



Approved Minutes of Brixton Parish Council February meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7.00 pm in Brixton Community Room

Present: Cllr Liz Hitchins (Chair), Michael Wills (Vice Chair), Cllr Tony Carson, Cllr Terry Clegg, Cllr Rachael Gillard, Cllr Neil Hawken, Cllr Ian Martin and Cllr Prem MacLennan.

In attendance: County Councillor Tony Carson, District Cllrs Julie Carson and Alison Nix and Kirstie Aldridge (Clerk)

Members of the public in attendance: 3

Cllr Hitchins welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Cllr Bernard Taylor, Chairman of SHDC who explained that he was attending various parish council meetings. Cllr Hitchins explained the format of the meeting.

Open Forum

Guest Speaker – Alan Mighall, Chair of South Hams Ramblers

South Hams Ramblers have been active for over 50 years and are now offering free labour for footpath (PROW's and permissive paths) maintenance to parishes in the South Hams. DCC through the PROW's team have issued a letter supporting the 'newly established path maintenance team'. The group will require authorisation from the parish or landowner to do any works and is fully insured through the Ramblers to cover any path maintenance.

The process for path maintenance would be to inform the dedicated email of the issue / problem, and a representative will undertake a visit, if required, with a councillor or P3 officer and agree a way forward. An email of authorisation would then be required to do the necessary works. Activities that would be covered are clearing vegetation, cutting overgrowth, repairing steps, boardwalks, stiles, simple bridges, and work on path surfaces / signposts etc. The group is not insured to use chainsaws. There would then be a sign off sheet to be completed to state that the parish council is happy with the work undertaken. The Ramblers are keeping a record of all the work undertaken across the country. A risk assessment will be completed at the beginning of the exercise and again at the end and covers everyone on insurance policy.

Cllr Hitchins stated that BPC undertake an annual PROW meeting with Ros Davies, PROW Officer and that BPC is fortunate to have volunteers who walk the paths and report any issues to the Clerk.

Alan Mighall promoted the new 100-mile route around South Hams which starts in Totnes.

Cllr Hitchins invited Alan and the Ramblers to the forthcoming walk from Brixton to Sherford, through the newly pedestrianised Monkey Lane in April.

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Report from Devon County Councillor Tony Carson

DCC Budget

The DCC Budget was agreed at Full Council on the 24th February.

DCC's 2026/27 budget totals £873.2 million, with a 4.99% Council Tax increase and strategic investments in social care, children's services, and highways.

Overview of Revenue and Capital Budgets

The proposed service budget targets for 2026/27 total £839.2 million, representing a 4.1% increase over the 2025/26 adjusted base budget, with the net budget recommended at £873.2 million. The Council Tax rate is set to increase by 4.99%, including a 2% Adult Social Care precept, generating a total Council Tax requirement of £610.26 million. The capital programme for 2026/27 is £201.5 million, with indicative investment plans extending to 2030/31.

Funding Sources

DCC has shifted from central government reliance to Council Tax funding, which now accounts for 82.3% of the net budget, up from 56.5% in 2013/14.

Key Expenditure Areas

- **Children and Young People Services:** £268 million, including support for children in care, early help, education services, and foster carer allowances, with a £19.1 million increase.
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND):** £69 million allocated, impacting Band D properties by an extra £89.91.
- **Highways and Infrastructure:** £15 million in new capital funding for targeted maintenance, plus £4 million in revenue for drainage, gully clearance, and vegetation management. An additional £10 million per year is planned across the remaining five-year Medium-Term Financial Plan.
- **Adult Social Care:** Costs are impacted by the National Living Wage increase, adding £14.3 million in pressures.
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Inflation and Cost Pressures

The budget accounts for £15.6 million for inflationary pressures, with the National Living Wage rising to £12.71 per hour for adults and higher rates for younger workers and apprentices. These increases affect social care and other demand-led services.

Staffing and Reserves

The number of FTE staff is projected to increase due to in-sourcing, apprenticeships, and investment in Children's Services. The County Fund Balance is maintained at £16 million, with general earmarked reserves of £129.4 million and additional statutory reserves for On-Street Parking and Public Health. Devon ranks 3rd from the bottom among county councils for reserve levels, though this is an improvement from the previous year.

Strategic Financial Planning

The budget includes the Medium-Term Financial Plan (2026/27–2030/31) the Capital Strategy and Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy, the Treasury Management Strategy with Prudential Indicators and Risk Management Strategy to identify and mitigate financial risks

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More information about DCCs budget can be found on the DCC website.

Local to Brixton Parish.

Enabling works have been undertaken at Deep Lane and once PCC and DCC agree traffic routes and impact, the scheme will start.

The Stopping Up Order for the closure of a section of road of 282m at Vealeholme has been raised with the Secretary of State instigating a public consultation. The application for the Order proposes that the road will be permanently closed for the removal of overhead power lines, the rerouting of a large gas main and the creation of the new housing estate. Access to and from Plympton St Maurice will be via Vinery Lane and Ridge Road.

A query was raised regarding the council tax rate increase – is this on top of the SHDC tax?
County Cllr Carson will find out.

Brixton

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

Nothing to report

Sherford

Report from Steven Williams, BPC nominated Director Sherford Community Land Trust (SCLT)

No report had been received

Sherford

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

To include:

- **Feedback on improving communication for the residents of Sherford**
- **Update on issues raised by Sherford residents via info@sherford.uk email**

A meeting is scheduled for next week with one of the directors of the Consortium when improvements to communications will be discussed. Cllr MacLennan stated that no response had been received to the two complaints raised on 17th February.

