



Approved Minutes of Brixton Parish Council April meeting held on Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 7.30 pm in Brixton Community Room

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

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

Members of the public in attendance: 2

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

Open Forum

Report from Devon County Councillor Tony Carson

Library consultation had 25,000 responses from the public, hoping the Cabinet will leave the service as it is and look to add further activities to sites, such as baby weighing etc

Rural Grant funding for DCC and DSFRS has been withdrawn by the Government along with a change in Investments and Pensions which is costing ratepayers extra for the services it requires and its responsibilities to its staff and pensioners throughout the County.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) the Government will announce its decision on 19th July on the model for the new Unitary Authority following which there will be a period of consultation. Elections will take place May 2027 and the new Unitary Authority to be in place by 2028.

Highways have continued to be high on the agenda and thanks goes to Nick Colton, DCC Highways Officer and the rest of the team at the Ivybridge depot for their continuing support. Other local parishes have volunteers who fill in potholes, Wembury PC has local arrangements to fill potholes.

Cllr Hitchins praised the work of DCC Highways Officer Nick Colton on behalf of BPC and asked County Cllr Carson whether there is any DCC award that BPC could nominate him for.

Cllr Hitchins suggested that BPC could invite a member of the Wembury 'pothole team' to a future parish council meeting, held in Brixton, to explain the scheme.

Brixton

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

JAW Hire Ltd - a company that hires out large vehicles to contractors for roadworks has applied for a licence to place 5 vehicles on the South West Composting site, this application has been advertised in the local press. These are vehicles that are currently being used at the Sherford building site. If a Date: 20th May 2026...

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licence is granted, a change of planning permission will be required, and a planning application will need to be submitted.

Cllr Hitchins stated that the lorries currently accessing the South West Composting site are prohibited from entering through Red Lion Hill.

District Cllrs have been approached by SHDC Planning Department regarding the application for Daisy Park – reference 4317/21/OPA (2024) who have requested delegated authority for planning permission to be granted. District Cllrs Carson & Nix have asked for this to be heard at a SHDC Development Management Committee (DMC)

Sherford

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

Sherford Community Trust Board Meeting 24/04/2026

Meeting was Quorate

- All previous minutes signed off (January, February, March)
- News sent out every 2 Months
- Presentation by Ian Sosnowski & Alex Whish SHDC UFT on Town Centre multi use building and Sherford Country Park. This will be ongoing together with discussions on aspirations of SCLT on the park, car club operations, town hall and various S106 items.
- SCLT fees will be levied from this year (£40) in line with the S106 agreement. The Consortiums management company will collect the fee on behalf of the developers to transfer to the SCLT, (provisionally from 1st June)
- Alternate director – Arrangements for alternate directors' being progressed and will require one from Brixton Parish Council

Events / Future Events

- Sherford Day held on 18th April 2026 – Successful day
- Monthly Farmers Market restarted 12th April and second Sunday every month
- Historical Day 3rd June – Tickets via Eventbrite

Other Updates

- The number of houses occupied for the end of year is estimated at 1,576.
- Local centre: Main Works are due to commence in May 2026 subject to planning and legal agreements. Co-op is the likely shop.
- Sherford Road Closure started 20/04/2026 and is ongoing
- Allotments being progressed alongside Sherford Road. It is proposed to be run by an allotments committee via the SCLT.
- Community panels working well and expanding especially the Environment and Heritage Group
- The SCLT has joined Chamber of Commerce to support Sherford SME's.

Grant Applications

- One grant application has been received and is under review.
- 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);

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- 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.

Cllr Hitchins stated that it was a very positive Sherford Liaison meeting on 27th April.

Section 106 agreements were discussed, these were made over 20 years ago and could continue for another 20 years in a changing economic environment, e.g. the monies allocated to Red Lion Hill at that stage were worth considerably more than now.

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**

At the Sherford Liaison meeting, the discussion was generally positive. A meeting is planned with DCC and PCC to review traffic movements and assess where traffic is going.

Near the top of Hercules Road some electric and gas lines need to be moved, along with installation of water works likely in May or June. There will be a rolling programme of minor roadworks/diversions to move/install these services.

A grant has been given to the Sherford Foodbank in the last few weeks

A Youth Group starting in Sherford led by the vicar has invited District Councillors to a meeting on 6th May in the park.

Cllr Hitchins stated that BPC had a very helpful meeting with Steve Fowler, Sherford Project Director regarding communication in between Sherford residents and the Consortium and further meeting is scheduled for the end of May to gauge progress.

Cllr Hitchins stated that BPC has also met with the local police regarding road safety in Sherford and the next meeting will be on 8th May.

