



**Minutes of Brixton Parish Council September meeting held on
Wednesday 22nd October 2025 at 7.00 pm in Sherford Community Hub**

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

In attendance: County Councillor Tony Carson, District Cllr Alison Nix, and Kirstie Aldridge (Clerk)
Members of the public in attendance: 2

Cllr Hitchins welcomed everyone to the meeting

**Report from Devon County Councillor Tony Carson
*Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)***

County Cllr Tony Carson confirmed that he will be attending a presentation by Devon County Council (DCC) Chief Executive on the 23rd October. The DCC model is 9:1:1 – 9 Districts with Torbay and Plymouth Unitary. The decision will be made by Central Government (proposals need to be submitted by 28th November. There will be further consultation on the model chosen by the Government in the New Year.

Devon County Council welcomes national report supporting protection of vital care services

Senior councillors at DCC have welcomed a major new report from the County Councils Network (CCN), which warns that breaking up county councils into smaller unitary authorities could seriously harm the delivery of essential care services.

The report, 'Local Government Reorganisation: Analysing the Impact on People Services', provides strong evidence that larger councils are better equipped to deliver high-quality adult social care, children's services, and support for people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It highlights risks including increased costs, reduced service quality, and challenges in recruiting senior care staff.

Devon's option (9:1:1) for reorganisation proposes replacing all eight district, city, and borough councils, and DCC with a single new unitary authority covering the current county footprint – avoiding fragmentation of care services.

Key findings from the report include:

- Councils with populations below 500,000 could face up to £270 million in extra annual care costs.
- Smaller councils may need up to 1,100 additional senior care staff, costing £95 million.
- Larger councils are more likely to receive 'Good' or 'Outstanding' Ofsted ratings.
- Fragmentation could lead to legal disputes over care responsibilities.

Date

Signed
Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

Sherford

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

Sherford Community Trust Board Meeting Sep and Oct 2025 - Both meetings have been quorate Meeting

- Organisation of the operation of the Trust continues, including planning for the admission of 2 community directors from Phase 1 of the development onto the SCLT.
- First AGM of the Trust planned for later this year/ early next year.
- SCLT Fees will be levied from this year (£40) in line with the S106 agreement. First Port are to collect the fee on behalf of the developers to transfer to the SCLT.
- Development of a community kitchen is progressing with advice and information packs over training and ongoing procedures. Carers' Groups will be contacted early November to progress possible community lunches.
- New child safeguarding training has been carried out for future youth groups. Further adult safeguarding training will be completed in the autumn.
- The library fit out for the meeting room is planned for November.
- Meetings over the forthcoming allotments are progressing with Brookbanks and the Green Infrastructure team at SHDC.

Future Planning

- Meeting held to discuss the future aspirations of the Trust and forward planning

Events / Future Events

- Farmer's markets are continuing. Around 450 people attended a successful Autumn Fayre on 12th October with a dog show, live music, craft traders, arts activities, Community Choir and clothes swap.

Brookbanks Update

- Sherford Road Footpath: Works are started in October 2025 to provide a footpath that is safe and accessible for public use.
- Sherford Road Traffic Calming: Agreements have been received from the Legal Team. A road space booking will be applied for by Vistry once Surety is signed. It is anticipated that works on the highway will commence Q1 2026 subject to legal agreements.

Grant Applications

2 Grant applications received.

- Sherford Brownies. Rent for community hall for 6 months.
- Sherford Rainbows. £100 agreed

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 (i.e. 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.

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

Sherford

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

Roadworks on Nimbus Road (Utility works) until 21st November, this will be controlled by either traffic lights or a banksman

Local Centre planning application has been open for consultation. District Cllr Alison Nix has been invited to next panel meeting 21st November

A meeting is planned regarding s106 Agreements for Sherford with Judy Talbot, Sherford Community Land Trust to agree a regular update between developers and local councils.

Cllr Hitchins enquired 'How will decisions be made to alter the s106?' District Cllr Alison Nix confirmed that this is something to be discussed.

Residents from Sherford raised the following concerns:

Explained that there were many issues in Sherford and many mis-sold promises, but expanded on three main issues:

Parking on pavements.

Noisy manhole cover outside resident's house for over a year.

Size of bin sheds not fit for purpose – never designed to take industrial bins. Residents pay the management company to maintain them.