District Cllrs Alison Nix and Julie Carson will be attending a meeting set up by Brixton PC and with BPC representatives, with the local Police Inspector next Tuesday regarding speeding / parking
SHDC waste vehicles were seen driving on the pavement in Sherford last week, this has been taken up with the relevant department at SHDC.

The proposed road closure / stopping up order Plympton Hill is being commented on extensively on Facebook.

District Cllr Alison Nix read out the following statement from SHDC regarding the proposed Stopping Up Order:

Cllr Dan Thomas, Leader South Hams District Council :- “We are aware of the Sherford Consortium’s application to the Secretary of State to close (stop up) a section of Plympton Hill that lies within Sherford. This is part of a statutory process which is a necessary step to progressing the Sherford masterplan which will see the route replaced by the new estate roads that will be built as part of the development. While the road in its current form will be removed, a new route through Sherford will

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therefore be possible following construction. This is being planned now following pressure from neighbouring communities to address a longstanding legal obligation requested by Plymouth City Council. As the neighbouring highway authority, the City Council wanted to manage the flow of traffic, and concerns about a 'rat run' through the narrow roads of Plympton St Maurice. The original plan was for a bollard to be installed at the top of Bullers Hill which would have prevented all traffic. As part of discussions with Plymouth City Council colleagues, The Sherford Consortium has brought forward the closure of the road process (stopping up) as a short-term measure to address this legal obligation. This is ahead of more permanent proposals that are still needed as part of this development. Access to Bullers Hill will still be available by other routes in the area. We are also aware of how difficult it has been for residents to view details of the consultation. Unfortunately, this is a process managed by the Department of Transport and no details are provided on their statutory notices of how to view the details online.

Information is however available from the Consortium website:

<https://sherford.uk/2026/02/23/proposed-road-closure>

This consultation is also published on our website at www.southhams.gov.uk/sherford-draft-order-sw6207 along with details of how representation can be made the Secretary of State's casework team."

It was confirmed that this route will be closed to vehicular traffic but still open for pedestrians.

BPC, District Cllrs, County Cllrs and residents questioned various aspects and suggested alternative courses of action. This is Phase 4B of the Sherford development – it is a new plot and part of the original planning permission.

Sherford resident stated that he witnessed the SHDC refuse lorry going on the pavement, which has already been dealt with (see above) He also raised the very serious issue of cars parking on the pavements, mounting the pavements and the green space when cars are dropping off and picking up from Sherford Vale School. This is becoming the norm. There is a minimum of 30 cars parking on the pavements and pedestrians are having to manoeuvre around the pavements. Cllr Hitchins stated that a resident raised this at the last meeting of BPC and as result a meeting has been set up with the local police inspector to discuss these concerns and work towards a resolution.

District Cllr Alison Nix stated that she will raise these concerns with Rebecca Smith, MP, at their quarterly meeting.

Sherford resident stated that the traffic management of the traffic lights on Equinox Road between Brixton and Sherford needs to be addressed. District Cllr Alison Nix stated that drivers need to adhere to the highway code but will raise this at their next meeting with the Consortium.

The final point from the resident is that the communication is poor from the Consortium, District Cllr Alison Nix stated that this is being raised at their meetings.

Carroll Island

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

Nothing to report

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SHDC General Information

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

SHDC met to agree the budget last week 2.99% increase which will result in an increase of 11p a week on a Band D property. Letters for council tax will be sent out to residents in approx. a week / 10 days Business forum business rates and taxes are also changing which will be discussed at a meeting on the 2nd March

LGR update briefing

District Cllr Alison Nix has compiled a 2-page update regarding the LGR proposal, Clerk confirmed that this has been sent to councillors

Neighbourhood Plans

SHDC will be a briefing for parish councils in March, to introduce the changes in the NPPF affecting some policies in Neighbourhood Plans.

Open Forum Closed

126. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Stuart Nix and accepted by all Councillors

127. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hitchins declared an interest in agenda point 129.1

Cllr Hawken declared an interest in agenda point 133.8 (Silverbridge Way extension)

128. Confirmation of minutes of the meeting Brixton Parish Council on Wednesday 28th January 2026

Cllr Clegg proposed BPC accept the minutes of Brixton Parish Council meeting on 28th January 2026 as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Wills. All others in attendance were unanimous. Cllr Hitchins signed the minutes of the relevant meeting.

129. Financial Matters

129.1 To receive approve the finance statement for February 2026

Receipts:

NIL

Amount

Payments:

K Aldridge - reimburse defibrillator pad	£91.14	General
K Aldridge - reimburse signs for grit bins	£56.40	General
K Aldridge - reimburse magnetic sleeves Sherford noticeboard	£48.94	General
E Hitchins - reimburse fee discussion with SHDC Planning Officer	£45.00	Silverbridge Way
NALC - LCAS Award Scheme	£240.00	General
S Axell - Community Support HelpBox	£102.33	Cost of Living
K Aldridge wages	£1,255.20	General

