

BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2008

Minutes of the MEETING of the Parish Council held at Brixton Community Hall on Wednesday November 5th at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Chairman Cllr. J. Davies

Councillors: D. Curtis, M. Trower, J Edwards, L Hitchins, M. Foweraker

Councillor: J. Squire S.H.D.C.

Parish Clerk N. Powell

9 members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies from CSO Sid Lawrence, PC J Nolan, Cllrs. Cane and Hart

2. Declarations of Interests

None

3. Police Report

The Chairman read out the following Crime Report:

Criminal Damage

On the 3rd October there was a domestic related incident in Brixton which resulted in one party damaging two vehicles which were parked on a private drive. A male has been charged with two counts of criminal damage.

Burglary

Sometime on Friday 17th October an isolated property in Brixton was burgled. Entry was gained by removing a double glazed unit in a ground floor bathroom window. Items stolen include a flat screen TV, lap top computer, sporting goods and jewellery. Officers from Ivybridge CID are investigating.

Theft

Sometime between 1600 hrs. on Thursday 30th October and 1500 hrs on Friday 31st October an agricultural grain trailer was stolen from a field adjacent to Chittleburn Hill. There is CCTV evidence, which shows a blue 'New Holland 7740' tractor towing the trailer away. The tractor appeared to be accompanied by a silver 4x4 type vehicle, possibly a 'Izusu'. Enquiries are continuing.

Driving Whilst Disqualified

On the afternoon of Friday 31st October two male motorists were stopped by Police whilst driving along the A379 at Brixton. Both were disqualified from driving. Both have been charged to Court.

For Information

At the present time the area along the A379 is experiencing a spate of burglaries. Isolated residential properties are being targeted, entry is normally gained by either Smashing a window or removing a window pane. Items being stolen at the moment include flat screen televisions and lap top computers. The series of burglaries is being investigated by Ivybridge CID. Local officers are patrolling along the A379 and adjoining areas in an effort to deter/stop/check the offenders. If anyone has any suspicions, no matter how minor they may appear, please call the central switchboard number (08452 777 444). Your information will be treated in confidence and may well be vital to identifying the offenders.

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

N/A

5. To consider and approve the minutes of the Meeting 1st Oct. 2008 (Parish Council)

They were unanimously accepted. Cllr. Hitchins requested that the following be made a agenda item for December: Future Of Parish Councils (Life Long Learning Conference) Clerk to make agenda item

6. Matters Arising

Weeds on Pavements

The clerk has been advised by DCC that all footpaths have been sprayed.

Blocked Drains

Scheduled to be cleared out this week.

The Making and Enforcement of Bylaws

Cllr. J. Edwards reported that the consultation period ends on 20th November. He did not consider that Parish Councils needed to respond.

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

N/A

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

Cllr. Squire reported that planning advise income had raised £30,000 for the year. The method of paying for advice appears to have been accepted by the public.

The District Council was having to find 51 residential gypsy sites and 5 transit sites. Cllr. Squire stated that this would be a controversial issue wherever they are sited. He then stated that because of the bad summer weather and falling visitor numbers car parking revenue was down by £150,000. This shortfall would have to be addressed in the ongoing budget discussions.

He then stated that 27% of Devon's workforce are migrant workers.

The District Councils fuel/heating bill are increasing and now cost over £1million per annum. Ways to reduce this figure and to reduce the councils carbon footprint are being looked into.

Cllr. Squire then stated that 4 sites had been identified to site a Waste Incinerator - 2 in Plymouth and 2 in the S. Hams. No decision has yet been made on the final selection. He finished by saying that the Devon Association of Parish Council had written to the Boundary Commission supporting the unitary concept. He did not consider that this was democratic as the vast majority of its members i.e. Parish Councils did not support this view.

8. Sherford Update

Cllr. Curtis started his report by explaining the background and aims of The Sherford Community Group chaired by Gary Streeter M.P. At the last meeting on 24th October representatives from Chaddlewood and Newton and Noss were invited. Paul Tyler from SHDC and two representatives from Plymouth City Council all attended.