Communication for residents with the Consortium and Brookbanks needs to be improved as issues remain unaddressed. Residents would like responsive and open communication with realistic timescales of when issues raised will be complete.

District Cllr Alison Nix confirmed that Sherford is split between PCC and SHDC and that she, District Cllr Julie Carson, DCC County Councillor Tony Carson and BPC work together as a group.

She explained that some things raised were specific to Plymouth and need to be raised with Plymouth City Council.

PCC have bin sheds, SHDC do not have these sheds. Manhole cover this is being raised constantly with the consortium and parking on the pavements is being dealt with. There is lots of work going on in the background and several cases have been reported to the Police.

District Cllrs Alison Nix and Julie Carson have set up a meeting with SHDC, the Consortium and Brookbanks to talk specifically about improving communication between all parties including residents.

Cllr Hitchins stated that there are Sherford Liaison meetings, but who do residents communicate with when there are issues? The info@sherford.uk email was agreed the best way for residents to report their concerns and a time frame for replies was needed.

Cllr Hitchins stated that she was pleased to hear about the communications meeting and asked whether someone from BPC would be able to attend. It was very important to find a way forward.

Residents expressed thanks to all BPC councillors and in particular Cllr MacLennan for all the work they do for the residents of Sherford.

Date

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Brixton

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

The last SHDC LGR meeting will be held in the Community Room, Brixton at 6.15pm Wednesday 29th October. District Cllr Alison Nix confirmed that there is a SHDC briefing on the 30th.

Hiring of a thermal imaging camera is now live for this year to support warmer healthier homes and can be obtained from SHDC

The service to licence the new Team Rector for the Yealm and Erme Mission Community was held on 20th October Monday at Holy Cross Church, Newton Ferrers.

Cllr Hitchins stated that it would be beneficial for BPC councillors to attend the LGR briefing on 29th October in Brixton Community Room. Two events had already been held for Brixton residents, Rose and Crown and Venn Court (pop up session) which wasn't well attended.

District Cllr Alison Nix confirmed that a session had been held in Sherford, and no members of the public attended.

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

SHDC 2024 2025 accounts have been signed off.

Open Forum Closed

83. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Hawken and accepted by all councillors.
Apologies were also received from District Cllr Julie Carson

84. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hitchins declared an interest in agenda points 86.1 and 86.5

85. Confirmation of minutes of the meeting Brixton Parish Council on Wednesday 24th September 2025

Cllr Wills proposed BPC accept the minutes of Brixton Parish Council meeting on 24th September 2025 as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Clegg. Cllrs Gillard, Martin and Nix abstained. All others in attendance were unanimous. Cllr Hitchins signed the minutes of the relevant meeting.

Date

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Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

86. Financial Matters**86.1 To receive and approve the finance statement for October 2025**

Receipts:	Amount	
Brixton Feoffee Trust - 1/3 payment for BrixtonDevon website	£26.66	General
BCA - 1/3 payment for BrixtonDevon website	<u>£26.66</u>	General
	<u>£53.32</u>	
Payments:		
A Kay - reimburse Community Support HelpBox	£51.40	Cost of Living
BCA - Brixton Community Room Hire - September 2025	£45.00	General
K Aldridge - reimburse Sherford Room Hire (Oct meeting)	£20.00	General
E Hitchins - mileage Exeter DALC conference	£30.87	General
E Hitchins - mileage Totnes South Hams Dementia Forum	£15.66	General
E Arran - reimburse expenses The Green flowerpots	£188.49	General
Western Web - annual renewal of web space (BrixtonDevon)	£96.00	General (Note 3)
DALC - E-learning 10xStandards in Public Life training	£192.00	General
Thorpe Trees - Cofflete Mill planting	£666.90	General (Note 4)
The Foxhound - Warm Hub July. Aug and Sept	£51.00	Cost of Living
K Aldridge wages	£1,434.08	General
K Aldridge expenses	£31.51	General
K Aldridge office allowance	£35.00	General
K Aldridge - reimburse October zoom	£15.59	General
BPC pension contribution (October)	£461.66	General
P Harvey - Grounds Maintenance October	<u>£517.50</u>	General
	<u>£3,852.66</u>	

19th August 2025

Current Account:	£16,137.47
Deposit Account:	<u>£20,417.36</u>
TOTAL:	<u>£36,554.83</u>