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K Aldridge expenses	£30.12	General
K Aldridge office allowance	£35.00	General
K Aldridge - reimburse February zoom	£16.79	General
BPC pension contribution (February)	£389.17	General
K Aldridge - reimburse LED Beacon Bar for Community Road Warden	£63.96	General
K Aldridge - reimburse 5xWarning lights & 10xbatteries Comm Rd Ward	£120.66	General
E Hitchins - mileage expenses South Hams Dementia Forum	£15.30	General
E Hitchins - Chairman's allowance - gifts	£15.00	General
E Hitchins - Chairmans Allowance reimburse refreshments Silverbridge	£8.00	General
DCC final invoice for Monkey Lane	<u>£3,485.62</u>	General
	<u>£6,018.63</u>	

19th December 2025

Current Account:	£25,578.30
Deposit Account:	£20,459.23
TOTAL:	£46,037.53

Statement balance at 3rd April 2025

Skipton Building Society £85,498.50

Current Balance:

P3	£1,124.26	
Legal Fees	£12,482.69	
Sherford 106 Contribution to Brixton Parish Council	£10,265.98	
Brixstix funds	£757.50	
Brixton History Group	£533.09	
Yealm Community Energy - 2022 Grant (Bee Wild)	£49.70	
Green Fund	£382.63	
Community Emergency Plan Grant	£115.45	
Community Amenity Space (Cofflete) Comm Tog Fund	£2,479.84	
River Yealm Water Quality (annual 2024)	£330.89	See note 1
River Yealm Water Quality (annual 2025)	£625.00	See note 1
River Yealm Water Quality - River Fly 2025	-£315.00	See note 1
Silverbridge Way expansion	£5,955.00	
Cost of Living Crisis	£304.98	
Book Sale - Community Prroject	<u>£105.57</u>	

Total of Fund allocated £35,197.58

Notes

1. River Yealm Water Quality Working Group funds are being collected by BPC (contributions will be received from 6 riparian parishes - BPC, YPC, N&N, WPC, Cornwood and Sparkwell) - BPC will hold these funds

River Yealm Annual 2025 contribution is £125.00

River Yealm River Fly 2025 contribution is £317.00

Therefore, monies BPC will receive from 6 riparian parishes are £442.00.

BPC Contribution is now included in the above figures

Awaiting contribution from Sparkwell for 2025

Cllr MacLennan proposed that BPC approve the finance report for February, seconded by Cllr Hawken. Cllr Hitchins abstained. All others in attendance were unanimous.

129.2 To discuss the appointment of an Internal Auditor for the financial year 2025 / 2026

Cllr Wills proposed that BPC ask Peter Vassallo to undertake the Internal Audit for the financial year 2025/ 2026 at a cost of £ 190.00, seconded Cllr Clegg. All others in attendance were unanimous

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130. Planning applications received from SHDC and DCC during January / February 2026

0400/26/ARM

Application for approval of all reserved matters following outline approval reference 0825/18/VAR relating to access, appearance, landscaping, layout & scale for a development of 72 bed care home with substation, parking and landscaping (the Outline application was EIA and an Environmental Statement was submitted)

Land At Sx 548 541, Aquila Drive, Sherford Plymouth

Councillors will meet to discuss the application on Wednesday 11th March with SHDC planning officer

131. Planning decisions made by SHDC / DCC during January / February 2026 (to note)

None

132. Local issues relating to Brixton Parish as a whole

132.1 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- Update from relevant meetings

A reply was received from MP Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 12th January acknowledging the letter stating the collective position of the nine Parish Councils sent in November. The four councils not included were Shaugh Prior, Harford, Ivybridge and Sparkwell. A meeting of the 13 parishes was held on 17th February where the LGR consultation was discussed. It was discussed that a further letter will be sent to government, exhibiting the November letter and confirming that this (plus any additional Councils who wish to be added) represents our collective position. The revised letter will also express the disappointment that Parish and Town Councils were not Statutory Consultees to the government consultation. A copy of these letters will also be sent to DALC as a statutory consultee to note our collective position to advocate accordingly on our behalf. Cllr Wills proposed that BPC follow the course of action stated above, seconded Cllr Martin. All others in attendance were unanimous.

District Cllr Nix has produced a precis of the SHDC 4-5-1 plan which had been circulated to all councillors.

Clerk confirmed that the LGR page on the BPC website is constantly updated.

The link to the consultation is Local Government Reorganisation in Devon where all the plans can be viewed - <https://www.devonlgr.co.uk/>. The closing date is 26th March 2026. Individuals can also comment on this consultation

132.2 Brixton Community Emergency Plan (CEP)

- Community Engagement Event - Devon Communities Together (DCT)

DCT will be holding a community engagement/information event on Wednesday 4th March in the Sherford Community Hub between 5.45pm and 7.45 pm to start thinking about emergency planning across the parish.

Posters will be displayed in Brixton, Sherford and Facebook – All welcome to attend.

Sherford CEP update:

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Sherford held its first Contingency Planning meeting on 19th February, led by Luke Rees from SHDC. This was attended by 10 residents and Sherford Land Trust. A further meeting will be arranged for people to choose roles once the Sherford Contingency Plan has been drafted.

132.3 Relevant updates from Brixton Parish Environment Working Group – Tuesday 3rd February.

The Terms of Reference, Policies and Action Plan were discussed and updated, these will be approved in agenda point 136.3

The free landmark tree has been delivered to Alex Whish, two trees have been delivered – One location has already been cleared at Cofflette in preparation, both will be planted in this area at the next planting event.

