

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD
AT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY MAY 6th 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	15
	County Councillor	1
	District Councillor	1
	Police	0

ACTION

9.001 APOLOGIES

PCSO Sid Lawrence

9.002 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.

9.003 POLICE MATTERS

The crime report had been emailed to the Clerk as follows:

1. April 6th. Break in at South Barton, marine equipment stolen. Undetected.
2. April 8th. Moped stolen from near Chittleburn Hill. Property recovered damaged. Undetected.
3. 10/11th April. Garage broken into at Blackthorn Barn. Tools and garden equipment stolen. Undetected.
4. 13/15th April. Vehicle in Silverstream Way with damage to tyre. Undetected.
5. 16th April. Electrical looms stolen from Kingsland Nursing Home. Undetected.
6. 17th April. Large conifer tree set alight at Little Barnwell. Undetected.
7. 17/18th April. Sign damaged by park entrance by church. Undetected.
8. 5/6th April. Tractor stolen from Vealeholme Farm. Undetected.

The Clerk reported that PC Nolan has now returned to work on "light duties" after six weeks leave with an eye injury.

9.004 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

1. Devon CC is "shutting down" in advance of the elections in June
2. 4 of the 6 DCC executives are leaving or retiring before the end of 2009.
3. An additional £2m is to be spent on the Devon roads this year. At present, £1000 per week is being spent on vehicle repairs (private) due to damage caused by pot-holes etc.
4. Langage Energy Park shows no signs of progress. It is needed to offset the inevitable reduction in skilled labour at Devonport Dockyard in the future.

9.005 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A) Cllr Cane reported:

- It is hoped to get 80% of the £1.25m invested in Icelandic banks.
- 59 affordable houses were built in SHDC area in 2008/9. This does not meet the local need. Some are available at Staddiscombe so pass on the word to local families please. Sherford is still a long time away!

- £600,000 was saved by SHDC last year by working in collaboration with West Devon.

B) Cllr Squire reported:

- Congratulations to the new chairman and councillors on their appointment.
- Ivybridge swimming pool is leaking and may cost £20k to repair.
- Police. Senior Officers receive achievement bonuses. Pensions are funded from the "public purse" and this is no longer sustainable. Service for a full pension is now 35 years (up from 30 years).
- Tor Homes sheltered accommodation in Salcombe is unpopular because of lack of supermarkets and public transport.
- Sherford. May not now be viable. SHDC in talks with Redtree.
- SHDC and West Devon are discussing the viability of a "joint management team" to reduce overhead costs.
- Reminder that July 15th is the closing date for the Boundary Committee consultations.
- Central Gov't have 'devolved' census responsibility to local Gov't.
- SHDC have appointed an anti social behaviour officer
- Meetings are to held with parish councils on the site allocations for the distribution of 400 affordable houses in the District. Brixton sites are not seen as likely options.

9.006 MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1st PARISH MEETING

Cllr Martin requested amendments to the draft minutes with reference to the previous clerk's letter to the council. It was then proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Lang that the amended minutes of the April 1st 2009 meeting be signed as a true record. Approved unanimously by Councillors in attendance on April 1st. The amendments will be posted on the Parish web site.

Clerk/Searle

9.007 MATTERS ARISING

1. Cllr Hart has not spoken to the owners of Brixton House with regard to the trees overhanging the main street pavement.

Hart

2. Cllr Cane reported that the owner of the angry dogs has apologised.

9.008 LOCAL ISSUES AND REPORTS

1. Brixton/Yealmpton path. Cllr Hitchins reported that they had met twice with the landowner. Kitley have commissioned an environmental engineer to carry out work on the feasibility of the project. John Grimshaw (Sustrans) has volunteered to come to talk to Brixton parishioners. The group are investigating the methods of creating a fair questionnaire to be put to the residents of both villages when all information is available. Sustrans route information to be put on our website after Feoffee agreement.

Hitchins

Clerk/Searle

2. Cllr Lang reported that there are 2 two Sherford meetings planned (May 7th and 15th) to be attended by at least one of the three nominees.

Lang/Davies/
Wills

3. Cllr Hitchins reported that the Parish Plan consultation will start end May/beginning June on the questions to be asked in our questionnaire.

Hitchins

4. Local government reorganisation. Brixton previously supported a "Unitary Devon". Following two judicial reviews, there is now a "status quo" option for Devon. After some discussion, Cllr Martin proposed and Mike Wills seconded that "Brixton should now write to the Boundary Committee to express support for the status quo". This was passed with 7 votes for and 2 abstentions. The Clerk was asked to send an appropriate letter.

Clerk

5. Councillor reports:
- Cllr Martin advised that he is talking to the police about the nuisance motorbikes in the area. Some are apparently unlicensed and unregistered.
 - Cllr Martin told parishioners that police "surgeries" could be made available if there was enough demand from residents. In the meantime, please use Cllr Martin as your liaison man with the police.
 - Cllr Hitchins reported the problem of a local 'jack russell' dog frightening children in the park. Cllr Tapper agreed to speak to the owner.
 - There will be a Community Service on May 17th. BPC will be represented by Cllrs Tapper and Searle.
 - Cllr Hitchins referred to the new Powers of Wellbeing and asked that this subject be included on the June agenda.

Tapper

Tapper/Searle

Clerk

9.009 PLANNING MATTERS

Cllr Foweraker advised that there was one new application. (07/0616/09/CU) for continued stationing of a caravan at Sterts Farm, Arcadia for an agricultural worker. After an explanation of the background to this application, Cllr Foweraker proposed and Cllr Searle seconded that BPC should report "no objections" to SHDC. Unanimously approved.

Clerk

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

9.010 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- The Clerk reported income for the month of £500 from The Feoffe Trust towards costs of the Village plan project.
- Expenditure for the month was £1,452.38.
- Bank balance at 19/4/09 was £34,589.85. This is high as a result of creating a "fighting fund" for the Sherford New Town plan. Money will be transferred from Current to Savings account to maximise interest at today's low rates.
- Parish Insurance. Cllr Lang proposed and Cllr Hitchins seconded that BPC should remain with Zurich Insurance for next year at a cost of £ 256. Carried.
- The Clerk advised that Norman Powell had completed the year end accounts for 2008/9 prior to his leaving. These have been independently audited and are now ready for sending to the Audit Commission. Cllr Hitchins proposed their acceptance and this was seconded by Cllr Lang. Accepted unanimously. The Clerk was asked to complete the formalities.
- Cheque signatories, by the end of the week, will be Cllrs Cane, Lang and Martin.

Clerk

Clerk

9.011 CORRESPONDENCE

- The Clerk read a letter from the Feoffe Trust advising that their Trustees had agreed to pay up to £262 towards the Memorial restoration.
- The new "correspondence file" was given to Cllr Cane. This file is to be passed on to all Councillors after reading and signing.

All Cllrs

9.012 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly Meeting of Brixton Parish Council is on Wednesday, June 3rd at 7.30 p.m. in the Brixton Community Hall.
The meeting was declared closed at 9.10 pm