Statement balance at 3rd April 2025

Skipton Building Society **£85,498.50**

Current Balance:

P3	£954.26	
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)	£199.70	
Green Fund	£382.63	
Community Emergency Plan Grant	£115.45	
Community Amenity Space (Cofflete) Comm Tog Fund	£2,479.84	
River Yealm Water Quality (annual 2022)	£71.41	VAT has been claimed back
River Yealm Water Quality (annual 2024)	£720.00	Note 1 - River Yealm
River Yealm Water Quality (annual 2025)	£500.00	Note 2 - River Yealm
River Yealm Water Quality - River Fly 2025	£1,268.00	
Silverbridge Way expansion	£6,000.00	
Cost of Living Crisis	<u>£573.63</u>	

Total of Fund allocated **£37,304.18**

Date

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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

2. 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 contributions from Yealmpton and Sparkwell for 2025

3. This payment is split 3 ways - Brixton Community Association & Brixton Feoffee Trust

4. This payment will be reimbursed with the YCE Grant obtained

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

86.2 To document the approval of the independent quarterly financial statement (end of September 2025)

Cllr MacLennan proposed that BPC receive the independent quarterly financial statement, up to end of September, checked by Cllr Nix, seconded by Cllr Clegg. All others in attendance were unanimous.

86.3 VAT refund – April 2025 – end September 2025

Clerk confirmed that a VAT claim from April 2025 – end September for £ 633.55 has been submitted

86.4 To discuss the purchase of BPC wreath for Remembrance Sunday

Cllr Nix proposed that BPC purchase a Poppy Wreath at a cost of £19.99, seconded Cllr Gillard. All others in attendance were unanimous. Cllr Wills will represent BPC at the service on Remembrance Sunday.

86.5 To discuss and potentially approve donations to: Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association (Ring & Ride), Citizens Advice Bureau South Hams, Dementia Friendly Parishes Around the Yealm, Samaritans, Brixton Scouts, 1st Yealm Brownies / Rainbows, Elburton Brownies / Guides, St Mary's, Yealmpton and Brixton Community Friendship Project

Cllr MacLennan proposed that BPC make the following donations:

Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association (Ring & Ride) £425.00

Citizens Advice South Hams £425.00

Dementia Friendly Parishes Around the Yealm £925.00

Samaritans £425.00

Brixton Scout Group £425.00

1st Yealm Brownies / Rainbows £425.00

Elburton Brownies / Guides £425.00

St Mary's £275.00

Yealmpton and Brixton Community Friendship Project £425.00

Seconded Cllr Gillard. Cllr Hitchins abstained. All others in attendance were unanimous.

86.6 To discuss email for financial assistance for Citizens Advice (CA) regarding fire in Aquila Drive, Sherford

Following September BPC meeting, Cllr Hitchins emailed Janie Moor, Chief Executive Officer Citizens Advice South Hams offering the provision of an additional grant if required. An email was subsequently received from CA offering the provision of a caseworker to continue providing support to the residents effected by the fire. The total cost for this would be £10,480. BPC discussed this and declined this proposal. Representatives from CA were initially present at the weekly meetings, but

Date

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lately, due to lack of resources, these meetings have not been attended. CA is not engaging as much now but residents can make contact with CA if further help is needed, discussion regarding an additional grant followed, this was also declined by BPC. There will be no further funding offered.

87. Planning applications received from SHDC and DCC during September / October 2025

None received.

88. Planning decisions made by SHDC / DCC during September / October 2025 (to note)

1961/25/HHO – Conditional Approval

Thornfield, Hareston Farm Barns, Yealmpton, PL8 2LD

Householder application for Juliet balcony & opening

89. Local issues relating to Brixton Parish as a whole

89.1 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- Update from relevant meetings

- Discuss & potentially approve joint letter from '13 parishes' to be sent to Central Government

Cllrs Hitchins and Nix attended a meeting of the 13 parishes in Yealmpton on 10th October 2025, where the amended draft letter to Alison McGovern, MP Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government was discussed. It has been circulated to the 13 parishes for approval to be sent. Cllr Martin proposed that BPC approve the sending of this letter, seconded Cllr Nix. All others in attendance were unanimous.

