



**Approved Minutes of Brixton Parish Council March meeting held on
Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 7.00 pm in Sherford Community Hub**

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

In attendance: District Cllr Julie Carson and Kirstie Aldridge (Clerk)

Members of the public in attendance: 2

Cllr Hitchins welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the format of the meeting.

Open Forum

Report from Devon County Councillor Tony Carson

No report received

Sherford

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

No report 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**

Planning applications

- Local Centre – Conversations between the Local Lead Flood Authority (DCC) and Consortium are ongoing to resolve a technical drainage concern.
- Care Home – an application (ref 0400/26/ARM) for a 72 Bed Care Home with accompanying substation, parking and landscaping has been received. SHDC has discussed the proposal with BPC.

Youth Facilities

- The Community Church and DCC have met to discuss the options around delivery of the Youth Facility within Sherford.
- Youth Support – DCC will be sharing details of good practice to guide delivery of facilities.

Deep Lane Overbridge

- Vegetation clearance began in February, with the main works proposed to start in May.
- Works are currently on hold, whilst the highway authorities, including National Highways, agree the Traffic Management arrangements. The perceived disruption is being taken seriously, but

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Signed: *E Hitchins*

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options are limited given limited routes and Deep Lane being a key junction. Modelling work will assist in ensuring that the least disruptive routes are proposed to help alleviate concerns.

- Delivery of the scheme is getting close to the wire now, as the funding was time limited. PCC to asked DCC to reconsider the proposals to move the bridge away from Deep Lane. This has cost and time implications, especially as scheme was consulted on in 2021 and planning permission has been granted so will require a fresh scheme.

Bullers Hill

- As previously advised, Stopping Up order is a natural part of the delivery process. Plympton Hill will need to be extinguished in its current form to make way for the new estate roads which is similar to what happened along Sherford Road and Brixton Road. Some 400 letters of objection have been submitted to the Secretary of State against this proposal.
- The Consortium is likely to proceed with the application. Given scale of objection, a request has been made to delay its implementation until Phase 4 is ready to come out of the ground.
- In parallel to this, DCC has withdrawn its TTRO for the same section of road. Whilst discussions are still ongoing re overbridge Traffic Management arrangements. Once these are finalised, DCC will apply for all the necessary TTROs in one go. This TTRO was proposed at the request of PCC, as a means of deterring additional traffic through Plympton St Maurice during the overbridge construction phase.
- SHDC currently have an FOI request in relating to the Bullers Hill Stopping Up Order.
- Following a meeting with Plants Galore the Consortium will consider additional signage showing the diverted route. PCC have also been contacted re: potholes on Vinery Lane.

Discussion with members of the public with regard Bullers Hill:

District Cllr Julie Carson explained that the DCC proposal is being withdrawn, and a complete plan will be prepared to cover the entire area. The Sherford Consortium proposal remains active, as pylons and gas pipes need to be removed for houses to be built where this current road is located. It was stated that this road should be completed first.

Resident raised the matter of s106 funding for bollards as a traffic mitigation measure, the cost was considered too high. The wording of the s106 agreement states: 'provision of bollard or such other works that are reasonably required following consultation with the public.' Questions were raised about where and when the public consultation took place. It was stated by District Cllr Carson that the consultation was held at the beginning with PCC in 2015. Resident stated that this section of road being closed is in South Hams, not Plymouth. District Cllr Carson stated that the closure was agreed as part of the 2015 PCC consultation as the cost of the bollards was prohibitive. The resident was advised to contact Cllr John Stephens, PCC and Ian Sosnowski, at SHDC for further clarification.

Sherford Road

- Sherford Road traffic calming, and drainage working is scheduled to start on the 13th April, with completion expected by the 19th June.
- The section of road between Gemini Road and Candish Drive will be prohibited to traffic except for access.

Road Safety

- In response to an increasing number of road safety issues, on the 20th March Ivybridge Police carried out a speeding operation on Hercules Road. One in five cars were travelling over the threshold. At this time motorists were warned, the next time motorists will be prosecuted, 46.6mph was the average speed.
- The Police were also present at Sherford Vale Primary School advising parents who parked on the pavement when dropping children off.

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GP Surgery

- The request by Pathfields Practice to extend its GP practice boundary to include Sherford has been agreed. Waiting for NHS funding.

Green Space Naming

- Possible dates for a meeting are now being discussed for June.

Access between 2D and Neighbourhood Ctr.

- Access difficulties to the western neighbourhood centre being experienced by a resident have been reported to the Consortium with suggested remedial actions. This ties into addressing concerns around general improvements to the coordination of site works and movement of the public to the neighbourhood centre and travel coordination.

