

BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 2009

Minutes of the Council meeting held in the Community Room, Brixton on Wednesday 4th March 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Chairman Cllr. J. Davies

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

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

Parish Clerk N. Powell

40 member of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies from P.C. J. Nolan and C.S.O. Sid 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 following Police report:

J1/09/93 Between the 4th and 5th Feb. 09 a car was damaged in a car port at Kitley View, a scratch had been run from the front to the back of the car. The crime remains undetected.

J1/09/01 During the early evening of the 7th Feb 09, a male person was stopped and checked in his vehicle in Steer Point Road and a quantity of substance believed to be cocaine was seized. This case is still in progress.

J1/09/123 Refers to a sexual offence on the 11th Feb. 09. The investigation continues.

J1/09/132 On the 17th Feb. 09 a male person was arrested for damaging a window in a private dwelling

J1/09/164 Refers to a domestic incident - force policy dictates non disclosure of information.

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

Cllr. Hart stated that he had received numerous objection to Devon County Councils proposed Traffic Order. He suggested that the Parish Council ask for the order to be withdrawn. He then stated that a government decision on the Boundary Commission report had been deferred until June/July. Because of this delay County Council elections would go ahead on the 4th June. Cllr. Hart then said that the DCC budget had been set at 2.9%. He considered this to be a 'election' budget as money had been taken from reserves to cover shortfalls.

Cllr. Edwards then asked Cllr. Hart about the submitted list of 'deficiencies' reported on the recent road works from Steer Point roundabout to Elburton. Cllr. Hart stated that these deficiencies had been passed to DCC Highways Dept. for investigation.

5. To consider and approve the minutes of the Meeting 4th February 2009 (Parish Council)

They were not accepted.

Cllr. Hitchins stated that her comments re: Village Emergency Plan had been omitted from Item 15. Councillors Reports.

Clerk to amend and resubmit at April Meeting

6. Traffic Order

Cllr. Cane opened the discussion and gave a brief history of the events that had led to the Devon County Council traffic order. Numerous views were expressed both by Councillors and members of the public. A motion was then proposed that the Parish council ask Devon County Council not to proceed with the proposed traffic order. This motion was unanimously agreed.

Clerk to advise DCC

7. Matters Arising

War Memorial

Mr M. Lang has been asked to proceed with the work. He has stated that he will do the job when the weather improves.

Weeds Alongside A379

South Hams have stated that they will spray when the weather improves.

Bollards for the end of Lodge Lane

Cllrs. Curtis and Trower state that they will insert the bollards when the weather improves.

Stop The Drop

Cllr. Hitchins has produced a letter for the Parish magazine.

All councillors stated that they were happy with the content and that it should go in the magazine.

Clerk to pass to Mr J. Ward

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

Cllr Cane reported that Cllr. Bavistock the District Councillor in charge of youth issues was proposing that free bus passes be issued to 14 to 19 year olds. If this motion is adopted by the full council it will then go to central government for approval and funding. Cllr. Hart DCC then stated that the County Council had not yet discussed this proposal. Cllr Cane then said that 3,000 residents had taken up the £10 overnight parking offer.

He then reported that Barnardos had been contracted to provide group support to 'vulnerable' groups of under 5's. This would start in April and operate from Ivybridge.

He then expressed his concerns at some of the rises that public bodies had imposed. The District Council have a zero council tax rise however the police have asked for 4.9% and the Fire Service 3.9%. Devon County Councils rise is 2.9%. He expressed his concerns that these bodies had not grasped the reality of the economic situation.

Cllr. Cane concluded his report by saying that two young employees from South Hams and West Devon had won awards at the 'Young English District Council Award Event'.

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

Cllr. Squire started his report by also stating his displeasure at the Police budget increase. He considered that the budget showed no regard for the economic climate and should be frozen. It was agreed that the clerk write to the Chief Constable and Mr J. Smith (Police Authority) asking how they can justify the increase.

Clerk to write

The clerk was also asked to write to Ivybridge police Station asking why we have no regular presence at parish meetings, and if Police are off sick - who covers and provides back up. Also how long do we have to wait for non urgent items to be followed up.

Clerk to write

Cllr. Squire then stated that 'site allocations' had been made in all the villages with a primary school to provide up to 15 new houses. He was questioned by Cllr. Lang regarding the position of the 'proposed site' in Brixton as it was considered that the council should know.