Cllr Hitchins and Clerk attended a presentation, on 20th October, by DCC regarding their 9:1:1 proposal. An additional SHDC event has been arranged in Brixton Community Room on Wednesday 29th October. The next SHDC event for BPC councillors will be on 19th November via TEAMS. The LGR page on the BPC website is constantly updated.

89.2 Brixton Community Emergency Plan (CEP)

- Confirmation of date for Community Engagement Event - Devon Communities Together (DCT)

DCT will be running a community engagement/information event on Wednesday 4th March in the Sherford Community Hub between 5.45 and 7.45 pm to start people thinking about what would happen in an emergency. This will be advertised nearer the date.

Sherford CEP

A very early draft of the Sherford Emergency Plan has been shared with the residents of Aquila Drive; an initial discussion on lessons learnt will take place on 23rd October and possibly on 30th October. Cllr MacLennan has begun contacting various housebuilders to build up a list of contacts for escalation in an emergency. Social housing contacts e.g. LiveWest and Clarion will also be engaged.

89.3 Brixton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (BPNP)

The Brixton Neighbourhood Plan Group has met to review the BPNP starting with appraising the policies. Kirstie Aldridge, Clerk to BPC, will be providing administrative support to the group.

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90. Local issues relating to Sherford

90.1 Climate Change / Bio-diversity update

Alex Whish gave the Environment & Heritage Group (EHG) an overview of the processes and considerations required for creating the Landscape and Ecological Strategy (LEMS for Sherford and the Country Park.

EHG is looking to engage with 'Bike Space' to find out about bike repair sessions. Also engaging with Plymouth scrap store to understand how a repair cafe can be set up
Signage strategy meeting is looking at developing a signage strategy for the Country Park etc.

90.2 Street Naming Project

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

Heritage Event planned to take place on 22nd January 2026.

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

It was confirmed at the Sherford Liaison Meeting on 14th July that 4 noticeboards in corporate colours would be installed early November.

90.4 Traffic Data Update Hercules Road

Update on site 5 Hercules Road

September 2025 - 81,447 vehicles, an increase of **2,283** vehicles from August 2025 79,164

- **Light vehicles** (motorcycles, cars & light vans) as% **90%**
- **Medium** ($\frac{2}{3}$ axle vehicles, buses & trucks) **9%**
- **Heavy** (Articulated lorries) **1%**
- Average volumes, **Jan to September 2025** stand at **76,926**, this compares to **73,538** in Jan to September 2024 an increase of **5%**. However, when the figure of **76,926** is compared to **Jan to September 2021, 47,937** this is an increase of **60%**.

Currently the average daily traffic volumes on Hercules is now at over 10,989 vehicles per day, upward trajectory.

- Update on Community Speed watch

Speed watch session took place as follows:

Date	Number of vehicles	Number of offenders	% of offenders
30.9.25	300	2	0.67%
7.10.25	353	0	0%
21.10.25	270	0	0%

- Update regarding training course for volunteers - Highway Safety Awareness module

Two residents have joined the litter pickers; joining instructions for the Highway Safety Awareness e-learning module have been issued. The third member of the team has been sent reminder joining instructions.

90.5 Footpath updates including PROW

FP 15 and FP 18 are PROWs in Sherford, and both are subject to a Diversion Order. Cllr MacLennan has been liaising with Alex Whish, Principal Green Infrastructure Officer Urban Fringe Team, SHDC, regarding the PROW's. The DCC PROWs Officer is also aware of the requirement to ensure that these PROWs are reinstated. There is no further update.

Date

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90.6 Defibrillators

To include

- Update on an additional defibrillator

Cllr MacLennan sent an e-mail sent to Andy Tinnelly of Brookbanks on 8th October with costs for the installation of 3 defibrillators in the Sherford Country Park and the installation of defibrillators within 400m of properties. Advice has been received from South West Ambulance Service (SWAS). In an update received from Richard Darlow, Robert Robb is investigating possibilities. Cllr Hitchins suggested arranging a meeting with the Consortium to discuss this further.

90.7 Update on fire in Aquilla Drive

Clarion arranged virtual and online critical incident support sessions last week and all residents were contacted and offered an appointment. 8 out of the 12 residents accepted. There is no further update. Residents are being advised by email update this week that further support can be sought via the NHS if required and will be provided with a link to access this.

Clarion is continuing to provide hotel accommodation.