There will be a walk from Brixton to Sherford on Sat 25th April 10.30am starting at the Feoffee Park, Brixton. This will be advertised nearer the time.

132.4 Yealm Community Energy (YCE) – Application for Community Benefit Fund

YCE Community Benefit Fund is funded from surpluses generated by YCE's three solar farms and provides support to community and voluntary organisations in the Parishes of Brixton, Holbeton, Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo, Wembury, and Yealmpton.

The Community Benefit Fund is open for applications from mid-February until 19th April, with award decisions made by early June. There is a total of up to £20,000 available for grants in 2026.

This will be discussed at the March meeting for any projects to apply.

132.5 Update regarding Brixton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Hitchins attended a recent DALC training session regarding Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Hitchins stated that the Brixton Neighbourhood Plan group has started to review the Brixton Neighbourhood Plan; and is currently waiting to attend a briefing from SHDC on the implications of changes in the NPPF for neighbourhood planning in the South Hams.

132.6 Town & Country Planning Act 1990-Section 247 Proposed Stopping up of Highway at Road past Vealeholme OS Grid Reference: E:254657, N:054644; E:254670, N:054649; E:254741, N:054390; E:254800, N:054425

The Sherford Consortium has applied for a short section of public highway to be permanently closed. Known as 'Road Past Vealeholme', the piece of road is 282 meters long and runs between Main Street in Sherford and Plympton Hill. This proposal involves the stopping-up of a public highway, a formal road stopping-up order is required. This decision sits with the Secretary of State for Transport and an application has been submitted. A consultation period will take place from Monday 23 February 2026 for 28 days.

Discussion regarding the above was mainly the fact that a busy route would be taken away without replacing it straight away.

It was stated that the volume of traffic along Hercules Road and Sherford overall has far exceeded expectations, and there is a need to put in a temporary road until the new road is open.

Cllr MacLennan stated that there are 11,145 vehicles travelling along Hercules Road a day - 55% up since January 2021. There is also the closure of Deep Lane scheduled for 22nd April 2026 – 21st October 2027 that needs to be taken in consideration and how emergency services will access the area.

Cllr Hawken proposed that BPC express its concerns (as above) in a letter to the Secretary of State regarding the stopping up order, seconded Cllr MacLennan. All others in attendance were unanimous.

132.7 Update on Dawes Lane

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Plymouth City Council (PCC) has confirmed that improvements planned for several years are proceeding as funding has been secured through contributions from the Sherford development (£95k) and Government grants (£46k). Overgrowth of vegetation will be cut back from Monday 23 February, with the main work due to start on Monday 16 March, at which point the lane will need to be closed. Works are expected to finish in mid-May. A temporary traffic regulation order (TTRO) for the closure will be advertised on Monday 16 February.

133. Local Issues relating to Brixton

133.1 Climate Change / Bio-diversity update

To include:

- **Update regarding sign for 'saving hedgehogs'.**

Clerk has been liaising with parishioner, who will be obtaining a price for suitable signs for BPCs February meeting to ensure they are ready when the hedgehogs come out of hibernation. Parishioner is still awaiting the final quote for the signs from the supplier

- **South Devon National Landscape (SDNL) – update accessible picnic benches.**

The SDNL team has funds available via Defra Access for All Fund to help make the area more accessible and is offering accessible (wheelchair friendly) picnic benches for up to 10 parishes in the protected landscape. BPC was successful in its application and is now trying to obtain permission from Live West for the bench to be located either near the 'owl seat' on the corner of Steer Point Road and Elliots Hill or in the green space behind Yarda Walk / Holmbush Way. Clerk confirmed that it is only one 'accessible' bench per parish council. The bench has been delivered, and Clerk is still awaiting a reply from Live West

133.2 Highways

To include Highways Projects

- **Update on Red Lion Hill / Stamps Hill traffic calming**

Richard Jackson, Principal Highways Development Management Officer at DCC has confirmed that the design team have undertaken a design which is currently being safety audited. This will be subject to a DCC consultation.

- **Update regarding Monkey Lane and final payment to DCC**

The signs prohibiting vehicles except for access are now in situ at both ends of Monkey Lane and the bollards have been installed. Keys to the bollards are in the possession of the two landowners and Clerk. One will also be held by Community Road Warden and Cllr Hitchins.

Drainage at Monkey Lane, where it joins Catson Green, is prone to flooding and Cllrs Hitchins and Carson will meet on site to look at the drainage options. Landowner will also be scrapping the path. At the July meeting BPC agreed to fund the additional cost of £436.53 and up to £2000 for the installation of the bollards. Clerk has received the final invoice of £3485.62.

Clerk has sent a full breakdown of this amount to councillors prior to the meeting and Cllr Clegg proposed that BPC pay the final DCC invoice of £3485.62 for the works on Monkey Lane, seconded Cllr Gillard. All others in attendance were unanimous.

- **Update regarding exiting Monkey Lane into Sherford for pedestrians.**

A path providing access from Monkey Lane for pedestrians to Sherford Country Park is being constructed. This is running alongside the hedge into the Country Park and will join the existing PROW. Cllrs Hitchins and Carson will meet to look at the drainage

Cllr Hitchins stated that the probable history is that monks walked from Plympton to the Priests Cottages at Brixton so it would be good to keep this piece of history by naming the path at the lower end Monks Way leading into Monkey Lane.