Community Park

- At the quarterly Green Infrastructure Delivery meeting with the Consortium and the landscape contractor held on 24th February several key actions were agreed including path maintenance and repair (where affected by heavy rain) – scheduled for early summer and opening up of new parts of the Country Park safely.
- Woodland and tree avenue planting is near completion within the southernmost field adjacent to Monkey Lane and the paths installed. The entrance is still to be finished with some informal access already but not formally opened until bollards are in place. Whilst open when works being completed, it is still closed at weekends. It should be completed and open after Easter
- Friends of Sherford Country Park continuing to work hard as volunteers, completing the hedge-laying and coppicing. Coppicing event held on Saturday 21st March was attended by group who started making products to contribute to Sherford Day in April; also building a bug hotel above Lily Pond
- Signage is planned shortly from Consortium Communications team to highlight the presence of nesting birds (skylarks) and keeping dogs under control in certain fields within the Country Park

Boundary Park (or known as 'Park M')

- The Consortium has been advised to use suitable and appropriate replacement copings to repair vandalised ones.

Strawberry Park

- Consortium is seeking solutions to address surface water

Sports Pitches including Sherford Vale FC

- Multi-partner meeting held with Plymouth Argyle, Sherford Vale FC and Consortium. Work with the Consortium now underway to prepare for some football and cricket use from early summer in parallel with completing the *Bridge Stream works*, and the pavilion foundations and servicing. Planning application due in shortly for Pavilion.
- All weather pitch lights due for repair in early April.
- Cricket clubs now in contact with the Consortium over use of the cricket field and to prepare the playing surface – supported by Cricket Devon (ECB)

Grit Bins

These have been checked and are in place as per the plan published on the Sherford Website. All contain some level of salted grit.

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Allotments

Phase 1.1 - will continue following completion of Sherford Rd. Landscape Contractors looking at initial works and reviewing the approved plans. Working with Sherford Community Land Trust on management and early involvement.

Cllr Hitchins asked whether there was an update regarding communication with the Sherford Consortium. There is no further update.

Cllr Hitchins stated that residents are asked to contact Sherford Consortium via the info@ email but are not receiving a full answer. There were discussions around what can be done to rectify this, as this is a very serious long-term issue which will only continue to deteriorate the longer it is left as residents' concerns are no longer raised at the Sherford Liaison meetings.

Cllr Hitchins stated that she and Cllr MacLennan will meet with a Sherford Consortium representative to discuss improving communication with the residents of Sherford.

Brixton

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

Red Lion Hill

- DCC is in receipt of S106 funding for 'traffic calming' mitigation along Red Lion Hill. DCC has met with BPC to find suitable traffic calming options. DCC continuing to investigate suitable options.

Carroll Island

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

There is no update

SHDC General Information

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

There is no update, all the focus is on LGR

Resident spoke about his frustration with the issues still to be addressed in Sherford, nothing has changed in the last six months. The Consortium started on the next phase, whilst things are being left unfinished and dangerous in previous phase. For example, on the Sherford Consortium website, the news update specifically regarding works on Buzzard Way to install channel kerbs and block paving to complete the road surfaces, is incorrect. The date of completion is 19th March – this has still not been finished.

Communication is key, it is how the Consortium share the information, it is confusing, inaccurate, and conflicting information is being published on the website. The fact that it is not up to date doesn't help residents.

All concerns have been sent to the appropriate email address info@sherford.uk email, everything is being reported but nothing is being done or it is very sporadic.

Open Forum Closed

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140. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Tony Carson and accepted by all Councillors.
Apologies were also received from District Cllr Alison Nix

141. Declarations of Interest

Cllr MacLennan declared an interest in agenda point 143.1.

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

142. Confirmation of minutes of the meeting Brixton Parish Council on Wednesday 25th February 2026

Cllr Wills proposed BPC accept the minutes of Brixton Parish Council meeting on 25th February 2026 as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Gillard. Cllr Nix abstained. All others in attendance were unanimous. Cllr Hitchins signed the minutes of the relevant meeting.