Clarion confirmed that residents can access the building to retrieve their belongings w/c 20th October following a deep clean and are covering removal expenses and internet access.

Clarion is hopeful that 64 Aquila will be available for residents to return in May 2026

Engagement with CA is an issue to get general and specific.

90.8 Any other updates from Sherford Liaison meeting held Monday 13th October 2025

There was agreement that the issues log for Sherford would be sent to Richard Darlow for updates. There was a long conversation regarding communications. Terms of Reference were reviewed, and this meeting agreed that the liaison meeting was not appropriate for concerns to be raised, but other communication channels need to be considered as there is no other form of communication. Cllr Hitchins reiterated that she was pleased there would be a 'Communications' meeting.

90.9 Publicity / events

The Autumn Fayre which took place on 12th October, attracted 450 visitors; the dog show run by Gables was particularly popular.

Family Fun - 29th October - Scavenger hunt, make a simple bird feeder, sowing wildflowers

Heritage workshop - 22nd November 2025 - Learn ancient skill of Hedge laying. Free to attend but must be booked in advance.

Christmas Market - 14th December 2025, confirmed with the school.

Heritage Event to take place on 22nd January 2026 subject to the recruitment of a caretaker

Sherford Day - 18th April 2026.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr MacLennan, who has been central in terms of the recent fire and taking on everything on behalf of BPC within Sherford.

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

91. Local Issues relating to Brixton

91.1 Climate Change / Bio-diversity update

To include:

- Active Travel – Brixton to Plymouth (to include Dawes Lane)

Following the feedback from PCC and the recommendation from the May meeting of BPC where BPC proposed that the 'speed reductions on the A379' from 40mph to 30mph on the Elburton 'bends' (from Rodgers Garage to Elburton). BPC has written to Cllr John Stephens (PCC) in his new role as Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport. An email from Cllr Stephens on 18th September stated that 'PCC Highways are not aware of any proposal to reduce the speed limit to 30mph on the A379 from the South Hams boundary to the Elburton roundabout.

Following an email from the Clerk, Cllr Stephens is trying to establish the origin of this comment. Cllr Stephens has advised that 'PCC has pledged to put £40k into working up a plan to make Dawes Lane more accessible to walkers. This does not include s106 monies.

- PCC Cycle Route Classification dated 2017 (Dawes Lane)

There is no further update.

- Update from SHDC on Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

The LCWIP looks at cycling and walking in an area and aims to identify improvements on routes that exist already to make them safer or more appealing to people using them. Cllr Hitchins submitted comments on behalf of BPC. A 500+ report has now been compiled and is available on SHDC website. In the report there are two errors - it states 'Brixham' not 'Brixton' and mentions contra-flow cycling in Old Road, Old Road is a one-way street. Clerk has informed Gemma Bristow SHDC regarding these errors, who has stated these points will be noted for any later revisions to the LCWIP.

- Update regarding sign for 'saving hedgehogs'

Following approval at the July meeting of BPC to fund the cost of 6 x A4 metal signs, with the working "Designed by the Children of St Mary's C of E School", with stakes / fittings up to a cost of £200, Clerk spoke with DCC Highway Officer who has agreed that the best place to put the signs would be in the planters, due to visibility issues. The actual signs produced initially by the children, with the red triangle, are too like the DCC warning signs and there are copyright issues. The parishioner who contacted BPC initially has been informed and clerk is awaiting an updated cost for the signs using a different colour warning triangle, following consultation with the Head Teacher. There is no further update.

91.2 Highways

To include Highways Projects

- Update regarding Monkey Lane

The signs prohibiting vehicles except for access are now in situ at both ends of Monkey Lane. DCC is consulting with the emergency services regarding the installation of bollards.

There is no further update.

Drainage at Monkey Lane where it joins Catson Green is prone to flooding, Nick Colton, DCC Highways suggested that some sort of soak away could make a difference, as both sides of the road are slightly higher than the actual road. As agreed at September meeting of BPC Cllr Hitchins will contact the landowner to discuss this.

- Update regarding exiting Monkey Lane into Sherford for pedestrians.

Access from Monkey Lane for pedestrians to Sherford Country Park was discussed at the last Sherford Liaison meeting. It has been confirmed that a path will be in place, running alongside the hedge into the Country Park and will join the existing PROW. Alex Whish has confirmed he had liaised with Brookbanks regarding this. There is no further update.