Cllr Hitchins will be raising the name of the path by Monkey Lane with Mark Harris, prior to the Heritage evening. BPC could look to apply for signs for the new path connecting Brixton and Sherford - at the bottom of Lodge Lane, Catson Green, where Monkey Lane comes out on the road and at the bottom of the hill – total of 4 signs. At the recent Brixton Parish Environment Working Group decorative finger posts were discussed, a quote will be obtained.

- Update from YPC regarding the speed limit reduction between Brixton and Yealmpton

BPC had approached YPC to discuss the reducing the speed limit on the A379 between Yealmpton and Brixton to 40mph. At its February meeting YPC voted against the reduction of the speed limit between Brixton and Yealmpton, the Clerk reported that it was split evenly and the Chairman used his casting vote to vote against the motion.

To include Highways / Traffic updates

Update regarding training course for volunteers / councillors – Highway Safety Awareness

Clerk has undertaken this training along with Cllrs Carson, Clegg, Gillard, Hawken, Hitchins, MacLennan, Nix and Wills. Clerk is keeping a record of the training undertaken by volunteers and councillors on their training records. Cllr Martin is still completing this training. A letter has been written which Cllr Hitchins will be handing to volunteers along with a personal copy of the module to read and sign to confirm understanding.

133.3 The Green

- Update on The Green

Following the public consultation, feedback and discussions at the October BPC meeting Nick Colton produced a revised indicative plan with purely 'no parking restrictions (double yellow lines) marked around The Green, as well as along part of A379. Nick Colton, DCC Highways Officer has put this proposal forward for DCC. This will be subject to public consultation.

- Discuss meeting with the Brixton Feoffee Trust re possible parking project

At the November meeting of BPC Cllr Nix offered to be the BPC representative to meet with the Brixton Feoffee Trust in March.

133.4 Land at Cofflete Creek update

- Update on interpretation board (Cllr Gillard)

Community Together Funding – the figure allocated for the original project – Land at former Cofflete Mill – a future community amenity space was £4820.02. Spend so far £2340.18 (net).

The remaining figure is £2,479.84 has been earmarked for the second interpretation board which Nicky Bailey, South Devon National Landscapes, is continuing to work on. Alex Which confirmed at the meeting of Brixton Parish Environment Working Group on 3rd February he would liaise with Nicky Bailey. There is currently a query as to whether the mill was a tidal mill. There is varying information regarding this, and the production of the information board will be put on hold until BPC has a definite answer as to whether it was tidal.

Alex Which confirmed that there are more s106 monies available and Clerk has asked contractor to liaise with Alex Which regarding a quotation for additional Chestnut fencing along the top of the wall, finger post signs along with a shelf in the bird hide and a couple of seats.

- Update on the site

Planting of trees, hedges and bluebells took place in November and volunteers will be meeting on site Saturday 28th February for further tree planting and clearing the top site.

- Update on memorial to resident of Torr

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As agreed at the July meeting, at the request of a resident of Torr, BPC will include a memorial tree on the site.

133.5 Composters update (Cllr Clegg)

The meeting on 5th February was postponed and rearranged for next week.

There is a lot of green waste, but unable to shred at present due to time constraints and weather.

The tree trunk seat for Silverbridge Way will be discussed

133.6 Cost of Living Crisis update.

The Cost-of-Living group met recently and discussed looking for more funding.

County Cllr Tony Carson stated that the group could apply for DCC locality funding by 2nd March

Cllr Hitchins confirmed that the group would be applying to the Brixton Feoffee Trust for funds.

Tinned food, hygiene products and personal hygiene are provided, and the warm hub continues in

The Foxhound on a Thursday afternoon and is appreciated by regulars.

Cllr MacLennan confirmed that Sherford is self-funded.

- Update on Cost-of-Living Grants

The current Cost of Living balance is £304.98

133.7 Footpaths / P3 update

- Update with regard the broken seat on Footpath 4, near Mill Lane

A Contractor was approved at the January meeting to reinstate this seat; this has been hindered by the weather.

- Update on FP 30 / 31

DCC PROW Officer confirmed that the steps by the shore have been repaired and she is now looking at the other set of steps to ascertain what works are required.

- Discuss fallen tree on FP 26

Cllr Hitchins stated there was a fallen tree on FP26, and will be referred to the Ramblers new scheme of 'path maintenance'

Clerk stated that she had been approached by landowner with concerns regarding the handrail on the steps from Spriddlestone to Brixton Torr. The handrail has rotted away. Clerk has informed DCC PROW Officer who has instructed a contractor to look at this section.

133.8 Silverbridge Way

General maintenance

Cllr Hawken has removed the overhanging branches along the path. YPC has received criticism for the state of the pavement at the end of Silverbridge Way (Yealmpton side).

Cllr Clegg stated that the 'gate has dropped'. Cllr Clegg proposed that BPC ask the contractor to look at the gate when he undertakes the first scrape, seconded Cllr Wills. All others in attendance were unanimous.

- Update on the extension

BPC have £6k set aside as BPC's contribution and have allocated another £3k in the budget for 2026 / 2027. BPC and YPC have agreed the Terms of Reference for the group and the drawing showing the indicative route. The working group comprising of YPC and BPC - Cllrs Hitchins & Clegg and Cllr Hawken (as tenant) met and walked the route with representatives of YPC and the contractor in November. At the January meeting BPC stated that it would not support any preparation work until

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confirmation has been received from SHDC regarding planning permission. Cllr Hitchins has since contacted with the Duty Planning Officer and was advised to go through the 'Pre App' process where a Planning Officer would meet on site to discuss the plans. The working group will meet to look at completing the appropriate paperwork.