143. Financial Matters**143.1 To receive and approve the finance statement for March 2026****Receipts:**

	Amount	
YPC - 1/2 share SHDC Planning appt - Silverbridge Way	£22.50	Silverbridge Way
DCC - Locality Grant	£500.0	Cost of Living Grant 25/26
Refund from Brixton Magazine - closure of the magazine	<u>£354.00</u>	General
	<u>£876.50</u>	

Payments:

	Amount	
K Aldridge - reimburse Sherford Hub room hire -March	£25.00	General
DALC - Neighbourhood Planning webinar	£42.00	General
BCA - Room Hire Brixton Community Room - 25th February	£25.00	General
A Hawkins - reimburse Continuous Water Monitor service	£480.30	River Yealm 2024 & 2025
A Kay - reimburse Community Support Helpbox	£206.70	Cost of Living Grant 25/26
T Filtness - reimburse Community Support Helpbox	£140.83	Cost of Living Grant 25/26
P MacLennan reimburse expenses for CEP event	£11.60	Community Emerg Plan Grant
K Aldridge wages	£1,255.20	General
K Aldridge expenses	£16.20	General
K Aldridge office allowance	£35.00	General
K Aldridge - reimburse March zoom	£16.79	General
BPC pension contribution (March)	£389.17	General
HMRC - Quarter 4	<u>£712.21</u>	General
	<u>£3,356.00</u>	

19th February 2026

Current Account:	£18,290.20
Deposit Account:	<u>£20,478.91</u>
TOTAL:	<u>£38,769.11</u>

Statement balance at 3rd April 2025

Skipton Building Society	£85,498.50
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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

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Brixton History Group	£533.09	
Yealm Community Energy - 2022 Grant (Bee Wild)	£49.70	
Green Fund	£382.63	
Community Emergency Plan Grant	£103.85	
Community Amenity Space (Cofflete) Comm Tog Fund	£2,479.84	
River Yealm Water Quality (annual 2024)	£0.00	See note 1
River Yealm Water Quality (annual 2025)	£475.59	See note 1
River Yealm Water Quality - River Fly 2025	-£315.00	See note 1
Silverbridge Way expansion	£5,977.50	
Cost of Living Crisis	£304.98	
Cost of Living Crisis DCC Grant 2025 2026	£152.47	
Book Sale - Community Project	<u>£105.57</u>	
Total of Fund allocated	<u>£34,880.65</u>	

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 / 2026

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

143.2 To ratify the approval of the www.brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk MOT by website provider

Cllr Martin proposed that BPC ask Vision ICT to undertake a MOT of the BPC website at a cost of £145+VAT, seconded Cllr Hawken. All others in attendance were unanimous

143.3 'Brixton Magazine' – return of grant monies

The 'Brixton Magazine' is closing its accounts after ceasing publication, with a remaining balance of £708 following paid debts and surplus funds from grants and donations. A proportional share of the surplus, £354, has been returned to BPC.

144. Planning applications received from SHDC and DCC during February / March 2026

0400/26/ARM Land At Sx 548 541, Aquila Drive, Sherford Plymouth

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)

Clerk, Cllrs Hitchins, Wills and MacLennan met with SHDC Planning Officer to discuss the application on Wednesday 11th March. Cllr MacLennan explained that the application was for a 72-bed care home, catering for residents outside the area as well as those in Sherford. It will provide employment for 60 staff, full and part-time: 24/7 cover. There will be a substation, with solar panels on the roof, separate staff facilities and the style of the building is in keeping with 2D. Some of the issues raised with the SHDC planning officer included a lack of GP vacancies to address residents' needs, there are no facilities in Sherford; additional traffic, parking conforms with current guidance, 30 spaces for visitors and staff, 2x accessible, parking has met with guidance of 1x space per 8 residents = 9 spaces; 1x space per non-residents e.g staff - 20 spaces; 1x space for an ambulance; for those residents who can go out, issues around the number of buses with disabled access, flooding issues have to be addressed as highlighted by the Flood Authority and there have already been issue highlighted by a resident around access to bin stores.

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Cllr MacLennan proposed BPC 'support' the planning application 0400/26/ARM, seconded Cllr Martin. All others in attendance were unanimous.

145. Planning decisions made by SHDC / DCC during February / March 2026 (to note)

None

146. Local issues relating to Brixton Parish as a whole

146.1 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- Update from relevant meetings

- Consultation – closing date 26th March 2026

A meeting of the 13 parishes was held on 17th February where the LGR consultation was discussed. Following this meeting, a draft letter to be sent to government was circulated to the nine parish councils (the four councils not included were Shaugh Prior, Harford, Ivybridge and Sparkwell) who agreed that the content of the letter sent on 17th November continues to represent the collective view of the nine parish councils. This letter also expresses disappointment that Parish and Town Councils have not been designated as statutory consultees in the consultation process. On 24th March Ivybridge chose to be part of this correspondence. Yealmpton PC confirmed on 24th March that the letter had been sent to government from 10 parishes.

BPC met to discuss a response from BPC on Monday 23rd March and the consultation questionnaire was completed.

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.

- South Hams Community Assets Policy

Cllr Hitchins attended a SHDC briefing on 18th March regarding their Community Assets Policy, this is in preparation for LGR.