District Cllr Nix stated that with the new planning applications there is the intention to look at the pavement parking with the parking requirements for the build. Contractors will be monitoring parking in the surrounding area, particularly around the school, to understand where people are currently parking.

Carroll Island

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

There is no update

SHDC General Information

Report from District Councillors Julie Carson and Alison Nix

There is no further update

Open Forum Closed

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1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs MacLennan, Martin and Nix and accepted by all Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hawken declared an interest in agenda point 9.9 (Silverbridge Way extension)

3. Confirmation of minutes of the meeting Brixton Parish Council on Wednesday 25th March 2026

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

4. Financial Matters

4.1 To receive and approve the finance statement for April 2026

Receipts:	Amount	
Precept - 1st instalment (SHDC)	£29,975.00	General
Sparkwell PC - River Yealm contribution 2025/2026	£442.00	River Yealm Annual & River Fly 2025
Newton & Noss PC - River Yealm contrib. 2026/2027	£452.00	River Yealm Annual & River Fly 2026
Wembury PC - River Yealm contrib. 2026/2027	£452.00	River Yealm Annual & River Fly 2026
Cornwood PC - River Yealm contrib. 2026/2027	£452.00	River Yealm Annual & River Fly 2026
Brixton (transfer to ring fenced acc) River Yealm 26/27	<u>£452.00</u>	River Yealm Annual & River Fly 2026
	<u>£32,225.00</u>	

Payments:

SHDC Payroll services 2025 2026 (paid by DD)	£120.00	General
Vision ICT - gov.uk annual domain renewal	£30.00	General
Vision ICT - website MOT	£174.00	General
Vision ICT - 10 hosted gov.uk emails	£240.00	General
REACH - clean 4 x bus shelters (Jan and April)	£120.00	General
K Aldridge wages	£1,255.40	General
K Aldridge expenses	£30.76	General
K Aldridge office allowance	£35.00	General
K Aldridge - reimburse April zoom	£16.79	General
BPC pension contribution (April)	£389.17	General
The Foxhound - Warm Hub Jan, Feb, and March	£36.00	Cost of Living Crisis
P Harvey – April Grounds Maintenance	£890.00	General
G Pilbeam ta Landscape Construction & Design (Silverbridge Way)	£1440.00	General
	<u>£4,777.12</u>	

17th April 2026

Lloyds Current Account:	£41,098.21
Lloyds Deposit Account:	<u>£20,495.46</u>
TOTAL:	<u>£61,593.67</u>

Statement balance at 21st April 2026

Skipton Building Society	£87,577.99
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Current Balance:

P3	£1,124.26
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Legal Fees	£12,482.69
Sherford 106 Contribution to Brixton Parish Council	£10,265.98
Brixstix funds	£757.50
Brixton History Group	£533.09
Yealm Community Energy - 2022 Grant (Bee Wild)	£49.70
Green Fund	£382.63
Community Emergency Plan Grant	£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	£274.07
Book Sale - Community Project	<u>£105.57</u>
Total of Fund allocated	<u>£36,947.27</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 Clegg proposed that BPC approve the finance report for April, seconded by Cllr Wills
 All others in attendance were unanimous.

4.2 To discuss and approve the membership - Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) 2026/27

BPC has received the membership renewal at a cost of £1228.50 inc. VAT– this includes the affiliation to NALC. The figure last year was £1039.14 inc. VAT.
 Cllr Carson proposed that BPC renew the membership to DALC at a cost of £1228.50 inc. VAT for 2026 2027. Seconded Cllr Clegg. All others in attendance were unanimous.

4.3 Update on VAT claim October 2025 – March 2026

Clerk confirmed that a VAT claim of £562.10 had been submitted.

4.4 Update regarding internal audit 2025 2026

Clerk confirmed that most of the information has been submitted to the internal auditor and yearend figures will be submitted by the end of the week.

4.5 Discuss and potentially approve Brixton Parish Council Insurance Policy 2026 2027

The details have not been received yet.
 Clerk to add this to the May agenda

4.6 Discuss BPC donation to the Cost-of-Living Crisis fund in the financial year 2026 2027

BPC has placed a figure of £500.00 in the budget for the Cost-of-Living Crisis Fund for the financial year 2026 2027
 Cllr Gillard proposed that BPC transfer the sum of £500.00 into the Cost-of-Living fund (ring fenced) account. Seconded Cllr Hawken. All others in attendance were unanimous.

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5. Planning applications received from SHDC and DCC during March / April 2026

2550/25/ARM

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 Hays Road, Elburton

Clerk, Cllrs Hitchins, and MacLennan met with Tom French SHDC Planning Officer to discuss the changes to the application on 23rd April 2026

Cllr Gillard proposed that BPC submit a recommendation of 'see comments' - 'BPC has no objection to this application, however BPC would like a condition imposed to ensure that any Ofsted recommendations are adhered to regarding the surrounding properties overlooking the outdoor area ensuring the safety of the children', seconded Cllr Hawken. All others in attendance were unanimous.

