



**Draft Minutes of Brixton Parish Council June meeting held on
Wednesday 24th June 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 Ian Martin, Cllr Prem MacLennan and Cllr Stuart Nix

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

Members of the public in attendance: 1

Cllr Hitchins welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that due to the current heatwave BPC had moved the meeting outside to ensure everyone was comfortable in the heat and explained the format of the meeting.

Open Forum

Guest Speaker - Kerry McCabe – TRAYE (Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement) Service Manager

Kerry McCabe outlined the application by TRAYE for a grant from BPC towards youth provision in Yealmpton currently attended by 6 young people from Brixton. Alongside the youth clubs, TRAYE also provides one-to-one youth work and offers trips and activities to provide positive experiences and opportunities. TRAYE also supports young people in developing their employability by helping them build their CVs and gain valuable experience. Young people aged 16 and over are given the opportunity to become youth club workers, allowing them to develop practical skills while supporting younger members of the community.

There is a strong demand for the youth club to run weekly, with separate sessions for younger and older age groups. The provision currently supports young people aged 8 to 19, and because of the wide age range, it is better to split the provision into sessions for younger and older participants to ensure activities are age appropriate.

Yealmpton Parish Council has been very supportive of the youth club and has already contributed £4,000 towards the service and would be willing to increase this contribution to £8,000. The total cost of delivering the full package of youth provision is approximately £16,000. Additional funding would need to be provided for weekly sessions to be provided for both age groups.

Yealmpton would like the youth club to continue being based in Yealmpton. As part of a wider package of youth services, there is potential to expand the provision through outreach work within the local community. These options could be explored further as part of the future development of the service.

The youth club is currently based at the athletics club and St Bartholomew's Church. Having access to the playing field is an important part of the provision, as it allows young people to take part in outdoor educational and sporting activities. Kerry also highlighted the importance of supporting young people's mental health. Additional funding is provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Devon Community Fund. Overall, there is a strong emphasis on serving rural communities.

Cllr MacLennan stated that SPACE is undertaking some work in Sherford.

In March figures showed that there were 110 young people registered, with 92 regular attendees (having attended more than four sessions). This includes 5 regular attendees from Noss Mayo, 8 from Newton Ferrers, and 6 from Brixton.

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

If Brixton, Newton & Noss and Holbeton Parish Councils were unable to provide the necessary funding, alternative sources such as the National Lottery could be explored. The current model of alternating weekly sessions for younger and older groups could continue while other funding opportunities were explored and look for additional funding elsewhere.

If BPC was to support the project, BPC would need to ensure that there were agreement and commitment from the other parishes

Parents of young people from Brixton provide transport for them to attend.

Cllr Hitchins explained that this was on the agenda for BPC to discuss later in the meeting.

Report from Devon County Councillor Tony Carson

Local Government Reorganisation continues to be the focus at County Hall.

The Government has asked all Councils in the Devon to come up with a plan for Devon that is reasonable for all parties. The chosen proposal is expected to be announced on 19th July.

SEND and the cost of road repairs are the two areas challenging the County Budget.

County Cllr Tony Carson is on the Local Liaison Group for Hemerdon Mine. The company has considerable employment opportunities and is currently recruiting details can be found on the TW website. They are also looking for accommodation; mining experts coming will be coming in for up to two years at a time to train a local workforce and are keen to source family accommodation for these individuals and their families.

DCC and PCC continue to work out how to manage the traffic at Deep Lane End Bridge which will have to take different route whilst the works are ongoing.

County Cllr Carson stated that discussions are continuing regarding the election in May 2027. The outcome will be dependent on the final model of LGR chosen by the government.

Brixton

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

It has been reported that the gate into the country park was locked, the bollard was knocked down by a quad bike. A replacement bollard has been ordered and then the gate will be reopened.

Sherford

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

Sherford Community Trust Board Meeting 12/06/2026 - Meeting was not Quorate

Due to not being quorate no official meeting was held

Events / Future Events

- Monthly Farmers Market restarted April 12 and second Sunday every month
- Historical Day June 3rd – successful and enjoyable evening with speakers from National trust at Saltram, Riverford and SHDC for naming of the green spaces.

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

Other Updates

- Temporary GP Surgery: The NHS is progressing the planning application.
- Country Park: Final walkovers commenced during the first week of June, including inspections of the edible edge within Phase 2D.
- Water Connections: Enabling works are commencing to facilitate the northern water main connection.
- E-newsletter is now running successfully every two months. Next edition to go out August 2026. BPC can ask for any information to go into it .
Email info@sherfordtrust.org.uk if required

Steve Fowler joined from the Consortium

- Trinity is new management company to start on 23rd August replacing Firstport
- Northern cricket pitches – Some drainage works ongoing - Pavillion aim to be available for next year
- Leisure Centre Update – Attracting an operator is the main issue. Ongoing discussions with various parties.
- Local Centre - To be built by Vistry who are keen to start.
- Sherford Road works ongoing and on target.
- Business Park – Ground works / levelling almost complete.
- Allotments - Ongoing discussions re boundary's etc
- Consortium notes that [//sherford.uk/](http://sherford.uk/) website news and events have more information on it and news about ongoing works

Grant Applications

- No Grant applications have been received.