Date

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Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

- Update from Community Engagement / Public Consultation - Red Lion Hill / Stamps Hill

Following the two public consultation events in May the Clerk collated the feedback into one document. A working group comprising of Clerk, Cllrs Hitchins, Carson and Wills, Community Road Warden, and parishioner met with Richard Jackson, DCC Principal Highways Development Management Officer and Nick Colton DCC Local Highways Officer to discuss the feedback.

Following the feedback obtained, the indicative plan has been amended to include 'round profile humps' instead of 'build outs.' Richard Jackson has confirmed that this scheme will be designed by 'EDG and there are no planning related time constraints.

This will be removed from the agenda until BPC receives any update.

To include Highways / Traffic updates

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

Cllr Hitchins met with County Cllrs Thomas and Carson with Nick Colton on 4th July to discuss proposals for speed restrictions in Brixton Parish. Nick Colton, DCC Highways has produced an indicative plan with some speed restriction proposals.

- A new speed limit of 20mph from Stamps Hill and Red Lion Hill and all roads leading off (Cherry Tree Drive, Cross Park, and Kitley View Estate) to A379. This is currently subject of consultation by Brixton Parish Council in collaboration with Devon County Council with funding by S106 from Sherford Development
- A new speed limit of 20 mph for Elliotts Hill, Horn Lane, the Venn estate, and Steer Point Road to current 30mph sign.
- A379 through the village, Lodge Lane, and The Crescent to remain at 30mph
- A new speed limit of 40mph from Stamps Hill (by the allotments) north to Sherford boundary once the location of the boundary is known.
- The speed limit on the A379 between Yealmpton and Brixton to be reduced to 40mph subject to agreement between Brixton and Yealmpton Parish Councils before it can progress to county.
- 40mph speed limit to Elburton to remain the same. Contact has been made with Plymouth City Council by Brixton Parish Council to discuss reducing the speed limit from the railway bridge at Rodgers Garage to Elburton to improve safety for cyclists in the absence of a cycle path.

All the above was supported in principle by BPC at the July meeting.

BPC requested that Yealmpton Parish Council (YPC) consider the proposal to reduce the speed limit to 40mph between Brixton and Yealmpton. YPC have requested details about the 5 accidents that occurred between Brixton and Yealmpton between 2020 – 2024 prior to a decision being made as to whether to support the proposed reduction in speed. An email has been received from YPC which stated 'YPC debated whether or not to support BPC's request for the speed limit to be lowered to 40mph on the A379 between Yealmpton and Brixton. YPC voted not to support this speed reduction. As a result, YPC are going to consult in the Yealmpton Press and Facebook to gather more views and will then review whether the decision needs to be revisited.'

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

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

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

91.3 The Green

- Update from Community Engagement/Public Consultation regarding parking on The Green

Following the public consultation event in May the Clerk has collated the feedback on a proposal drafted by Nick Colton, DCC Highways Manager, into one document. A working group comprising of Clerk, Cllrs Hitchins and Wills, Community Road Warden, and parishioner met with Nick Colton to discuss the feedback. Feedback in general stated the proposed changes were too complicated and that there was too much change. The suggestion to use the land in Old Road owned by The Brixton Feoffee Trust was also raised in feedback from parishioners. Clerk has contacted Clerk to The Feoffee Trust, and this will be raised at the next meeting of the trustees.

Following this feedback Nick Colton has produced a new indicative map with purely 'no parking restrictions' (double yellow lines) marked in a couple of places as well as along part of A379

Cllr Clegg proposed that BPC support this new indicative plan and ask Nick Colton, DCC Highways Officer to put this proposal forward for DCC to consult residents, seconded Cllr Wills. All in attendance were unanimous.

91.4 Land at Cofflete Creek update

- Update on s106 funding for the project

- To include 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. Photographs of the Old Mill are needed for this display. Nicky Bailey is having issues with the quality of photos provided, Cllr Gillard will ask for a draft so BPC can review the photos at the November meeting.

- Update on the project plan for the upper site following public consultation.

The construction of a Bird Hide (locally sourced and cut oak and sweet chestnut) with an informal path to the Hide from existing gate (27m long – 800mm width – natural timbered edge and mulched) has been completed and BPC have received several positive comments.