At its February meeting YPC also decided that no action on clearing the path would be taken until meeting had been held with a Planning Officer from SHDC. YPC also did not want to allocate funding until an overall costing was determined.

- **Update on the tree trunk along the path**

Cllr Clegg has spoken with the landowner, who is in full agreement with the installation of a tree trunk rather than a bench BPC with a local landowner is looking for a tree trunk to be placed in this location. Cllr Clegg will raise this at the meeting of the Composters next week. At the January meeting Cllr Hawken offered to shape the trunk and Cllr Martin offered to reinstate the 'bug magnet' when the trunk is in situ.

- **Discussion regarding signage of Silverbridge Way**

YPC have received a comment regarding the existence of the Silverbridge Way path is not clear at the Brixton side and the suggestion is that there should be better signage for the existence of an off-road path. BPC felt that there were enough signs in situ but do have extra signs if required.

133.9 Defibrillators

Cllr Clegg confirmed that all the defibrillators in Brixton are in good working order.

- **Update on the maintenance of the phone boxes housing the defibrillators**

Work to prep and paint the inside and outside of both telephone boxes (on the Green and at Fordbrook) and replace some steel parts for the windows is being undertaken. This is taking longer due to additional corrosion and the weather conditions.

- **Update on additional defibrillator pads**

As the defibrillator located in Venn Court is now BPCs responsibility it was agreed at the January meeting that an additional defibrillator pad would be purchased to ensure a spare was held. Cllr Clegg confirmed that he is in possession of this spare pad with an expiry date of 28th April 2028.

133.10 Street Furniture

- **Update on the refurbishment of the bench on A379**

At the November meeting BPC approved to replace the wooden slats on the 2 concrete benches along the A379 with hardwood Iroko 3x2 timbers, stainless dome bolts and installation at a cost of £915.61 + VAT (labour £200 and materials £715.61). The contractor has stated that the suppliers won't honour the quotation now and costs have increased significantly. Contractor is still looking for alternative suppliers.

- **Update on memorial bench on A379**

Cllr Hitchins is liaising with the parishioner regarding specification and prices of a memorial bench.

- **Update on planter by Elbridge House bus stop**

The planters that have been placed by BPC on A379 near the bus stop by Elbridge House have been moved, these will be moved back to the original location as agreed by DCC Highways and Brixton Parish Council.

- **Update from monthly street sweeping**

Date: 25th March 2026

Signed: E Hitchins

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

Cllr Hitchins used to write an article for 'Brixton Magazine' so will now report back at BPC meeting after each monthly clean. Cllr Hitchins confirmed that there was no street sweep in February due to the weather. Volunteers did litter pick from Otter to the main road.

133.11 Wildflower area at the top of Chittleburn Hill

Cllrs Gillard and Hawken have looked at the area to look at how it can be improved aesthetically. At the January meeting it was agreed that the area is cleared and the sleepers removed. There is no update due to the weather.

134. Local issues relating to Sherford

134.1 Climate Change / Bio-diversity update

Environment & Heritage Group (E&H) has successfully applied for £250 grant from Reuse and Repair Fund to purchase equipment to set-up repair café sessions in Sherford. The fund needs to be spent by March. The group is focusing on 4 strands of development, food growing, repair and reuse, co-education, renewables as part of this the that the following activities are planned:

- Arranging visits to community projects to progress these 4 strands, for 4 volunteers / residents. Keyham- Kintsugi Project, Keyham Green Spaces, Zoo Field at Central Park and Swarthmore allotments
- Using actions from the co-design sessions, to deliver the following: - form an allotment association, install educational signage in the Country Park, run two repair café sessions, produce a high-level community renewables plan.
- Working closely with Friends of Sherford Country Park to run four land-based practical skills workshops in the Country Park for 40 volunteers/residents; this will be around improving natural spaces. Wider environmental engagement will take place by running eco-activity stalls at the four community events, Sherford Day, Open Gardens, Harvest and Christmas Markets.
- Friends of Sherford Country Park are continuing to develop the wildflower meadow in the Country Park. They are also encouraging resident engagement in environmental and rural projects e.g. by promoting hedge laying and coppicing to encourage biodiversity.

134.2 Street Naming Project

Update on Local and Historical names for Sherford's Green Infrastructure

Following confirmation of a replacement speaker from the National Trust, Tif Dickenson, Senior Community, Participation and Volunteering Manager, and agreement from Sherford Vale School, the event will take place on either the 4th or 11th of June. Date to be confirmed.

134.3 Update on the provision of a new parish council noticeboard for Sherford

Cllr S. Nix will print the BPC information on A3 to be placed on the BPC section of the noticeboards

134.4 Traffic Update

December 2025	83,348	662 (increase)	November 2025	82,686
January 2026	78,014	5,334 (decrease)	December 2025	83,348

Date: 25th March 2026

Signed: E Hitchins

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

December 2025

- **Light vehicles** (motorcycles, cars & light vans) **91%**
- **Medium** (¾ axle vehicles, buses & trucks) **9%**
- **Heavy** (Articulated lorries) **1%**

The % breakdown between Light, Medium and Heavy vehicles has changed very little. The stats will be monitored and reported on when there are significant changes.