Note - Residents of Sherford can apply for support between £50 and £1000. For successful application for a grant the idea or project should:

- Benefit residents generally with wide community support (ie not just one person benefits);
- Show how it meets one or more of the Trust's objectives, especially sustainability;
- Show commitment from the residents in cash or kind.

Please see <https://www.sherfordtrust.org.uk/grants.php> for details of how to apply.

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**

SHDC have approved the recent planning application and works started today on the local centre. The care home planning application is currently under review, with drawings submitted by the applicant. An application for Phase 3 north, which includes approximately 348 houses (Vistry) is also in progress.

DCC is in ongoing discussions with PCC regarding the overbridge works and the management of traffic routes, no start date has yet been confirmed. Sherford Road is now open, a blind bend has raised safety concerns. PCC is making adjustments to the traffic light sequencing at Stanborough Cross to help manage traffic flow more effectively and reduce queuing.

Temporary bus shelter arrangements at Equinox Road, section 278 adoption plans have yet to be agreed with DCC. Currently discussions are ongoing between SHDC, DCC, PCC, and Stagecoach regarding extending provision to Phase 2D, with associated costs currently under review.

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

There have been discussions regarding GP surgery provision, with NHS Devon and NHS England indicating that there is currently no strong appetite for neighbourhood surgery funding. Papers have been submitted, and clarification is still being sought on the future direction of funding.

The cricket pitch is expected to be used this season by Plympton Cricket Club.

Additional measures including improved signage around Skylark Field have been erected to encourage responsible dog walking. Fencing that has been temporarily removed, for safety reasons, will be replaced in areas where dogs should not have access.

Following a recent incident, the headteacher has requested further discussions about additional road safety measures, including crossing points and speed management near the school. A separate safety audit of the road is being carried out by DCC.

Alex Whish SHDC, BPC and DCC have met recently on site to clarify the routes of the 3 PROWs on Sherford.

District Cllrs have been approached by residents requesting the installation of benches in the Sherford Country Park.

Carroll Island

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

There is no update /report

SHDC General Information

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

Currently waiting to hear further updates from central government in relation to LGR. In relation to the 'Greater Plymouth' vision recently promoted in the press the Leader of SHDC, Cllr Dan Thomas has written to The Secretary of State, expressing concerns.

There are expected to be significant planning changes, including a new national scheme of delegation coming into effect on 31st October. As a result, fewer planning applications are expected to be decided by committee, with more decisions being made through 'delegated power'

Schedule 1 applications will typically be decided by officers unless they are made by a councillor or council officer.

Schedule 2 applications are more significant and subject to presumption, although they may still be referred to committee if specific criteria are met.

SHDC is currently working through the regulations to work out how these changes will be implemented in practice. Parish Councils will remain consultees in the planning process and will continue to play a relevant role in decision-making.

A briefing has also been received from Friends of the Earth - Environmental Data for Wembury & Brixton. This will be circulated to all BPC.

Open Forum Closed

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

33. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gillard and Hawken and accepted by all Councillors. Apologies were also received from District Cllr Alison Nix.

34. Declarations of Interest

There were none

35. Confirmation of minutes of the meeting Brixton Parish Council on Wednesday 20th May 2026

Cllr Clegg proposed BPC accept the minutes of Brixton Parish Council meeting on 20th May 2026 as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Martin. Cllr Carson abstained. All others in attendance were unanimous. Cllr Hitchins signed the minutes of the relevant meeting.

36. Financial Matters

36.1 To receive and approve the finance statement for June 2026

Receipts:	Amount	
The Feoffee Trust (grant)	£300.00	Cost of Living
VAT refund	<u>£562.10</u>	General
	<u>£862.10</u>	
Payments:		
Community First Trading (BPC Insurance 2026 2027)	£753.75	General
K Aldridge - reimburse payment to ICO (Data Protection Fee)	£52.00	General
DALC - 10 x eLearning - Data Protection courses	£168.00	General
E Arran - reimburse plant for planters The Green	£30.00	General
J Friend Garden Services - Repairs / replacement slats bench A379	£1,065.77	General
K Aldridge wages	£1,255.40	General
K Aldridge expenses	£36.47	General
K Aldridge office allowance	£35.00	General
K Aldridge - reimburse June zoom	£16.79	General
BPC pension contribution (June)	£389.17	General
P Harvey - June Grounds Maintenance	£890.00	General
HMRC - Quarter 1	<u>£712.01</u>	General
	<u>£5,404.36</u>	