The policy states 'The Council will only consider asset transfer requests for land or property in category 3 above' – category 3 is 'Parks, open spaces, sports pitches.

Cllr Hitchins stated that within Brixton parish there are the following:

- The grass verge from Ladybirds down to the first houses in Steer Point Road
- The play space in Elliotts Hill
- The piece of land on the corner of Elliotts Hill with Steer Point Road (opposite the Owl Bench)
- The piece of land fenced off on the side of Steer Point Road

Following discussion, BPC agreed that it would be interested in the land and learning more from SHDC regarding the play space. BPC asked Clerk to contact SHDC and BPC insurance to obtain more information regarding the play space – cost of the equipment, risk assessments, insurance, previous incidents, number of checks undertaken etc. Clerk to contact Rob Sekula, SHDC for more information.

146.2 Brixton Community Emergency Plan (CEP)

- Update from Community Engagement Event - Devon Communities Together (DCT)

DCT held a community engagement/information event on Wednesday 4th March in the Sherford Community Hub to start thinking about emergency planning across the parish. This was a cross-parish Community Emergency Planning Event run by Rod Birtles from Communities Together with ten people in attendance. The feedback was that we 'have an engaged and lively' group.

Sherford CEP update:

Date: 29th April 2026

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The next step is for Cllr MacLennan to write the Sherford Contingency Plan. She is interested in using the Community Emergency Hub model and will approach DCT to progress this.

146.3 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.

An application could be made for the Silverbridge Way extension. Cllr Hitchins to follow up.

146.4 Update regarding Brixton Parish Neighbourhood Plan following SHDC briefing.

Cllr Hitchins attended a recent DALC training session regarding Neighbourhood Planning and a briefing from SHDC on the implications of changes in the NPPF for neighbourhood planning in South Hams.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 14 has been revised, reflecting the government's push to significantly increase housing development. As a result, neighbourhood plan policies relating to development now need to be reviewed and updated. The briefing was provided by the SHDC Strategic Planning Officer, who acknowledged the considerable effort that has gone into preparing the neighbourhood plans. It was confirmed that SHDC will produce its own Local Plan with WDBC, consulting with parish councils.

Cllr Hitchins stated that the Neighbourhood Plan group has not yet met following these meetings but will do so to decide how to take this forward. The current advice to groups is to pause for the time being. However, this does not prevent BPC's Neighbourhood Plan group from looking at possibilities.

146.5 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 is 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.

BPC has received confirmation that its comments have been received. The comments included were under the following headings 'Impact on Local Access and Connectivity', 'Severe Strain on Deep Lane, Haye Road, and 'Surrounding Network' this incorporated the following traffic statistics 11,145 vehicles travelling along Hercules Road a day - 55% up since January 2021 and the 'Impact on Emergency Services and Public Safety.'

This was discussed in the open forum.

146.6 Update on Dawes Lane

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). Work started with the cutting back of vegetation from Monday 23 February, and the main work started on Monday 16 March. The lane is currently closed. The work is expected to finish in mid-May.

146.7 Relevant update from River Yealm Water Quality Working Group – 2nd March 2026

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An updated River Yealm report was received, and the River Yealm Spring Summer 2025 report is available on the website <https://www.rywqg.com/>

The 'Mudspotter' project has commenced and is available as an app to download and use.

The group invited Rebecca Smith MP to attend a drop-in session on Sewage Scandal and the Water White Paper following the channel 4 programme 'Dirty Business'

The 'yellow fish' 'Only Rain Down the Drain' campaign was discussed, and a proposal will be written regarding a forthcoming community event where the group will encourage parish councils to become involved.

146.9 Update on Dementia Friendly Community Action Plan

Clerk confirmed that all BPC councillors have completed the Dementia Friendly Training.

Clerk to add this to April discussion for further discussions.

146.8 Proceeds of Crime Act fund

A community group within the D&C Police area had applied for funding from the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) fund which redistributes cash or assets seized from criminals and gives it to good causes. A recent press release stated 'POCA funding is a great source of these initiatives, and we welcome similar applications from other community groups who can make a difference locally.'

Cllr Hawken proposed an agreement in principle that BPC can contact D&C Police regarding these funds following the compilation of a list of required equipment, seconded Cllr Gillard. All others in attendance were unanimous. Cllr Hitchins will compile a list and then Clerk will contact D&C Police.