Cllr. Curtis raised concerns regarding conflicting answers from Plymouth C.C. regarding Eastern Corridor and related transport issues. It was decided that Mr Streeter would talk to the Chief Executive of Plymouth CC and arrange a meeting so that the truth can be established. He went on to report that the planning talks between Redtree and S. Hams were ongoing however because of the economic climate several rumours were circulation on the status of the discussions. A decision on the application is due to be made by 15th December; however a extension could be requested.

Cllr. Squire then talked about the 106 agreement regarding Brixton.

Cllr. Curtis then requested that Cllr. Squire ask Mr. Tyler or Mr. Munday (SHDC Officers dealing with the application) for a meeting to discuss the 106 agreement.

Cllr. Squire agreed with the request.

Cllr Squire/Cllr. Curtis

9. Brixton - Yealmpton Footpath

Cllr. Hitchins reported on the Steering Group that was set up by the Parish Council in May 2008 to obtain feedback on a proposal to have a footpath alongside the A379.

Cllr. Hitchins gave a comprehensive report on the recent questionnaire that indicated a strong support for the route.

Letters from the landowners, the Brixton -Yealmpton Steering Group and Yealmpton Parish Council were then read out. The landowners letter had indicated that the Kitley Estate were not prepared to have the A379 route and the proposed Estuary route as planned by Sustrans. It would have to be a either/or choice. A debate followed with numerous views being expressed.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that a meeting be arranged with Yealmpton Parish Council to, hopefully, enable a joint discussion and approach to be agreed. A Yealmpton Councillor was present and agreed to request the meeting with his council. Cllrs. Hitchins, Davies and Curtis agreed to represent Brixton

10. Village Plan

The Chairman formally thanked Cllr. Hitchins for arranging the Parish Plan Meeting On 29th October and the professional way that it was organised and conducted.

Cllr. Hitchins then briefly reported on the meeting stating that 29 people had attended on a wet and windy night.

Five people had volunteered to form a steering group.

It was unanimously agreed that the group be set up and recognised by the Parish Council.

Cllr. Hitchins then requested that the speakers at the meeting to be sent letters of thanks from the Council.

Clerk to write

11. Correspondence

Commons Act 2006

DCC have been chosen to be a 'pilot authority' for implementation of the Act.

Devon Playing Fields Association

A list of venues for a training event.

Parish Cluster Meeting - 16th Oct

Attended at Ivybridge by Cllrs. Martin and Cane.

Budget Consultation Meetings with Town & Parish Councils

The meeting has been scheduled to take place at Follaton House at 7 pm on Wednesday 12th Nov.

Budget Meeting With Town & Parish Councils

A meeting at Follaton House on Thursday 15th Jan. 2009 at 7pm with representatives from DCC, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority and Devon Fire and Rescue Service.

South Hams L.D.F. - Affordable Housing Development Plan Document & Supplementary Planning Document.

The District council adopted the above documents on September 25th 2008.

South Devon Coastal Local Action Group

An invitation to the Meeting on 17th November at Kingsbridge Community College. The group has been successful in obtaining funding from the Rural Development Programme for England.

Residents Parking Permits

A permit system that allows South Hams residents to use fee paying car parks between the hours of 4pm and 10am for an annual fee of £10 plus VAT

The War Memorial - St. Mary's Church

A letter has been received from the local Branch of the British Legion stating that the Memorial needs repairing. They have indicated that they believe that responsibility for the repair rests with the Parish Council. The Clerk reported that he is waiting for confirmation of ownership from the War Graves Commission prior to recommending any remedial action.

Annual P3 Christmas Workshop

The local Annual Workshop is being held at the Community Centre, Dartington on 24th November.

A South Hams Public Space Strategy

Details of the strategy for 2008 to 2012

Cllr. Edwards agreed to study the document and report back

SHDC Standards Committee - Appointment of Parish representatives

Two representatives are required from town and Parish Councils to serve on the Standards Committee and its Sub-Committees.

Cllr. Hitchins stated that she would like to apply.

Application forms given to Cllr. Hitchins.

Ivybridge and District Association of Parish Councils

Details on how to join the group.

Codes of conduct for local authority members and employees

A consultation document requesting responses before 24th December.