Average Volume

January 2026 - 78,014 is the highest Jan recorded; 10% higher than any previous January.

Currently the average daily traffic volumes on Hercules are now at **11, 145** January 2026)

- Update on Community Speedwatch

No further update due to bad weather. Currently the points from where traffic is being monitored is under review. A new advert for Speedwatch volunteers has been circulated via Sherford's February newsletter.

- Update regarding training course for volunteers – Highway Safety Awareness e-learning module

All Speedwatch volunteers and litter pickers have completed the training online or have signed for a hard copy of the training manual.

- Update regarding road safety in Sherford

Following the concerns raised by residents at the January BPC meeting in Sherford regarding unsociable parking and dangerous driving around the school area and wider Sherford, a meeting has been arranged with Inspector Ben Shardlow from Ivybridge Police Station on Tuesday 3rd March to discuss 'road safety' in Sherford.

134.5 Footpath updates including PROW.

The meeting to discuss PROWs was cancelled; the meeting is to be rescheduled.

Clerk to contact Ros Davies, DCC PROW Officer to reschedule this meeting

134.6 Defibrillators

To include

- Update on an additional defibrillator

Cllr Hitchins was going to write to the Sherford Consortium. Cllr MacLennan stated that she had previously written to the Sherford Consortium and provided costings and locations following a meeting with SW Ambulance Services.

District Cllr Julie Carson will raise this with the Sherford Consortium

134.7 Update from fire in Aquila Drive (September 2025)

Sophie Cobbledick, SHDC Housing Operations Manager stated on 11th February that the last 3 families were rehoused and that Plymouth Community Homes PCH, Clarion, Westward and LiveWest were all very supportive throughout the situation.

BPC thanked Sophie Cobbledick for her hard work throughout this situation.

135.8 Publicity / events

- The next dates for the Oasis Community lunch are Thursday 5th and Thursday 19th March
- The first Farmers Market will be on 12th April and every 2nd Sunday in the month until October.
- Coppicing Saturday session 21st March 10am – 4pm with James Dyson
- Sherford Day 18th April 2026 Sherford Day
- Open Gardens 7th June 2026 with a nature trail, bug hotel and community archive

Date: 25th March 2026

Signed: E Hitchins

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

135. Local issues relating to Carrollsland

There are no updates from Carrollsland.

136. BPC Administration**136.1 Discuss and update BPC Standing Orders**

Cllr Hawken proposed that BPC approve the updated Standing Orders, seconded Cllr Gillard. All others in attendance were unanimous. Clerk will place the updated Standing Orders on the BPC website.

136.2 Discuss and update Business Continuity / Scheme of Delegation Policies:

Cllr Clegg proposed that BPC approve the updated Business Continuity Plan and Scheme of Delegation, seconded Cllr Wills. All others in attendance were unanimous. Clerk will place the updated plan / policy on the BPC website.

136.3 Discuss and update Climate Change Policies: Terms of Reference Brixton Parish Environment Working Group, Biodiversity Policy, Environmental Policy and Environmental Policy Action Plan

Cllr Gillard proposed that BPC approve the following updated Climate Change Policies: Terms of Reference Brixton Parish Environment Working Group, Biodiversity Policy, Environmental Policy and Environmental Policy Action Plan, seconded Cllr Martin. All others in attendance were unanimous. Clerk will place the updated Climate Change Policies on the BPC website.

136.4 Civility and Respect Pledge – discuss individual councillors signing ‘Councillor’s Statement of Assurance.’

NALC’s Improvement and Development Board has introduced the Councillor’s Statement of Assurance. This initiative strengthens the commitment to creating positive, supportive and respectful parish and town council environments. BPC has demonstrated its organisational commitment by signing the Civility and Respect Pledge and councillors themselves must also personally commit to upholding these values in their daily work and interactions. Councillors who lead with civility and respect set the tone for their council and help ensure that council meetings and decision-making are effective, inclusive and fair.

The statement is a public affirmation of personal values and conduct and gives parish councillors the tools to create a positive and professional culture by confirming Councillors have read the Code of Conduct, including the principles of public life, and understand their obligations and the behaviour expected whenever acting as a councillor. Understanding duties as a councillor and adopting the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. The statement also covers behave respectfully towards others, upholding the values identified in BPC’s Code of Conduct and to attend training required by the BPC as part of the role as a councillor. Cllr Clegg proposed that all BPC councillors sign the individual declaration, seconded Cllr Wills. All others in attendance were unanimous.

Councillors in attendance all signed the declaration. Cllr S. Nix will sign the declaration at the March meeting.

Date: 25th March 2026

Signed: E Hitchins
Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

136.5 Councillor and Clerk training

- Update regarding Cyber awareness training

Clerk and all BPC councillors have been registered to undertake DALC Cyber Awareness training modules. All councillors have 12 months to complete all the modules. Date of enrollment 2nd April 2025. Clerk, Cllrs Gillard, Hawken, Martin, Nix, Wills and Clegg have completed all three modules, Cllr Hitchins one module and Cllrs Carson and MacLennan are yet to start.

- Update regarding Code of Conduct training (Standards in Public Life)

Clerk and all BPC councillors have been registered to undertake DALC Standards in Public Life training module. All councillors have 12 months to complete all the modules. Date of enrollment 6th October 2025. Clerk and Cllrs Clegg, Gillard, Hitchins, Hawken, Martin, MacLennan, Nix and Wills have completed the training module. Cllr Carson has yet to complete the training.