147. Local issues relating to Sherford

147.1 Climate Change / Bio-diversity update

- Community Archive - Following the unsuccessful funding bid to the National Archives for an initial grant for the Community Archive the current work will continue with plans to submit another application in the next bidding round.
- Friends of Sherford County Park have been in conversations with Alex Whish around their relationship with the Consortium moving forward. As a volunteer group they are looking at discussing funding/partnership/contract with the Consortium for some of the land management, specifically around the coppicing and hedge laying.
- The Environment and Heritage Group visited Keyham Green Places and Kintsugi Project on 17th March to learn about allotment management and community farming which included using micro plots and ensuring that allotment size would meet residents' needs. A visit has been arranged to Zoo Field community composting site and Swarthmore Allotments on 16th April.
- The focus is on preparing for Sherford Day on 18th April - education about bats; nature trail in the country park, with questions relating to wildlife and plant life; making a bug hotel; possibly display and sale of products from coppicing; a BioBlitz that would coincide with Plymouth City Nature Challenge, the following weekend: facepainting; archive collecting and sea themed workshop with Conscious Sisters. Undertaking various projects looking at how communities can engage with the Ocean e.g. Heritage knitting around Plymouth, fisherman's jumpers, encouraging locals to take up traditional tasks.

147.2 Street Naming Project

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

Delays have been ongoing. The Land Trust has now received some dates from the school for June. They will be contacting relevant speakers to confirm their availability.

147.3 Update on the provision of a new parish council noticeboard for Sherford in Urban Quarter

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BPC's information is now on the four noticeboards. Thanks to Cllr Stuart Nix for providing the posters on A3.

147.4 Traffic Update

- Update on site 5 Hercules Road (the counter near Sherford Vale Primary School)

The % breakdown between Light, Medium and Heavy vehicles have changed very little.

The stats will be monitored and reported on when there are significant changes.

January 2026

- Light vehicles (motorcycles, cars & light vans) as % 69, 727 90%, down 1% from December 2025
- Medium (½ axle vehicles, buses & trucks) 7,671 10%, up 1%
- Heavy (Articulated lorries) 428 1%

Month

January 2026	78,014	5,334 (decrease)	Dec 2025	83,348
February 2026	77,637	377 (decrease)	Jan 2026	78,014

Average weekly Volume

Jan to Dec 2025	Jan to Dec 2024	Jan to Dec 2021
78,414	73,702	50,433
January to Feb 2026	77,826 (-1%)	Still 54% increase on 2021

Currently the average daily traffic volumes on Hercules are now at 11,118.

January and February, traditionally, have the lowest traffic volumes. The total for Jan and Feb 2026 is 155,651 which is 11% greater than the next highest Jan-Feb period (2025)

- Update on Community Speedwatch

The Speedwatch team conducted its first session of 2026 on 23/3/26, from 16:00 to 16:45, on Hercules Road, monitoring traffic travelling South. Recorded 506 vehicles - the highest recorded speed was 32mph.

The next Speedwatch session will take place on 31st March.

There are on 4 active members, new recruits are needed for this team.

Amy Turton, Community Speedwatch Manager for Devon and Torbay, linked the group with Sherford's 'Neighbourhood Beat Manager, Rob Pike who will be attending some future sessions.

- Update regarding road safety in Sherford

Following the concerns raised by Sherford residents at the January BPC meeting regarding unsociable parking and dangerous driving around the school area and wider Sherford, BPC met with Inspector Ben Shardlow from Ivybridge Police Station on Tuesday 3rd March to discuss 'road safety' in Sherford. This was a very successful meeting with the following actions undertaken as a result of this meeting. The next meeting will be on 8th May.

Update from 'Neighbourhood Beat Manager', Rob Pike confirming that he attended the school on a couple of occasions over the past week to educate parents about not parking on the pavements. He is aware from his own observations that there are general problems with pavement parking affecting all the roads and pavements around Sherford. The main challenge is that the roads and pavements are still not adopted by DCC which effectively makes parking issues unenforceable unless they are causing immediate danger or full obstruction. He will continue to patrol Sherford and educate those drivers who park on pavements, especially persistent offenders,

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Update from Ivybridge and Rural Police: In response to an increasing number of Sherford residents complaining about road safety in Sherford, they have provided a visible presence and educating road users over the past few weeks; on Friday 20th March a Speeding Operation was carried out on Hercules Road where 1 in 5 cars were travelling over the threshold the Police would normally prosecute. One driver was travelling at 46 mph, within a 30mph limit. It was good to see that most residents have a social conscience and were supportive of the Police in making the roads safer for everyone. The Police have also been present at Sherford Vale Primary School. educating parents who park on the pavement when dropping their children off. The Police have asked people to be mindful that parking on the pavement can cause a significant danger to children when crossing the road and that everyone has a responsibility to keep our communities safe.

147.5 Footpath updates including PROW.

The meeting to discuss PROWs was cancelled; Ros Davies, DCC PROW Officer will look to reschedule this meeting for April.