17th April 2026

Current Account:	£41,098.21
Deposit Account:	£20,495.46
TOTAL:	£61,593.67

Statement balance at 21st April 2026

Skipton Building Society	£87,577.99
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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
Brixton History Group	£533.09
Yealm Community Energy - 2022 Grant (Bee Wild)	£49.70

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

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 2025/2026)	£600.59
River Yealm Water Quality (annual 2026/2027)	£540.00
River Yealm Water Quality - River Fly 2025/2026	£2.00
River Yealm Water Quality - River Fly 2026/2027	£1,268.00
Silverbridge Way expansion	£5,977.50
Cost of Living Crisis	£1,018.87
Book Sale - Community Project	£105.57
Total of Fund allocated	<u>£37,692.07</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 & Sparkwell) - BPC will hold these funds
River Yealm Annual 2026/2027 contribution is £135.00
River Yealm River Fly 2026/2027 contribution is £317.00
Therefore, monies BPC will receive from 6 riparian parishes are £452.00
BPC funds transferred into the River Yealm ring fenced account as per approval at BPC November 2025 - minute reference 100.6. Awaiting contribution from YPC and Sparkwell for 2026 / 2027

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

36.2 To receive and note the comments from the Internal Audit report

BPC councillors had received a copy of the Internal Audit Report via email prior to the meeting.
Cllr MacLennan proposed BPC accept the Internal Audit Report, seconded by Cllr Clegg. All others in attendance were unanimous.

The comments of the Internal Auditor were noted by BPC. One point raised was "with the introduction of digital AGAR in 2027, it is likely that parish councils will be advised to introduce a digital accounting system." However, as it may be premature to decide which digital software package to adopt at this stage BPC agreed to wait until the Clerk has attended AGAR training before discussing whether to migrate to a new accounting system and determine which software would best meet BPC's requirements.

Councillors expressed their thanks to the Clerk for her hard work in receiving the Internal Audit report.

36.3 To receive and agree Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025 / 2026

The Annual Governance Statement 2025 / 2026 was completed with all councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Wills that the Annual Governance Statement 2025 / 2026 should be approved. Seconded by Cllr Clegg. All others in attendance were unanimous. This was duly signed by Cllr Hitchins (Chair) and Kirstie Aldridge (RFO).

36.4 To receive and agree Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025 / 2026

The Clerk explained the Accounting Statement 2025 / 2026. It was proposed by Cllr Wills that the Accounting Statement 2025 / 2026 was approved; this was seconded by Cllr Clegg. All others in attendance were unanimous. This was duly signed by Cllr Hitchins (Chair) and Kirstie Aldridge (RFO)

36.5 Clerk to provide update on VAT claim (October – March 2026)

Clerk confirmed that BPC has received the funds from a VAT claim for £562.10 for Oct 25–March 26

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

36.6 To discuss and approve the purchase of vouchers for St Mary's School & Sherford Vale School

Cllr Clegg proposed that BPC purchase 6 x £20 Waterstones vouchers for St Mary's School, Brixton and 6 x £20 Waterstones vouchers for Sherford Vale School to be presented to one child in each of the 6-year groups for outstanding progress this academic year, seconded by Cllr Nix. All others in attendance were unanimous.

36.7 Discuss the change in contractor – 4 x Bus shelter cleaning along A379

Clerk has received notification from REACH (existing contractor) that he is passing work to MP Windows & Gutter Cleaning. BPC needs to have new contract with this company.

Cllr Wills proposed that BPC change the agreement from REACH to MP Windows & Gutter Cleaning to clean 4 bus shelters on A379 along with the underside of roofs, adjacent timetable signs and benches inside the shelters at a cost of £60 per clean, seconded Cllr Carson. All others in attendance were unanimous.

36.8 Discuss and potentially approve a donation to TRAYE

Following the earlier presentation by TRAYE councillors discussed the funding application.

Clerk confirmed that Newton and Noss PC asked BPC whether it will be contributing financially. A figure of £2,760 has been requested from BPC, Newton & Noss, and Holbeton respectively.

There was also discussion about double sessions being delivered on a weekly basis, with the possibility of expanding outreach from this model. However, questions were raised about how this additional provision would be funded.

In principle, there was support for the project. Cllr Nix proposed that BPC agree in principle to support TRAYE but will wait for a financial agreement from Newton and Noss PC and Holbeton PC prior to making any firm commitments. Seconded Cllr Clegg. All others in attendance were unanimous.

