

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 3rd 2009 AT 7.30pm**

Present:	Cllr Cane (Chair)	*	Cllr Searle	*
	Cllr Hitchins (Vice Chair)	*	Cllr Tapper	*
	Cllr Martin	@	Cllr Wills	*
	Cllr Lang	@	Cllr Aylett	*
	Cllr Foweraker	*		*
	* Denotes attendance		@ Denotes absence	

Also attending:	Members of the public	10
	County Councillor	0
	District Councillor	1
	Police	2

ACTION

9.013 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Cllrs Lang, Martin and Hart

9.014 POLICE MATTERS

The crime report was presented by Sid Lawrence as follows:

1. 9th May a car was stolen from Venn Drive. Recovered in Plympton May 18th.
2. 5/6th May. Tractor stolen from Vealeholme Farm. Vehicle found abandoned on May 6th. Undetected.

9.015 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Hart absent because of DCC elections on June 4th. No report.

9.016 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A) Cllr Cane reported:

- SHDC Chairman is Melvin Stone, Vice Chair John Bavestock, Leader is John Tucker and Deputy Leader Bill Hitchins
- 51 affordable houses were built in South Hams last year – clearly not enough.
- It has been identified that there are 245 three bedroom houses occupied by either a single person or one couple. Inducements are available to persuade them to 'downsize' so that the bigger houses can be allocated to families.
- SHDC costs for 'bed and breakfast' accommodation for the homeless has been reduced from £180,000 in 2007 to only £8,000 last year.

B) Cllr Squire reported:

- Chelson Meadow. A number of complaints have been made about Wembury people being turned away. There is a meeting next week to seek a relaxation of this ruling for South Hams residents near to the Plymouth facility.
- Expenses: the Chief Executive has already had the Press chasing for local information on both managers and councillors.
- The local business community supports a Unitary Devon
- Langage Power station. There is a fund of over £1million to be spent over the next twenty years on landscaping to minimize the visual effect of the station.
- Population. Concern about some small villages in South Hams where there are more over 90's than under 4's.

The Chairman closed the formal Council Meeting

9.017 OPEN FORUM - informal notes

1. **Question.** Why is Open Forum not at the end of the meeting?

Answer. Because it has been requested to hold it earlier in the meeting.
We are 'experimenting' to find the optimal time.

2. **Question.** Are you going to discuss building site allocation ?

Answer. Yes under item 9.5

3. **Question.** There is apparently an amended planning application for the reduction of the Community Park. We must defend this key feature.

Answer. This will be discussed on agenda item 9.2

4. **Question.** Why have we been prevented from speaking except in Open Forum?

Answer. Because that is the way we are expected to operate within our guidance framework. Governance starts in Westminster and continues down to Parish Councils. This was contrary to guidance.

5. **Question.** Why are footpaths being closed? We could go anywhere 20 years ago.

Answer. No Public Rights of way can be closed. The permissive path on South Barton Farm has been removed as the DEFRA scheme has completed its 10 year validity and the scheme no longer exists for payments to landowners. Farmers may wish to stop the public wandering around their land for a number of reasons – it is their right so to do.

6. **Question.** Why is there a warning 'danger' sign adjacent to a sign saying 'legal trap' in one field and what is the insurance situation regarding P3 volunteers?

Answer. Simply to warn the public that they might get caught in an animal trap. The Clerk will confirm the situation in writing.

7. **Question.** Please will Basil Cane create a proper way through the crop on the No 9 village path? Use round-up as usual for 1.5 metre path.

Answer. Yes, that will, be done.

8. **Question.** Am I allowed to trim paths in the village?

Answer. Not under any formal scheme. For this, you need a 'certificate of competence' from DCC.

9. **Question.** When are the village fire hydrants to be checked?

Answer. The Clerk will write to the Fire authority to enquire.

10. **Question.** When are we going to put the flexible bollards in at the bottom of Lodge Lane? The contractor and cars continue to make a mess of the verges.

Answer. Derek Curtis has the bollards. Cllr Cane to speak with the contractor. Decision to install on DCC land will be reviewed.

The chairman closed Open Forum and reopened the formal Council Meeting

9.018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Cane advised he will not be involved in any planning discussions.

Cllr Searle has an interest in the Brixton web site maintenance.

9.019 MINUTES OF THE MAY 6th PARISH MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr Hitchins and seconded by Cllr Searle that the minutes of may 6th be signed as an accurate record. Approved unanimously.

9.020 MATTERS ARISING

1. Cllr Hart has spoken to Mr Halliday (DCC) with regard to the trees overhanging the main street pavement at Brixton House. The Clerk agreed to write to the owners.

9.021 LOCAL ISSUES AND REPORTS

1. **Brixton/Yealmpton footpath/cycle track.** Cllr Hitchins reported that a ballot was being drawn up with the help of the Electoral Reform Services which would go to all the residents of both Brixton and Yealmpton. M Bastard wants the questions to be raised on an "in principle" basis. An information leaflet will be distributed with the questionnaire. Plan to achieve this in July 2009.

2. **Sherford development.** Cllr Wills attended 2 recent steering group meetings and gave a thorough and detailed report. In précis from meeting one:

- A map had been produced showing a new road from Cattedown to Laira Bridge. Will it be built ??
- Plymouth City Council seems to be disinterested in any problems for Brixton and other villages.
- Redtree appear to be trying to cut back on early infrastructure costs due to financial conditions. The Medical Centre and School may be delayed until residency occurs. Low cost housing percentages may be reduced.
- No mention of traffic infrastructure. Concern that this will not be in place before housing commences.
- Concern that the committee questions were not being addressed.