Alex Whish, Cllr Hitchins and 6 volunteers cleared the bottom area of Cofflete prior to the planting in November of shrubs / hedges.

- 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 when undertaking tree planting in the autumn.

91.5 Composters update (Cllr Clegg)

A lot of green waste is being deposited. There is over £6k in the account.

Quotes are being obtained for a new bunker; this will be placed alongside the shed to give the shed more stability.

The water butt competition was a great success.

91.6 Cost of Living Crisis update.

Meeting was held 7th October, and the group continues to meet. Meetings will now be quarterly.

The Warm Hub continues to meet on a weekly basis and the Community Support Help Box is available in the Church, during Church opening hours.

- Update on Cost-of-Living Grants

The current Cost of Living balance is £573.63

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

91.7 Footpaths / P3 update

Following the P3 meeting in November DCC PROW Officer has walked all the relevant paths.

Works are required on the following paths:

- FP9 – inspected the metal handrails, DCC PROW Officer suggested that BPC approach a contractor to obtain a quote to replace the whole set. She stated that at present the structure is not loose so there is no panic to replace it and suggested that it would be better to be free standing rather than attached to the wall at the top of the flight of steps.
One price has been obtained which is approx. £2500 – clerk will be obtaining additional quotations and will be discussing this with DCC PROW Officer.
- FP30 / 31 – the step needs replacing and DCC PROW Officer is discussing this with a contractor due to the definitive line of the route to see if it ends on the foreshore or further up the field.
- FP 27 – a major clearance is required, and DCC PROW Officer will issue an order to a contractor to clear the route.
- FP's 10 and 16 – DCC PROW Officer has concerns regarding the cropping of the paths and will request a wider path to be left for people to walk.
- FP16 has been inspected. A new two-way sign is needed, and the sleeper bridge needs the addition of weld mesh. DCC PROW Officer will arrange for this work to be undertaken by a contractor.

- Discussions regarding the broken seat on Footpath 4, near Mill Lane

This Seaton PROW 4 was installed in 2009 by volunteers who used to look after the footpaths, it is not a parish council seat. The seat has been broken and pulled out of the ground; this seat needs to be re-sited and painted. Unfortunately, DCC no longer install or maintain benches on PROW's. Clerk has obtained one quote - the work on the bench is approx. £200 inc. vat. This includes a couple of hours of labour for 2 operatives and 2 sleepers, these will be set in the ground and the bench bolted to them. Clerk is awaiting additional quotes.

A P3 meeting with Ros Davies, DCC PROW Officer and volunteers will be held on 17th November.

91.8 Silverbridge Way General maintenance

The contractor is aiming to scrape the path beginning of November.

- Update on the extension

BPC have £6k set aside as BPC's contribution.

BPC and YPC have agreed the Terms of Reference for the group and the drawing showing the indicative route. The working group comprising of YPC and BPC - Cllrs Hitchins & Clegg and Cllr Hawken (as tenant) will meet with contractor to walk the route during w/c 17th November.

- Update on the provision of an additional bench along the path

At January meeting of BPC, it was agreed that BPC purchase the 'Exeter' bench which is 100% recycled materials at a cost of £300 + VAT and any other cost associated with fitting the bench. Following Cllr Cleggs discussion with the landowner, Clerk has received written confirmation that the landowner is in agreement for BPC to install the bench along the path. The company that supplies this bench is no longer trading from November, so no longer has the Exeter bench in stock. The Brixham bench, which is in stock, is the same bench, made from 100% Recycled Plastic and smaller in dimensions (Length 1600mm | Width 455mm | Height 455mm) at a cost of £264.00. No fixings are provided to fix this into the ground other than on a concrete base.

A contractor has stated that he 'would not recommend recycled plastic, it fades and the expand/contraction of it messes the fixings up and makes it impossible to repair'.

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

Cllr Clegg has canvassed walkers' opinions along the route and there is no real appetite for a new bench to be placed in the location. At present there is a tree trunk in situ, it was decided that it would be better to replace this with a new tree trunk rather than a new bench. Cllr Clegg will liaise with the landowner regarding the new proposal and if he is in agreement BPC will look to source a new tree trunk.

91.9 Defibrillators

Cllr Clegg confirmed that all the defibrillators in Brixton are in good working order. Clerk was informed by The Circuit that the defibrillator had been taken at Venn Court, Cllr Clegg checked this, and it was fine. The bulb is not working in the telephone box on The Green, Clerk has ascertained that there is no power supply to the telephone box. Clerk has contacted BT and this is being looked into.

