the councils assets to improve returns.

#### ***(b) Payments***

The following payments were unanimously agreed:

825 Mr M. Trower (P3) 75.35

### **15. Planning New Planning Application**

***Applicant:*** Vodafone Ltd.

**Application number:** 07/2371/08/F

**Proposal :** Extension and alterations to telecommunication tower

**Location :** Telecommunication site at SX 532 527, Coombe Farm

**Date of receipt of valid application :** 12th December 2008

*Cllr. Cane abstained.*

Cllr. Foweraker explained the application. After a short discussion it was agreed to support the application.

### **Planning Permission Granted**

**07/2017/08/F** Mr M. Brown - Polston Park Farm - Demolition of existing chicken shed and port cabin and erection of detached coach house forming double garage and play room.

**07/1039/08/F** Mr P. Helliker - The Lawns Nursing Home - Alterations and extension to Nursing Home to provide ten additional bedrooms.

**07/2045/08/F** Mr D. Butler - Hext Hill Cottage - Brixton Torr - Rear extension

### **16. Councillors Reports**

**Cllr. Hitchins:** Stated that the work carried out at Park House to remove plants from the wall adjacent to Red Lion Hill was first class and thanked everyone involved. She then asked that the information on litter 'Stop The Drop' be included as a Agenda item for the next meeting.

Clerk to include on next Agenda

**Cllr Edwards:** Reported on the November meeting of the Elize Hele & John Lanyon Education Foundations. 14 grants were issued, however none were requested or therefore made to young people in the four parishes.

Meeting closed by the Chairman Cllr. J. Davies at 9.36p.m.

### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday 4th February at 7.30 pm.

N. Powell

*Parish Clerk*

*Date:*8th January 2009