136.6 Update regarding application for NALC LCAS Gold Award

BPC has been awarded the prestigious Gold Award, the highest accolade for the second time, by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) as part of the Local Council Award Scheme. This achievement recognises that BPC achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. BPC has shown that it goes above and beyond legal obligations, leading its community and continuously seeks opportunities to improve and develop even further.

136.7 Update regarding a volunteer to represent BPC on the Yealm Harbour Authority

BPC is looking for a volunteer to represent BPC on Yealm Harbour Authority. There are ten regular meetings a year (every third Tuesday of month at 6pm, in the Harbour Office, there are no meetings in August and December) by zoom or in person. In addition, there will be a few subcommittee meetings, mainly budget/ staff appraisals in autumn. The Authority needs a wide base of member knowledge ranging from finances, accounts, legal, health and safety, environmental to more practical aspects of operating small businesses and obviously familiarity with marine matters. Many Harbour Authority members have moorings on the river, but this is not a qualification for being on the Harbour Authority. Someone who simply enjoys paddling or swimming could equally well represent Brixton on the Harbour Authority.

BPC has advertised this vacancy in Brixton magazine and Facebook, Clerk has not received any enquiries BPC's existing volunteer has asked that the Yealm Harbour Office contacts mooring holders from Brixton to assess any interest. This will be readvertised.

Clerk to ascertain from existing volunteer whether the volunteer needs to live in Brixton.

136.8 Discussion regarding the BPC monthly newsletter

Since Brixton Magazine has ceased BPC will produce a monthly newsletter, this will also be available by subscribing. Clerk wanted to confirm the content of the newsletter.

It was discussed and decided that just the main points from within the minutes be published in a newsletter. This will purely be Brixton items as Sherford has its own newsletter.

137. Councillor Reports

Cllr Martin stated that he witnessed dangerous driving / protocol from forklift trucks in Sherford. The forklift was at full reach with loose items. Cllr Hitchins asked if District Cllr Julie Carson could raise this with Rebecca Smith MP.

Cllr Hitchins asked Cllr Hawken if he knew about the tree that had been felled in Steer Point Road Clerk to investigate whether this tree had a TPO and why weren't BPC informed.

Date: 25th March 2026

Signed: E Hitchins

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

Cllr Hitchins stated that the Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm Annual General meeting will be held on 18th March at The Rose and Crown in Yealmpton at 2.30pm

Cllr Hitchins used her chairman's prerogative to add the following items to the agenda:

132.8 Application for Bathing Water Status for Newton and Noss Estuary

The recent application for BWS for Newton and Noss Estuary was accepted by DEFRA and is now one of 13 proposed bathing water sites for the DEFRA Official Consultation. The link for the consultation <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/13-proposed-bathing-water-sites/>

The consultation closes on 23rd March.

Cllr Clegg proposed that BPC support this application, seconded Cllr Wills. All others in attendance were unanimous.

138 Other updates / issues / consultations for discussion

138.1 Update on South Hams Community Awards 2026

BPC nominated Community Road Warden / Snow Warden Roger Smith for the Community Champion Award and Cllr MacLennan nominated Christine King for her work with the Friends or Sherford Country Park. BPC were unable to nominate Rachel Harrison-French as she doesn't live within SHDC. There is no update on the nominations

Cllr Taylor stated that the presentation would be held on 26th March at Follaton House and that 74 applications had been received.

138.2 Update on Royal Garden Party Nominations

BPC nominated the above nominees for the ballot both nominees were unsuccessful.

138.3 Have your say on shaping the future of tourism

SHDC is working in partnership with Business Information Point (BIP) to deliver an in-depth study of how visitors help our economy across the region. BIP and the councils want to hear from local businesses working in the tourism industry to hear about the challenges they're facing, the future investment that would help them, and what suggestions they may have for the councils. The details can be found at <https://businessinfopoint.co.uk/south-hams-west-devon-tourism/>

138.4 South Devon National Landscape Partnership meeting – 13th March 2026

The next meeting will be held on 13th March. This can be viewed via You Tube

139. Correspondence for information

139.1. Cascade 'Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTO) for Road Closures - DCC works:

- A379 Elburton Road (near Brixton Road Station Bridge) – Monday 21st July 2025 – Friday 10th July 2026
- Road past Vealeholme (for Deep Lane Cycle Bridge Scheme) – Wed 22nd April 2026 – Thurs 21st October 2027

139.2. All weekly bulletins from DCC / SHDC are placed immediately on the websites and Facebook

139.3. South Hams District Council – News Releases

- Local Government Reorganisation - Consultation is now live – closing date 26th March 2026
- Garden waste service subscriptions now open in the South Hams
- South Hams District Council driving local economic growth: Ivybridge plan in action

Date: 25th March 2026

Signed: E Hitchins

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

Cllr Hitchins thanked Cllr Taylor for attending the meeting.

Cllr Taylor stated that he enjoyed the meeting and congratulated BPC on the recent NALC LCAS Gold Award.

Cllr Hitchins closed the meeting at 9.33pm

Next meeting: **Wednesday 25th March 2026** in Sherford Community Hub

Kirstie Aldridge, Clerk, Brixton Parish Council

Date: 25th March 2026

Signed: E Hitchins

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council