37. Planning applications received from SHDC and DCC during May / June 2026

1060/26/HHO

Householder application for Installation of No.12 JA Solar PV panels & FOX ESS EP5 battery, both on the southwest & rear elevation

34 Pisces Street, Sherford, Plymouth PL9 8FY

Cllrs Martin, Clegg and Wills conducted a site visit on Tuesday 26th May

Cllr Martin proposed that BPC submit a recommendation of support for this application, seconded Cllr Clegg. All others in attendance

1254/26/ARM

Reserved Matters application for housing parcels and infrastructure, including 348 dwellings as part of Phase 3 North at Sherford New Community pursuant to Outline approvals ref: 0825/18/VAR (the principal permission that was amended by this consent was EIA development and was accompanied by an Environmental Statement)

Land at SX 558 544, Hercules Road, Sherford, Plymouth

Cllrs Hitchins, MacLennan and Clerk met with Tom French, SHDC Planning Officer to discuss the planning application and obtained information regarding parking provision and green spaces. Details of this meeting and relevant plans / map were circulated to BPC.

Cllr MacLennan proposed that BPC submit a recommendation of 'support', seconded Cllr Wills.

Cllr Nix abstained. All others in attendance were unanimous.

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

1516/26/FUL

Construction of a single detached self-build dwelling house with access, parking and amenity space
Land At Sx 549 523, Paddock Drive, Brixton

Cllrs Martin, Wills and Clegg undertook a site visit and reviewed footage, drawings, design of the property and the proposed layout of the development. The application relates to a new proposal on a site where an earlier application for an affordable dwelling had been approved. It was noted that the current proposal is for a self-build dwelling and differs from the original affordable housing consent, and that the existing permission does not cover this revised use.

Cllr Martin raised the concerns from the site visit - in particular, regarding drainage, SWW reportedly not satisfied with the current submission and has requested a drainage survey. Concerns were also raised regarding the capacity and whether the existing foul drainage system could accommodate an additional dwelling without risk of failure. There is no back up system. It was stated that the foul tank was designed for 5 properties.

Cllr Clegg proposed that BPC submit a recommendation of 'see comments' to include the following concerns; as far as the current Brixton Parish Neighbourhood Plan is concerned, this application is in the Open Gap, this policy was reviewed and modified and adopted by SHDC in 2024 ; drainage a more specific report has been requested by SWW and that the previous application that was approved was for an affordable dwelling and this does not meet this criteria. Seconded Cllr Wills. All others in attendance were unanimous.

38. Planning decisions made by SHDC / DCC during May / June 2026 (to note)**0986/26/PAT - Prior Approval Required and Given**

Application for prior notification of proposed works comprises the removal of existing 12m lattice tower supporting 3 no. antennas and the installation of new 20m lattice tower supporting 6 no. antennas on an open headframe, 2 no. transmission dishes, 2 no. equipment cabinets and ancillary development there to including 18 no. Ericsson Radio Systems (ERSs) by telecommunications code systems operators

Land At Sx 532 527, Coombe Farm Wembury Road Plymstock**2550/25/ARM - Conditional Approval**

RE-ADVERTISEMENT (revised plans & documents) Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval for four buildings (A-D) located to the East & West of School Square, Sherford which include 15 one-bedroom apartments, 25 two-bedroom apartments, & 4No retail spaces and a Nursery totalling 14,215 sq ft, with all necessary infrastructure including, on parcel highways, drainage, landscaping & substation, as part of the Local Centre of the Sherford New Community pursuant to Outline approval ref: 7_49/2426/06/O (which was an EIA development & an Environmental Statement was submitted)

Sherford New Community, Land South and South West of A38, Deep Lane Junction and East of Haye Road. Elburton

Date

Signed
 Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

39. Local issues relating to Brixton Parish as a whole

39.1 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

BPC has seen a copy of a letter written by Councillor Dan Thomas, Leader of SHDC to The Secretary of State regarding LGR, expressing concerns.

BPC will write to Cllr Thomas to thank him for sending this letter.

- South Hams Community Assets Policy

SHDC Community Assets 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.

Within Brixton parish there are the following Community Assets:-

- 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

Clerk has submitted an 'expression of interest form for each of the above following the decision at the April meeting of BPC. There is no further update from SHDC.

39.2 Update on Dementia Friendly Community Action Plan

All BPC councillors have completed the Dementia Friends Training

There is new action plan that was circulated to BPC prior to the meeting.

Following the May meeting, Clerk contacted Claire Puckey, Community Development Lead, Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm to arrange a Dementia Friendly Awareness session in September (one in Brixton and one in Sherford)

It was decided that as Sherford already has three sessions, only one session be arranged in Brixton at present.

Clerk to confirm with Claire that this would be just a session in Brixton, a Wednesday evening, preferably, for the whole community with refreshments.