147.6 Defibrillators

To include

- Update on an additional defibrillator

The original application for the purchase and installation of 3 x defibs in Sherford Country Park was sent to the Consortium on 8th October 2025. A further e-mail with all the details was sent to BPC to write to the Consortium to progress on 8th February 2026. Cllr. MacLennan will be drafting a letter to the Consortium and the Sherford Land Trust to progress.

147.7 Publicity / events

- The Oasis Community lunch - the next dates are 2nd and 16th April
- Farmers Markets for 2026 will be on 12th April and every 2nd Sunday in the month until October.
- Sherford Day 18th April 2026.
- Open Gardens 7th June 2026 - nature trail, bug hotel, community arch

148. Local Issues relating to Brixton

148.1 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.

Clerk has received a favourable reply from the Estate Delivery Team Manager who has referred this to the Operations Manager for the Estates Team. There is no further update at this stage.

148.2 Highways

To include Highways Projects

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

Richard Jackson, Principal Highways Development Management Officer at DCC met with Clerk, Cllrs Hitchins and Wills, Community Road Warden, and a parishioner to discuss issues with the indicative scheme of speed humps. As the noise from speed humps would be prohibitive and traffic island/buildouts would cause difficulties for residents to access their drives safely it was agreed that DCC look at the 20-mph speed limit (as per the original plans), enhance the gateway signage and a permanent VAS to be installed. There is also the option of a build-out at the gateway. This option, on site, will be discussed with the Safety Auditor to obtain an initial safety audit view and with the Traffic Team at DCC.

- **Update regarding Monkey Lane**

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.

- **Update regarding drainage in Monkey Lane**

Drainage at Monkey Lane, where it joins Catson Green, is prone to flooding. Cllrs Hitchins and Carson met on site to look at the drainage options. BPC thanked the landowner for scraping the path. Nick Colton, DCC Highways Officer has provided a map with the location of the gullies / drains. Two gullies towards the Sherford end of Monkey Lane could not be located. Some drains were found, and partial clearing has been done, though further work is needed to improve safety. Nick Colton will look to locate the other drains.

Cllr Hitchins stated that along the edges there is some mud remains along the edges of the hedges, which need to be swept and cleared.

Cllr Hitchins proposed that BPC speak with contractor and obtain a price for the clearance, seconded Cllr Clegg. All others in attendance were unanimous. Cllr Clegg will contact contractor.

- **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. It runs alongside the hedge into the Country Park and will join the existing PROW. Cllr Hitchins has contacted Mark Harris regarding the probable history 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.

The walk from Brixton to Sherford will take place on Saturday 25th April starting in the Feoffee Park at 10.30am.

At the recent Brixton Parish Environment Working Group four decorative finger posts were discussed to be strategically placed directing walkers towards Sherford and Brixton via Monkey Lane.

Alex Whish met the contactor on site and discussed the design and form - cleft posts with saw timber finger posts with routed lettering (wording to be agree) and installation of the posts with postcrete. This would be at a cost of £520 per post due to its bespoke design and bespoke contractor.

Total of £2080. Cllr Gillard proposed that BPC accept the quotation from Eddie Church and complete a Community Benefit Fund application to Yealm Community Energy (YCE) for the four decorative finger posts. Seconded Cllr Wills. All others in attendance were unanimous. Clerk to complete the application form.

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

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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 parking

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. There is no update.

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

At the November meeting of BPC, Cllr Stuart Nix offered to be the BPC representative in discussions with the Brixton Feoffee Trust. The meeting took place on 21st March with two trustees.

A preliminary assessment has been completed, Clerk to email Clerk to the Feoffee Trust to ask for a copy of this assessment. A survey would need to be undertaken. Clerk to ask Nick Colton, DCC Highways Officer for advice going forward. The consensus was that overall, the site is considered a good use of space and worth progressing further. It was agreed that a working group would need to be established to take the project forward.

148.3 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 Whish 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 tidal. 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.

One suggestion was that as the book states this is a 'tidal' mill can this be quoted so the emphasis is on the author of the book. Clerk to liaise with Alex Whish.

- Update on the site

The two landmark trees were planted on Saturday 28th March 2026 by Alex Whish and volunteers.

Following the update that there could possibly be more s106 monies available Alex Whish met the contractor on site and discussed the following works:

- Additional fencing across the top of the retaining wall – this would be the same style and form as the current installed cleft chestnut fence – inset about 800mm for the face of the wall. The total length is 27m. This includes a short 3m section return at either end so 3m, 21m, 3m. This include coppicing all tree stools which run along the top of the retaining wall as part of ongoing management.