6. Planning applications received from SHDC and DCC during March / April 2026 for information only

0986/26/PAT

Application for prior notification of proposed works comprise 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 Coombe Farm Wembury Road Plymstock

7. Planning decisions made by SHDC / DCC during March / April 2026 (to note)

3655/25/HHO – Conditional Approval

Householder application for insertion of new windows in south elevation at ground floor & provision of additional area of hardstanding adjacent to existing driveway

12 Orchard Road Brixton PL8 2FE

8. Local issues relating to Brixton Parish as a whole

8.1 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- Update from relevant meetings

There has been no update since the consultation closed on 26th March.

District Cllr Tony Carson stated in his earlier report that the decision regarding LGR by Government will be announced on 19th July 2026.

The LGR page on the BPC website is constantly updated.

The link to Local Government Reorganisation in Devon, where all the plans can be viewed - <https://www.devonlgr.co.uk/>.

- South Hams Community Assets Policy

Cllr Hitchins attended a SHDC briefing on 18th March regarding their Community Assets Policy, this is in preparation for LGR. The policy states 'The Council will only consider asset transfer requests for land or property in category 3 above' – category 3 is 'Parks, open spaces, sports pitches.

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

- The grass verge from Ladybirds down to the first houses in Steer Point Road

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- The play space in Elliotts Hill
- The piece of land on the corner of Elliotts Hill with Steer Point Road (opposite the Owl Bench)
- The piece of land fenced off on the side of Steer Point Road

Following discussion at the March meeting Clerk had contacted Rob Sekula SHDC and who advised 'at this stage SHDC is simply seeking to gather/establish expressions of interest - with a view to pulling together detail at the next stage and post 8th May'.

The clerk had approached BPC's Insurance company who clarified that the minimum required insurance cover for the play space would be playground liability which is an extension of public liability.

Cllr Hawken proposed that BPC 'express an interest without prejudice' and would like to obtain further information from SHDC on the 4 areas within Brixton parish (listed above), seconded Cllr Gillard. All others in attendance were unanimous.

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

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

BPC has applied for the sum of £2,080.00 for 4 bespoke decorative finger posts to direct parishioners from Brixton village to and from Sherford via Monkey Lane. The closing date was 19th April, and the outcome will be received by June.

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

The Sherford Consortium has applied for a short section of public highway to be permanently closed. Known as 'Road Past Vealeholme', the piece of road is 282 meters long and runs between Main Street in Sherford and Plympton Hill. This proposal involves the stopping-up of a public highway, a formal road stopping-up order is required. This decision is with the Secretary of State for Transport and an application has been submitted. The consultation period took place from Monday 23 February 2026 for 28 days. BPC received confirmation that its comments have been received and an update was received on 14th April 2026 stating 'The consultation period has now ended. The applicant must now attempt to resolve the objections that we have accepted. Should they be unable to resolve them all, then they can ask the Secretary of State to make a decision on the matter. We expect that the holding of a Public Inquiry will be required, so that an independent Planning Inspector may hear both sides of the argument and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State on whether to make or not make the Order. Once we have reviewed that report a decision will be issued to all interested parties.'

8.4 Update on Dawes Lane

The Dawes Lane is currently closed as improvement works have started. Dawes Lane will be reopened on the 15th of May.

8.5 Relevant update from Traffic Management Working Group held on Monday 20th April 2026

The meeting of the Traffic Management Working Group was held on Monday 20th April with councillors, parishioners, Nick Colton DCC Highways Officer, Community Road Warden, and District Cllr Alison Nix.

There was discussion regarding pedestrian and horse warning signs around Monkey Lane, Wollaton Cross and at bottom of Lodge Lane and Hilltop Cottages. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should ascertain from Alex Whish whether horses are allowed in the Sherford Community Park.

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An advert from JAW Hire Ltd has been publicised in The Herald 'applying for a license to use South West Composting as an operating centre for 5 good vehicles and 0 trailers. This had already been raised this evening during District Cllrs report.

8.6 Update on Dementia Friendly Community Action Plan

Clerk confirmed that all BPC councillors have completed the Dementia Friends Training provided on line by the Alzheimer's Society. From the discussions in the Annual Parish meeting, there is new action plan which will be circulated to all councillors prior to discussion at the May meeting.