40. Local Issues relating to Brixton

40.1 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. Parishioner leading on this project will continue to find a supplier to produce the signs. There is no further update. Clerk to remove this from the agenda until there is an update.

- 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 has obtained permission from Live West, Estate Delivery Team Manager for the bench to be located near the 'owl seat' on the corner of Steer Point Road and Elliotts Hill. BPC will maintain this bench.

The bench is now in situ next to the 'owl seat'. Thanks were expressed to Steven Cane and Cllrs Clegg and Hawken for siting the bench.

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

40.2 Highways

To include Highways Projects

- Update on Red Lion Hill / Stamps Hill traffic calming

Richard Jackson, Principal Highways Development Management Officer has confirmed that DCC Highway Authority is currently exploring options to ensure scheme costs come within the available budget. BPC met with DCC and a new indicative plan with signage will be the next step.

Cllrs Clegg and Martin stated that when vehicles exit Woodland Drive, due to parked vehicles, it is a blind junction. Clerk to pass this to DCC for consideration in the scheme.

- Update on Monkey Lane

Drainage at Monkey Lane, where it joins Catson Green, is prone to flooding. Nick Colton, DCC Highways Officer has provided a map with the location of the gullies / drains. Cllrs Hitchins and Clegg will meet with the contractor for a quotation for maintenance work after 4th July 2026.

- Update on s106 funding – s106 contribution towards Enhancing Community Access for walkers and cyclists between Brixton village and Sherford along Monkey Lane

At the May meeting it was agreed that BPC apply to SHDC for s106 monies for £2,080.00 for 4 bespoke decorative finger posts to direct parishioners from Brixton village to and from Sherford via Monkey Lane. SHDC have agreed to this s106 funding. Due to a new digital system, there is no paperwork to sign, Clerk just needs to approve this via the SHDC portal.

Cllr Hitchins proposed that BPC agree to the conditions attached to this s106 funding and Clerk agrees to this on the SHDC portal, seconded Cllr Clegg. All others in attendance were unanimous.

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. Clerk is awaiting confirmation from Cllr Martin.

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.

- Community Road Warden Scheme – Discuss the potential of undertaking pothole repairs in the parish

Cllr Hitchins reported that a resident in Torr had contacted her offering to assist with filling potholes. The resident met with Roger Smith, BPC Community Road Warden, who explained the role and responsibilities of the scheme and undertook a walkaround of the parish. Nick Colton, DCC Local Highways Officer advised that BPC could have up to three trained Chapter 8 volunteers, with training funded by DCC. However, pothole repairs would require a team with a minimum of three trained volunteers. He advised that DCC would not provide training unless there was at least one full team in place. This would only be to fill potholes on side residential roads. It was recommended that BPC advertise recruiting volunteers willing to form a team. Cllr Martin proposed that Clerk advertise to see if there are any volunteers in the parish who would be interested, seconded Cllr Carson. All others in attendance were unanimous.

County Cllr Tony Carson provided Devon Parish Pothole Handbook to all BPC councillors.

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

40.3 Update on request for reduction in speed limits in and around Brixton

BPC wrote to YPC last year asking for its support in reducing the speed limit to 40mph on the A379 between Brixton and Yealmpton. 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. Following emails in May from parishioners to BPC, YPC and a reply from County Cllr Thomas this issue was discussed. Having considered Cllr Thomas's email, at the May meeting BPC supported the proposal for BPC and YPC to work together to reduce the speed limit to 40mph along the stretch of the A379 between Brixton and Yealmpton and agreed BPC would contribute half of the proposed costs. Following this discussion in May Clerk contacted YPC Clerk who stated that YPC Standing Orders prevented the matter being considered again before September 2026, without a Special Motion from three YPC councillors. There is no further update from YPC.

40.4 The Green

- Update on The Green parking

Following the public consultation, feedback, and discussions at the October 2025 BPC meeting Nick Colton, DCC Highways Officer, produced a revised indicative plan with purely 'no parking restrictions (double yellow lines) marked around The Green, as well as along part of A379. This proposal has been put forward for DCC to consider which will be subject to public consultation. At the recent Traffic Management Working Group meeting Nick Colton, confirmed that schemes are being completed in tranches and this may be part of 'tranche 3' (towards the end of this financial year). There is no further update.

- Update on working with Brixton Feoffee Trust re possible parking project.

Cllr Stuart Nix met with two trustees from the Brixton Feoffee Trust on 21st March. Following this meeting the preliminary assessment undertaken in 2024 by the Feoffee Trust has been obtained and circulated to councillors.