And from meeting two, summarised into 3 subjects:

- **Quality.** There is no intention to reduce the quality of the development because of the current financial situation. There may however be some 'slimming down' in such areas as playing fields and youth centres. The bowling green may be scrapped. The percentage of Affordable Homes may be reduced to between 36 and 50%. There will be only 1 Primary School (of the 3 planned) and 1 Secondary School built at the start. Sports facilities will be built to 'Sport England' standards.
- **Transport.** No plans yet exist for the redevelopment of Deep Lane junction. Also undecided are the interchange at Plymstock Quarry, the Park 'n Ride facility, the high quality bus service and the A38 Sherford exit. The Elburton Road to Plymouth will have little alteration except to create a bus lane and a cycle lane. Traffic studies indicate that only 17% of Sherford traffic will use the Elburton route in to Plymouth. The rest will use Deep lane junction. Laira Bridge may need to be rebuilt to cope with the extra traffic volume.
- **Time scales.** Finances are reported to be available. When the '106 agreement' is concluded then work is expected to start in 2010. DCC and SHDC are discussing the '106' during July 2009. The largest part of the Sherford development lies within Brixton Parish but it is not known if any '106 monies' will benefit our village. SHDC need to make some Brixton funding a condition of agreement.
- Two tall wind turbines are expected to be erected.

3. **Parish Plan.** Cllr Hitchins advised that the initial consultation exercise had started with the last of the 5 meetings to be held this week. Volunteers to join the PP team are needed. The next meeting is on June 8th.

4. **Power of Wellbeing.** Cllr Hitchins advised that whilst Brixton would not be eligible to use the Powers in the immediate future, she felt that a 'Public statement of Community engagement' would be a useful document to show

Cllr Squire

Cllr Hitchins

Brixton residents that BPC were really intent on openness and consultation. Cllr Hitchins proposed and Cllr Searle seconded that "BPC set up a small working group, with local representation, to draft a statement on 'Community Engagement' and report to Council at the September meeting. Passed by 6 votes to 1.

5. Cllr Searle reported that he had attended a meeting of the Elize Heal and John Lanyon Educational Trust. They are asking the 3 parishes concerned to validate his appointment. Brixton and Yealmpton have done so. These Trusts give grants for A level courses and further education. A very worthy cause for the needy in our society.

6. Cllr Foweraker reported that he had attended a Planning Aid course at Ivybridge (run by SHDC) and found it very useful for his needs in considering Brixton applications.

7. Cllr Hitchins reported:

- SHDC have allocated £10,000 for upgrading the 'play spaces' in Brixton. Consultation will take place in June about the Kitley and Venn areas.
- Brixton has a thriving Scout Group run by leaders who do not live in Brixton. Can we please have volunteers from Brixton to help.
- A Feoffee Trust meeting had identified a need for another 'dog waste' bin in the vicinity of the shop/pub. Cllr Cane to review location.
- Fire Hydrants need to be checked. Clerk to write to Fire Authority.
- SHDC have produced a Planning Paper on "potential building sites in Brixton". The consultation is being run by The Prince's Foundation and the first meeting on June 16th is being attended by Cllr Martin. Some basic documents will be posted on the village notice board.

**Cllr Cane
Clerk**

**Cllr Martin
Clerk**

Cllr Searle

8. Council website. It was agreed to post meeting agendas on the web as well as meeting minutes.

9. Cllr Cane

- Raised the question of the toilet in the Post Office being used as the village 'public convenience'. It was agreed to put his item on the July agenda.
- Congratulated the organisers of the "Community church service" as it was so well attended.
- Asked the Clerk to write to SHDC (Ken Carter) to thank the grass cutting team for their excellent service this year (including picking up the rubbish on the grass).
- The seats in the village need attention. Cllr Cane proposed and Cllr Aylett seconded that "the Furzeland quotation for repairing the Steer Point seat (£220) and the cleaning/restaining of 3 other seats (£170) be accepted". Passed unanimously after the Clerk indicated this to be a fair market price.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

9.022 PLANNING MATTERS

Cllr Foweraker advised that there was one new application. (07/0860/09/F) for an extension to the rear of 22 The Crescent. A meeting had been held on site with 4 councillors to review the plans. Cllr Foweraker proposed and Cllr Tapper seconded that BPC should report "no objections" to SHDC. Unanimously approved. The Clerk reported that the application for Long Meadow, Fordbrook Lane has been

withdrawn.

The Clerk reported that the application at Sterts Farm has been approved by SHDC.

Cllr Cane did not take part in any discussions or voting.

9.023 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. The Clerk reported income for the month of £5625 from the SHDC precept.
2. Expenditure for the month was £615.06.
3. Bank balance at 19/4/09 was £39,015.42.
4. Election of Auditor. It was proposed by Cllr Searle and seconded by Cllr Aylett that Ken Abraham be given a 3 year contract based on £60 pa at current levels of BPC expenditure. Approved unanimously.

9.024 CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Clerk read the letter from Gary Streeter MP in response to the BPC letter rejecting any change to Devon boundaries.

2. The Clerk read the list of documents in the "correspondence file" and explained why they could not all be discussed in Council

3. The "correspondence file" was given to Cllr Cane containing:

1. Letter from Gary Streeter MP re Devon boundaries
2. SHDC Local Development framework – Site allocations
3. SHDC Local development framework – development policies
4. SHDC – minutes of Executive meeting May 28th
5. SHDC – Executive forward plan
6. SHDC Agenda and minutes of Council May 14th
7. SHDC magazine issue 16
8. SHDC – Notes from Cluster meeting held April 22nd in Ivybridge
9. South Devon and Dartmoor community safety newsletter
10. South Devon & Dorset shoreline management review

9.025 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly Meeting of Brixton Parish Council is on Wednesday, July 1st at 7.30 p.m. in the Brixton Community Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.23 pm