Clerk to write to Forward Planning Officers requesting details

Cllr. Squire then continued by saying that S. Hams were looking at setting up a Direct Letting scheme. Safeguards would be given to land lords. He then stated that the affordable housing /Shared Ownership scheme was failing as prospective purchasers cannot obtain mortgages.

9. Sherford Update

Cllr. Curtis reported that the Sherford Action Group was due to meet on the 13th March. Neither himself or the Chairman were available to go. Cllr. Lang stated that she would attend if free.

10. Brixton - Yealmpton Footpath/Cycle Track

Cllr. Davies reported on the recent joint working group meeting with Members from Yealmpton Parish Council. He stated that a hiatus had been reached at the meeting and a proposal had been put forward to support the Sustrans route as opposed to the A379 route. The proposal was supported with 4 votes for and 2 abstentions. Cllr. Hitchins then stated that she had abstained at the meeting as she considered that more investigative work was needed on the A379 route to enable a balanced case to be provided.

A discussion followed.

It was agreed that the decision of the working group would not be accepted and more discussions would be sought to realise the potential of the A379 route. It was also agreed that the footpath would be discussed at a future village meeting.

11. Parish Plan

Cllr. Hitchins reported that the Steering group was meeting monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm. The meetings are held in the Community Room and all are welcome. She then stated that a consultation period will start in May at different venues around the village. This consultation will also incorporate the A379/Sustrans Footpath/Cycle track option.

12. Correspondence

South West Planning Aid

Details will follow of venues etc. for the training sessions.

Parish Cluster Meetings

Because of the delay in the Local Government Review decision the Feb. 2009 meeting was cancelled. A return to normal a 6 monthly schedule has been agreed with the next meeting in the spring.

Public Space Improvements 2008 - 2010

A letter from SHDC informing the Parish Council that £10,000 has been allocated towards improvements to the play area at Elliots Hill. Two representatives are invited to attend the briefing session on Wednesday 11th March at Follaton House between 5.30 and 7.00 p.m.

Cllr. Hitchins will represent the council

Cllr. Martin then stated that at the January 'walkabout' with representatives from Tor Homes issues were raised regarding the play areas at Yarda Walk and Silverstream Way. Tor Homes had not forwarded the report of the meeting.

Clerk to write to Tor Homes

13. Open Forum

The illegal use of traffic in Mill Lane was raised and a request for a bollard at the ends of the lane was requested.

Clerk to write to DCC

Mr Mark Pope offered his services to look after a telephone box should the council adopt the boxes. The Chairman thanked Mr Pope but stated that it was not current council policy to adopt the boxes.

14 Finance

(a) Current Financial Situation

Full financial details given to all councillors prior to the meeting

Council Assets - the clerk reported that he was unsuccessful in finding a suitable account.

(b) Payments

The following payments were unanimously agreed:

829 Mr M. Trower (P3) 15.50

830 Glasdon U.K. Ltd 58.07

831 Staples 95.70

832 DAPC (Training) 20.00

(c) Donations

Youth of Yealmpton Organisation

South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau

Modbury Tourist Information

The Samaritans of Plymouth, East Cornwall & S.W. Devon

Vitalise

Brixton Community Association

It was agreed to donate £100 to each of the above.

Cllr. Hitchins declared a interest in the Brixton Community Association

15. Planning

New Planning Application

Applicant : Mr L. Mullens

Application number: 07/0231/09/F

Proposal : Replacement garage window with door

Location : 20 Carrolls Way, Plymouth, PL9 9FJ

Date of receipt of valid application : 11th Feb. 2009

Cllr. Cane abstained

It was unanimously agreed to support the application with the proviso that the new door matches the existing door.

Planning Permission Granted

07/0060/09/F Mr P. Brown - Honeysuckle Cottage, Efford - Amendment to planning consent
07/0022/07/F for conversion of outbuilding to ancillary accommodation.

16. Councillors Reports

Cllr. Davies : Cllr. Davies advised the meeting that he was resigning from the council with effect from the April 1st meeting.

Meeting closed by the Chairman Cllr. J. Davies at 9.54 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday April 1st at 7.30 pm

N. Powell

Parish Clerk