A working group, comprising of representatives from the Brixton Feoffee Trust and BPC will take this forward – BPC representatives will be Cllr Hitchins (representing BPC) and Cllr Stuart Nix. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Brixton Feoffee Trust on 29th June

40.5 Land at Cofflete Creek update

- Update on site in general

There is no update

- Update on interpretation board

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 which has been earmarked for the second interpretation board which Nicky Bailey, South Devon National Landscapes, is continuing to work on. Clerk confirmed she had contacted Nicky following the May meeting to state that BPC were in agreement with the updated wording and pictures. This will now be taken to the next stage.

40.6 Brixton Community Emergency Plan (CEP)

There is no update.

40.7 Composters update (Cllr Clegg)

Cllr Clegg stated that at the April meeting he confirmed 155 tonnes had been collected.

Payment of £5,803 has now been received, there is now £11,800 in the bank

Green waste continues to accumulate. The next meeting of the group is on 9th July.

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

40.8 Cost of Living Crisis update.

The Cost-of-Living group continues to meet.

The warm hub continues on Thursday afternoons and Monday lunch times in The Foxhound

- Update on Cost-of-Living Grants

The current Cost of Living balance is £1,018.87

County Cllr Carson stated that the group is welcome to apply to him for more funding.

40.9 Footpaths / P3 update

- Update on FP 30 / 31

- Update on handrail on FP from Spriddlestone to Torr

At the May BPC meeting, BPC approved the request from DCC PROW Officer for a contribution from P3 funds of £500 to complete the work on the steps on FP30/31 and the handrail on the footpath from Spriddlestone to Torr. There is no update of these works.

40.10 Silverbridge Way

General maintenance

Cllr Clegg confirmed that Silverbridge Way was in good condition and another clearance of the path would take place before the Yealmpton show (probably middle of July). The Brixton side is especially in need of a clearance.

Cllr Clegg expressed this thanks to Cllr Hawken for clearing the tree that was blocking Silverbridge Way recently.

- Vandalised Information Board

Information board has been vandalised and pulled off the bridge; it is now lying face down in the water. There is nothing left on the bridge.

Cllr Hitchins will obtain details from the Silverbridge Way file to find the original details of the board.

- Update on the extension

Following a meeting of the Working Group on 11th May, discussions regarding appropriate reports and approximate costings were discussed. At the May meeting of BPC, BPC agreed to have the appropriate reports completed, as recommended by the Planning Officer and, as per BPC Standing Orders, obtain 3 quotations for all required reports. BPC supports the working group in investigating an alternative option, as suggested by Gemma Bristow, SHDC. Furthermore, in principle, BPC agreed that it was prepared to fund 50% of the estimated costs of the reports required, in support of the planning application

Since this discussion YPC has contacted SHDC Planning Department to ascertain whether the proposed works might fall within Part 12, Class A Permitted Development Rights for local authorities. This is under investigation and three scenarios have been put to SHDC Planning Officer to ask whether any of these could fall within Part 12, Class A Permitted Development Rights for local authorities

- Full construction of a surfaced path now
- Establishment of a permissive footpath without surfacing at this stage
- Establishment of a permissive footpath now with future surfacing when funding becomes available.

No further response has been received

- Update on the tree trunk seat along the path

Cllr Clegg has confirmed that this is still being actively sought.

Cllr Hitchins stated she had spoken with a local tree surgeon, who recently completed works on tree felling in the Feoffee Park, who will also look out for a tree trunk for this purpose.

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

40.11 Defibrillators

- **Defibrillator status**

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 still ongoing on both telephone boxes (on the Green and at Fordbrook).

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

The recently agreed sessions with the Community Engagement and Training Officer for SW Ambulance Service were postponed due to staff availability

Clerk will liaise with SW Ambulance Service for some new dates in the autumn.

40.12 Street Furniture and Village appearance

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

This work has been completed and the slats on the bench have been replaced.

- **Update from monthly street sweeping**

There was no street sweeping in June due to the inclement weather.

- **Update on '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 Hitchins will compile a list prior to Clerk approaching D&C Police.

40.13 Wildflower area at the top of Chittleburn Hill

The sleepers have been removed. Cllr Hitchins will look at what wood is still left behind, once this has been removed Steven Cane has offered to clear the area of debris and the flower bed.

41. Local issues relating to Sherford

41.1 Relevant updates from BPC meeting with Sherford Consortium regarding communication

Since the last meeting on 21st May, less engagement from the Project Team who are failing to acknowledge complaints. There is evidence that some complaints are being addressed but there is no feedback mechanism for keeping residents updated on progress.

Cllr MacLennan has contacted Steve Fowler (Sherford Consortium) following up on the issues log; there are several outstanding issues. The next meeting is Thursday 25th June.

41.2 Climate Change / Bio-diversity update

Sherford Open gardens 7th June was a great success with about 40 people attending; the Tea Garden was particularly popular. Friends of Sherford Country Park raised £350 from the sale of programmes and plants.

The presentation for Christine King, in recognition of her work with the Friends of Sherford Country Park went very well; she was very touched by everyone's generosity and kindness.