Bespoke contractor at a cost of £3240

- Shelf / couple of shelves in the bird hide – this would be in matching timber, installation of a shelf below the left hand opening to accommodate a thermal mug/water bottle etc for those watching the wildlife in a smooth, planned top surface

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- Some seating in the bird hide - a perching seat of similar length to the left opening in cleft chestnut and smoothed for sitting comfort. A couple of round log seats for children – approx. 350mm dia and 400mm high
Bespoke contractor at a cost of £1050
- Two decorative finger posts pointing towards Cofflete – the design and form was discussed, agreeing cleft posts with saw timber finger posts with routed lettering (wording to be agree) and installation of the posts with postcrete.
Bespoke contractor at a cost of £520 per post (£1040)

This would be a total of £5330 with no VAT charged by the bespoke contractor

Alexis Huggins, SHDC has stated the following s106 funding would be available for application:

- Venn Farm Phase 2a (07/1196/15/F) - £6,131.69 remaining for open space. To be spent before 08/05/2028.
- Butlas Farm (07/1601/08/F) - £15,461.32 for OSSR within or directly relating to Brixton Parish. To be spent before 14/12/2041.

Cllr Gillard proposed that BPC accept the quotation from Eddie Church for the bespoke works and Clerk contacts Alexis Huggins, SHDC to ask for £5330.00 from the s106 funding. Seconded Cllr Nix. All others in attendance were unanimous.

- **Update on memorial to resident of Torr**

As agreed at the July meeting, at the request of a resident of Torr, BPC will include a memorial tree on the site. One of the two trees that were planted on the 21st March was in memory of Malcolm. The planting was well attended, with residents of Torr attending the ceremony.

148.4 Composters update (Cllr Clegg)

There is currently a large amount of green waste on site, which is scheduled to be cleared by the end of the financial year. The shed roof has been repaired. This work was carried out by Steven Cane at his own expense, and thanks were noted at the meeting. The bunker project is in progress. Re potential impact of LGR, it has been confirmed that PCC does not operate a credit scheme like SHDC and if this is the case, then the site will be for the use of Brixton residents only and the site will continue to operate as it currently does. The account balance currently stands at over £6,000.

148.6 Cost of Living Crisis update.

The Cost-of-Living group met recently.

The group applied for £500 from County Councilor Tony Carson's DCC locality fund, this was approved, and funds have been received and spent due to the constraints of being spent in this financial year 2025 2026.

The Brixton Feoffee Trust has confirmed a donation of £300.00 in the next financial year.

BPC has earmarked a sum of £500.00 for this project in their 2026 2027 budget.

The warm hub continues in The Foxhound on a Thursday afternoon and is appreciated by regulars. There will be 'soup' offered Monday lunch times in The Foxhound.

Thanks were expressed to Annie Kay and Rosemary & Trevor Filtness for shopping for items for the Community Support Help Box located in the church porch.

- **Update on Cost-of-Living Grants**

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The current Cost of Living balance is £310.07

The current balance in the DCC Grant 2025 2026 is £nil – this has been used

148.7 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. There is no further update.

- Discuss fallen tree on FP 26

The tree on FP 26 has been removed by the Ramblers under the new scheme of 'path maintenance.'

The handrail on the steps from Spriddlestone to Brixton Torr has rotted away. Clerk has informed DCC PROW Officer who has instructed a contractor to look at this section. There is no update.

148.8 Silverbridge Way

General maintenance

At the February meeting it was approved to ask the contractor to mend the gate that has 'dropped'. Contractor will mend the gate when he undertakes the first scrape.

- 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. Cllr Hitchins has 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 has met and completed the appropriate paperwork for a 'pre-app'

- 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. 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. Steven Cane will be looking for an appropriate log.

148.9 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.

- Annual CPR and Defibrillation session 2026 provided by SW Ambulance Service

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Community Engagement and Training Officer for SW Ambulance Service has offered to undertake the annual defibrillator awareness session. Clerk to ascertain if they would be able to provide two sessions, one in Brixton and the other in Sherford.

Brixton preferably an evening session, possibly during the first two week in June – Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evening (avoiding 3rd, 4th and 11th) and Sherford, again an evening session during the last two weeks in September.

148.10 Street Furniture

- Update on the refurbishment of the bench on A379

At the November meeting BPC agreed 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. There is no further update.

Clerk to ensure that there is a firm price for the April meeting.

- Update on memorial bench on A379

Cllr Hitchins is liaising with the parishioner regarding specifications and prices of a memorial bench. The location is possibly on the grass between Lodge Lane and Brixton Lodge Gardens.