Cllr. Edwards agreed to study the document and report back

Ageing Well in Devon

Details of a public meeting being held in the Watermark building, Ivybridge 10am to 12 noon on Monday 17th Nov. Organised by Ivybridge and District Senior Council this is an opportunity for the over 50s to find out more and comment on the proposed changes to health and social care in Devon.

Cllr. Hitchins attending

12. Open Forum

The hedge in Elliotts Hill adjacent to the School boundary is overgrown and requires cutting.

Clerk to write to the headmaster

Re -opening of the post box in the village shop

Clerk to follow up

Green Area at the end of Lodge Lane being abused by commercial vehicles who use it for parking.

Clerk to contact DCC requesting no parking measures be introduced.

Village Phone boxes - the chairman re-iterated the councils decision of September 2009 stating that the council would not be adopting telephone boxes.

Elliotts Hill - a pothole was reported outside of 'The Grindstone'. Also the road needs to be treated for weeds.

Clerk to contact DCC

A report was made that the recent resurfacing of the pavements in Cherry Tree Drive was a sub-standard job. It was considered to be rushed and of poor quality.

Clerk to advise DCC

13 Finance

(a) Current Financial Situation

Full financial details given to all Councillors prior to the meeting

(b) Payments

The following payments were unanimously agreed:

817 N. Powell (stamps) 36.00

818 Brixton British Legion 25.00

819 Audit Commission 158.63

820 P. Lowden (Grass cutting) 25.00

14. Planning

New Planning Applications

Applicant: Dr. P. Land

Application number: 07/1930/08/F

Proposal : Installation of two small stainless steel flues, provision of roof light over south side lounge and roof light for living room, and installation of six water heating solar panels to west elevation.

Location : Little Spriddlestone Barn

Date of receipt of valid application : 14th October 2008

It was unanimously agreed to support the application however it is requested that the stainless steel flues are made as unobtrusive as possible by having a matt finish.

Applicant : Mr M. Brown

Application Number: 07/2017/08/F

Proposal: Demolition of existing chicken shed and portacabin and erection of detached coach house forming double garage and play room.

Location : Polston Park Farm, Plymstock, PL9 ODD

Date of receipt of valid application : 17th October 2008

It was unanimously agreed to support the application.

Applicant : Mr D. Butler

Application Number : 07/2045/08/F

Proposal : Rear extension to provide third bedroom with bathroom over a side extension to provide dining area.

Location : Hext Hill Cottage, Brixton Torr, PL8 2BD

Date of receipt of valid application : 23rd October 2008

It was unanimously agreed to support the application.

Planning Application Granted

07/1542/08/F Mr S. Cane - Extension to existing agricultural building - Field west of Torr Hill Farm.

Planning Appeal Decision

APP/K1128/A/08/2073967 - Kingsland. The proposal for the erection of a two storey private dwelling has been refused by the Inspector.

Give copy of report to all Cllrs.

Site Inspection

07/1039/08/F The Lawns Nursing Home - Alterations and extension to provide 10 additional bedrooms.

Site visit to take place on Monday 10th November at 10am.

Cllr. Curtis agreed to represent the Council.

15. Councillors Reports

Cllr Curtis: Requested that the clerk contact SHDC to obtain a larger scale Parish map.

Clerk to contact Mr Robert Harkness SHDC

Cllr. Hitchins Reported that vegetation is growing out of the wall at Park House Cottage, Red Lion Hill and restricting use of the pavement.

Clerk to contact owners

Also reported that she had received a letter from Yealm medical Centre outlining a Government White Paper that is threatening the dispensing of medicines in the area. The consultation period deadline for responding is 20th November. It was agreed that the clerk would respond.

Clerk to write to Dept. of Heath (Copy to Gary Streeter MP)

Cllr. Davies : Stated that the Remembrance day service will take place on Sunday 9th November at 1045.

Cllrs. Curtis, Edwards, and Foweraker agreed to attend.

Meeting closed by the Chairman Cllr. J. Davies at 10.00p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday 3rd December at 7.30 pm

N. Powell

Parish Clerk

Date: 6th November 2008