The allotment subgroup met with Alex Wish and representatives from YGS to discuss the design and layout of the first allotment site. The group will meet on 7th & 29th July with a full-size plan of the site to review the design.

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

Sherford Vale School would like to run a project to identify birds in January; aligning it with RSPB's 'Big Garden Birdwatch'. They would like to get some funding to create boxes with equipment e.g. binoculars for the children to use. They would also like to work with Friends of Sherford Country Park to identify birds in the Country Park. They have agreed to Friends of Sherford Country Park giving a talk to the children about the Country Park and would also like further engagement with an archaeological representative, to explain the heritage of Sherford.

BPC's vouchers for excellent academic achievement will be presented by Councillor MacLennan at the end of term assembly at Sherford Vale School on 21st July.

Sherford Vale held the School Fair on 19th June and Cllr MacLennan represented the Sherford Land Trust. Friends of Sherford Country Park also attended and encouraged children to make Tree Guardians from clay and twigs.

41.3 Street Naming Project

To include

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

The Heritage event took place on 3rd June 2026. 31 people signed up, 55 people attended

The speakers were: Tif Dickinson, Fed Ghittoni, Saltram House, National Trust; Rob Hayward, CEO of Riverford Farm; and Mark Harris SHDC Officer

Outcome: people expected more information about the future of Sherford.

Mark Harris presented the findings of the Green Spaces project to the Sherford Community Panel on 17th June and all the names were agreed (some results were very close).

Mark Harris will be presenting the results at the July BPC on 22nd July in Sherford Community Hub and will update on the signage strategy and timescales.

41.4 Sherford Community Emergency Plan

No further update.

41.5 Traffic Update

To include

Update on Community Speedwatch

No further sessions have taken place due to some adverse weather conditions and volunteers being away.

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

Quarter 2 - January to May 2026

- Light vehicles (motorcycles, cars & light vans) as a % - 69,705 (91%)
- Medium (3/4 axle vehicles, buses & trucks) 6,475 8%,
- Heavy (Articulated lorries) 410 1%

Total traffic volumes

Month		Previous year		Result
January 2026	78,014	Jan 2025	65,179	Increase of 12,835
February 2026	77,637	Feb 2025	77,534	Increase of 103
March 2026	75,234	March 2025	77,231	Decrease of 1,997
April 2026	74,324	April 2025	77,305	Decrease of 2,981
May 2026	78,856	May 2025	75,779	Increase of 4,532

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

Average weekly Volume

Jan to Dec 2025	Jan to Dec 2024	Jan to Dec 2021
78,414	73,702	50,433
January to May 2026	76,813	

The traffic volume at Site 5 for the week monitored in May was 78,856. This represents a 4% increase on the same month in 2025 and an increase of 47% on May 2021.

Currently the average daily traffic volumes on Hercules is at 10,973, up 73 on the previous month

- **Update regarding road safety in Sherford following meeting with D&C Police**

Regular meetings are taking place with Devon & Cornwall Police (Ben Shardlow) Inspector, Beat Manager; the next meeting will be on 7th July.

The Police are receiving traffic data direct from the Consortium. No update on how this information is being used. Incident with a child being knocked over near the school. The child was taken to hospital with minor injuries. No evidence from D&C Police that the driver was at fault.

On 1st July representatives from Sherford Vale School are meeting with Lee Richardson PC, Tom French, and members from the Consortium; Andy Tinnell, Richard Darlow, Ian and Jane DeHavilland.

41.6 Footpath updates including PROW

On 17th June 2026 a PROW meeting, on site, took place with Cllrs Hitchin, MacLennan, Ros Davies (DCC PROW Officer) and Alex Whish.

Footpath 22 will be improved with the replacement of a stile for a gate at the West end of the route where it meets with a minor road. No significant changes to the route in this area are anticipated.

Footpath 18 is on designated employment land. This path will be either absorbed onto a pavement or follow along the edge of the proposed development upon its completion. A 12-month closure notice will be sought by DCC and added to the site on a rolling basis until the work is completed on the ground.

Footpath 15 will be improved now there is significant development plus the introduction of an established Country Park in Sherford. The improvements to the right of way will include diversion, replacement of stiles with gates, improvements to steps and signage in the area. Once the full infrastructure is in place then complete signing of the diverted path will take place on the ground.

41.7 Defibrillators**To include**

- **Update on an additional defibrillator**

No further progress. Cllr MacLennan has updated Steve Fowler (Sherford Consortium) on the costings from October 2025, for discussion at the communications meeting 25th June and further discussion at the Liaison meeting on 13th July 2026.

Cllr MacLennan confirmed that the defibrillator at the school is being maintained by the caretaker.