- Update from monthly street sweeping

On the first Saturday in March 11 people turned out to help with the street clearance, from Old Road on one side of the A379 to Elbridge on the other side, including the area around the nursing home. Thanks were also expressed to the volunteers for their ongoing litter-picking efforts.

148.11 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.

148.12 Life on the Kitley Estate – exhibition Spring 2027

The Yealmpton Archive Group is planning an exhibition in Spring 2027 about life on the Kitley Estate from 1880 to 1945. Ideas for the exhibition include the Bastard family tree, life in Kitley House, Kitley Gardens, Kitley Quay and Cottage, and the Fish House. It will also cover John Simmons, the Yealmpton Railway, and the Rifle Club's connection with the local community and include the electoral registers from 1921 and 1939. The exhibition will welcome contributions from anyone who has worked on the estate and has any relevant information.

149. Local issues relating to Carrollsland

There are no updates from Carrollsland.

150. BPC Administration

150.1 Discuss and update Finance Policies: Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy, Expenses Policy, Financial Regulations, Grant and Donation Policy, Internal Controls Policy, Investment Policy, Reward and Recognition Policy

Cllr Gillard proposed that BPC approve the updated Finance Policies: Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy, Expenses Policy, Financial Regulations, Grant and Donation Policy, Internal Controls Policy, Investment Policy, Reward and Recognition Policy seconded Cllr Clegg.

All others in attendance were unanimous. Clerk will place the updated Finance Policies on the BPC website.

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150.2 Discuss and update Information Data policies: Freedom of Information Publication Scheme and IT Policy

Cllr Hawken proposed that BPC approve the updated Information Data policies: Freedom of Information Publication Scheme and IT Policy, seconded Cllr Gillard.

All others in attendance were unanimous. Clerk will place the updated Information Data policies on the BPC website.

150.3 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 has received an update from DALC and the records show that Clerk, Cllrs Gillard, Hawken, Hitchins, Nix, Wills and Clegg have completed all three modules, Cllr Martin 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.

150.4 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.

Clerk has ascertained from the existing volunteer the new volunteer does not need to live in Brixton. This will be readvertised.

150.5 Discussion regarding the BPC monthly newsletter

The monthly newsletter is available on the BPC website.

150.6 D&C Police – Councillor Advocate Scheme

Cllr Martin is BPC representative on the Police Advocate scheme. Clerk to ensure that Cllr Martin receives the invites for the quarterly meetings.

150.7 Civility and Respect Pledge – ‘Councillors Statement of Assurance.’

As discussed at the February meeting of BPC, 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. All councillors in attendance at the February meeting agreed to sign

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this assurance and Cllr Nix has today signed the declaration. All BPC councillors have now agreed to this individual declaration.

150.8 Publishing of BPC agendas and minutes on the BPC website

As previously discussed, all parish council websites must meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 AA, at present the BPC does not meet these criteria as several uploaded documents are not accessible. An example of this is the BPC agenda and minutes. At present these are uploaded to the website with a 'wet signature', this does not meet the accessibility guidelines. Recent advice from NALC confirms that a summons does not need a traditional signature, as it must be 'certified' by the Proper Officer, which can include an electronic or typed name. This means an electronic signature is acceptable for issuing summons documents. However, official minutes must still be kept as hard copies with a wet signature, while published versions can use electronic signatures if needed. Therefore, all BPC agendas and minutes will be uploaded with an electronic signature with the 'wet' signature minutes retained by the Clerk.

151. Councillor Reports

There were no further issues raised.

152 Other updates / issues / consultations for discussion

152.1 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 of Sherford Country Park. The presentation will be held on 26th March at Follaton House. There is no further update on these nominations.

152.2 Update from South Devon National Landscape Partnership meeting – 13th March 2026

There is no update.

152.3 Update from Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm AGM – 18th March 2026

This was a very successful event.

152.4 Update from SHDC briefing – Community Assets – 19th March 2026

This has already been discussed under LGR agenda point.

153. Correspondence for information

153.1. Cascade 'Temporary Traffic Regulation Order*s (TTO) for Road Closures relating to 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 Oct 2027

153.2. All weekly bulletins from DCC and SHDC are placed immediately on the websites and Facebook pages

153.3. South Hams District Council – News Releases

- Local Government Reorganisation - Consultation is now live – closing date 26th March 2026
- Battery waste sparks fire safety warning from council
- South Hams District Council commits to its ambitious Council Plan

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Cllr Hitchins closed the meeting at 9.42 pm

Next meeting: **Wednesday 29th April 2026** in Brixton Community Room

This meeting will include the Annual Parish meeting.

Kirstie Aldridge, Clerk, Brixton Parish Council

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Signed: *E Hitchins*
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