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

At the July BPC meeting a contractor was appointed and recently has commenced the 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. Work is currently being completed but taking longer due to additional corrosion.

91.10 Street Furniture

- Update on the refurbishment of the bench on A379

Clerk has asked contractor for a quote to replace the slats in hardwood, rather than softwood.

- Update on memorial bench on A379

Clerk is waiting for a price from contractor who made the other bench in Brixton. This will ensure that there is uniformity throughout the village. A location will then be found.

- Discussion regarding quotation for bus shelter improvements

There is a gap between the bus shelter and the pavement on the main road (A379), there is a pool of water that accumulates, and parishioners stood waiting for the bus get splashed. Cllr Martin proposed that BPC accept the quotation received from Marcus Cane Welding and Fabrication to fabricate and fit a powder coated dark green (to match the existing bus shelter) skirting at a cost of £334.00. Seconded Cllr Martin. All others in attendance were unanimous.

- Planters by Elbridge House bus stop

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

91.11 Brixton History Project – Brixton 2000

Cllr Hitchins is looking at reconvening this group to look at recording the history of Brixton. There is no update.

- Memorial Stone Ridge Cross

Last year Rebecca Smith, MP, provided funding for the sign on the memorial stone at Ridge Cross to be replaced. An email to Cllr Hitchins from a parishioner has requested that BPC 'adopt' the memorial stone. DCC PROW Officer has confirmed that the Memorial stone is not on the line of the path. Clerk has now contacted Historic England and is awaiting a reply.

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

91.12 Wildflower area at the top of Chittleburn Hill

Feedback has been received from parishioners regarding this area. At the September meeting Cllr Hitchins stated that she would liaise with a couple of volunteers who may be interested in working on this area. Prior to the next meeting Cllr Gillard will look at the area and come back to the November meeting with some ideas.

92. Local issues relating to Carrollsland

There are no updates from Carrollsland.

93. BPC Administration

93.1 Councillor and Clerk training

To include.

- Update regarding Cyber awareness training

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

- Update regarding Code of Conduct training

Clerk and all BPC councillors Clerk have been registered to undertake DALC Code of Conduct training module. All councillors have 12 months to complete all the module. Date of enrollment 6th October 2025. Clerk and Cllr Wills have completed the training module.

93.2 Discussion regarding a volunteer to represent BPC on the Yealm Harbour Authority

BPC is looking for a volunteer to represent BPC on the 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 in the Brixton magazine and Facebook, Clerk has not received any enquiries and BPC's existing volunteer has proposed the Yealm Harbour Office contacts mooring holders from Brixton to assess any interest. BPC agreed with this proposal.

Cllr Hitchins added the following agenda item

93.3 Replacement printer for Clerk

Clerk explained that ink had leaked from the bottom of the BPC printer, HP are unable to rectify this issue, and a new printer would be required.

Cllr Gillard proposed that Clerk purchase a new HP Smart All In One Printer at a cost of £219.99 (price offer currently in Curry's) seconded by Cllr MacLennan. All others in attendance were unanimous. Cllr Nix offered a printer that he has, he will look at the specifications and contact clerk prior to purchasing a new one.

94. Councillor Reports

Cllr Martin and Cllr Clegg have volunteered to undertake repairs on the gate on Silverbridge Way (any fittings will be reimbursed by BPC) and fit the soft closing mechanisms.

Date

Signed

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

95. Other updates / issues / consultations for discussion

95.1 Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation – Closing date 5th November 2025
Clerk to place on the agenda for Brixton Parish Environment Working Group.

96. Correspondence for information

- 96.1.** Cascade 'Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTO) for Road Closures relating to DCC works:
- A379 Elburton Road (near Brixton Road Station Bridge) – Monday 21st July 2025 – Friday
10th July 2026
- 96.2.** All weekly bulletins from DCC & SHDC are placed immediately on websites / Facebook pages
- 96.3.** South Hams District Council – News Releases

Cllr Hitchins closed the meeting at 9.16pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday 26th November 2025 at 7pm in Brixton Community Room

Kirstie Aldridge, Clerk, Brixton Parish Council

Date

Signed
Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council