41.8 Publicity / events

The Ocean themed Market took place on 14th June, with the involvement of Plymouth Sound National Marine Park (PSNMP) and Plymouth Aquarium. The event attracted 350 visitors.

The market in July has been stood down.

9th August Summer Fair will include music and a dog show

The Communication and Events Teams will be exploring what needs to be done for the 10th Anniversary of Sherford Day in 2027.

Date

Signed
Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

42. Local issues relating to Carrollsland

There were no updates from Carrollsland.

43. BPC Administration

43.1 Information Data Policies to update: Data Protection Policy, Document Retention Policy, General Data Protection Policy Statement, Freedom of Information Publication Scheme, General Privacy Notice, Information Technology Policy, Privacy Notice

Cllr Nix proposed that BPC adopt the updated Data Protection Policy, Document Retention Policy, General Data Protection Policy Statement, Freedom of Information Publication Scheme, General Privacy Notice, Information Technology Policy, Privacy Notice, seconded Cllr Martin. All others in attendance were unanimous

43.2 Finance Policies to update: Expenses Policy

Cllr Clegg proposed that BPC adopt the updated Expenses policy, seconded Cllr MacLennan. All others in attendance were unanimous.

43.3 Councillor and Clerk training

- Update regarding completion of 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 and Cllrs Gillard, Hawken, Hitchins, MacLennan, Martin, Nix, Wills and Clegg have completed all three modules. Cllr Carson has re-enrolled at his own expense.

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

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.

- Update regarding Data Protection Essentials (GDPR)

Clerk and all BPC councillors have been registered to undertake Data Protection Essentials (GDPR) training module. All councillors have 12 months to complete all the modules. Date of enrollment 6th June 2026. Clerk and Cllr Wills have completed the training module.

43.4 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 received an email from an interested party who has been in contact with the existing volunteer and Clerk has no update from the volunteer whether he is still interested. Clerk to follow up again.

Date

Signed
Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

43.5 Update regarding the BPC monthly newsletter

The monthly newsletter is available on the BPC website.

The issue with the BPC website domains on Mailchimp has been rectified by VisionICT (BPC website provider), so the electronic version is now able to be received by all emails.

One concern is when replying to the newsletter email, it is a 'strange' email address not the BPC email. Clerk will investigate this prior to full 'roll out' of the electronic newsletter.

43.6 Discuss and approve the BPC Annual Newsletter

Cllr Clegg proposed that BPC publish the BPC Annual Newsletter 'What Brixton Parish Council achieved during 2025 / 2026 and plans for 2026 / 2027', seconded Cllr MacLennan. All others in attendance were unanimous.

43.7 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.

D & C Police Multimedia Communications Officer confirmed that Cllr Martin is not on the list for these meetings, Clerk has asked Cllr Martin to ensure that he is added to the communications list.

43.8 Update regarding BPC website MOT

Vision ICT has completed the website MOT, and all checks were satisfactory. Website pages have been tested, and the Accessibility Statement has been updated and published on the website. The statement advises that some older documents may not be fully accessible; however, anyone requiring these documents in an accessible format should contact BPC.

The front page of the website also requires updating to include a paragraph about Sherford and to restore the homepage layout to its previous format. Clerk asked Cllr MacLennan to provide a paragraph about Sherford which would be appropriate to be placed on the front page of the website.

44. Councillor Reports

Cllr Martin stated that, when planning applications are received and site visits are required, all councillors are encouraged to attend where possible. At present, the same three councillors regularly undertake these visits, and it would be beneficial to have a wider range of councillors involved to provide fresh perspectives when considering planning applications.

Cllr Clegg raised concerns about the overgrowth on Elliott's Hill, in front of and behind the school wall and on the opposite side. The vegetation is becoming overgrown and untidy on both sides of the walkway. It was agreed that the issue should be reported to DCC Highways Officer, Nick Colton.

Cllrs Martin and Clegg raised concerns regarding the lack of grounds maintenance on Kitley View estate. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to LiveWest requesting that the maintenance of these areas be investigated.

45. Correspondence for information

45.1. 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 October 2027
- Deep Lane to Hareston Cross – Monday 1st June – Friday 5th June 2026
- Road past Wiverton House – Friday 5th June – Friday 9th June 2026

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

45.2. All weekly bulletins from DCC and SHDC are placed immediately on the websites and Facebook page

45.3. South Hams District Council – News Releases

- South Hams backs Rivers and Moorlands festival
- Butts Park play park open and better than ever
- South Hams strengthens support for residents facing financial hardship
- Contactless payment trial begins in two Dartmouth car parks

Cllr Hitchins closed the meeting at 9.43 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 22nd July 2026 in Sherford Community Hub
Kirstie Aldridge, Clerk, Brixton Parish Council

DRAFT

Date

Signed
Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council