9. Local Issues relating to Brixton

9.1 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 to ensure they are ready when the hedgehogs come out of hibernation. Parishioner spearheading this project is finding it difficult to obtain quotations and has asked whether BPC would like to continue with this project. Following discussions it was agreed that the parishioner should continue to find a supplier to produce the signs.

- **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 Elliots Hill. BPC will maintain this bench.

Cllr Hawken is liaising with Steven Cane regarding placing the bench in this location.

9.2 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 alternative funding / delivery options to ensure scheme costs come within the available budget.

- **Update regarding drainage in Monkey Lane**

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

Cllr Hitchins stated that along the edges there is some mud remains along the edges of the hedges, which need to be swept and cleared. Cllr Clegg has spoken with the contractor who is happy to give a quotation for these works, a site visit will be conducted with the contractor.

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

A path providing access from Monkey Lane for pedestrians to Sherford Country Park is being constructed. It runs alongside the hedge into the Country Park and will join the existing PROW.

Cllr Hitchins stated that there are two bollards located there but the gate is closed.

Clerk to confirm with Alex Whish the situation with the gate and public access from Monkey Lane

- **Feedback from 'Guided Walk' held on Saturday 24th April 2026**

Approximately 40 people joined Alex Whish and the Chairman on Saturday 24th April to walk from The Feoffee Park in Brixton along the Public Right of Way to Monkey Lane. and then into the Country Park at Sherford. The Chairman thanked Alex Whish whose knowledge of Sherford and how current plans are progressing was of great interest to everyone; Steven Cane for sweeping Monkey Lane in readiness for the walk and Chloe at 'The Foxhound' for providing tea and coffee at the end of the walk. Cllr Hitchins thanked everyone who attended, building new community links between Brixton village and Sherford, and to Brixton Parish Council Environment Group for organising the event. Cllr Hitchins will write to Steven Cane to thank him for clearing Monkey Lane.

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.

9.3 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).

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

Cllr Stuart Nix met with two trustees on 21st March. Following this meeting the preliminary assessment undertaken in 2024 by the Feoffee Trust has been obtained and circulated to councillors. It was agreed that a working group would need to be established to take the project forward, this would comprise of 2 or 3 BPC councillors and 2 or 3 trustees. Cllr Hitchins will represent BPC on the working group and possibly Cllr Stuart Nix. To be confirmed at the next meeting.

9.4 Land at Cofflete Creek update

- **Update on interpretation board (Cllr Gillard)**

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

The remaining figure is £2,479.84 has been earmarked for the second interpretation board which Nicky Bailey, South Devon National Landscapes, is continuing to work on. There is currently a query as to whether the mill was tidal. There is varying information regarding this, but the board could refer to a book which states this is a 'tidal' mill. Clerk has asked Nick Bailey to work on a draft for BPC approval.

- **S106 contribution towards improvements to Cofflete Amenity Space – discuss and sign appropriate forms.**

Following the approval at the March BPC meeting of the bespoke quotation, an application form was submitted to SHDC for the s106 funds for the total amount of the quotation. SHDC has approved the funding of £5,330.00 from s106 funding.

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Cllr Hawken proposed that Cllr Hitchins sign the appropriate s106 paperwork for the funds of £5,330.00 to be released for the works stated above. Seconded Cllr Gillard. All others in attendance were unanimous. Cllr Hitchins signed the relevant paperwork. Clerk will inform contractor to commence the works.

9.5 Brixton Community Emergency Plan (CEP)

There is no update.

9.6 Composters update (Cllr Clegg)

155 tonnes of green waste have been shredded (provisional figure). This took 2 days to complete. This has now been sent off to SHDC for payment.

The installation of the bunker is imminent and will be attached to the shed that is already there.

9.7 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 £274.07

BPC has received confirmation that a grant of £300 has been approved from Brixton Feoffee Trust BPC has already approved its donation of £500 earlier, which will be transferred to the Cost of Living 'ring fenced' monies.

Cllr Gillard proposed that BPC pay an additional payment of £55.40 which was received by the Clerk this evening following completion of the April finance report, seconded Cllr Hawken. All others in attendance were unanimous. Clerk will add this to the May Finance Report.

9.8 Footpaths / P3 update

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

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

- Update on FP 30 / 31

DCC PROW Officer confirmed that the steps by the shore have been repaired and she is now looking at the other set of steps to ascertain what works are required. There is no further update.

- Update on handrail on FP from Spriddlestone to Torr

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

9.9 Silverbridge Way

General maintenance

The contractor has scrapped the path Brixton side and has mended the gate that had 'dropped' as well as mending the hole in the wood on the bridge.

- Update on the extension

Cllr Hawken and a member of the Silverbridge Way Working Group walked the proposed footpath route with SHDC Planning Officer who advised that an Environmental Impact Assessment would be required.

Cllr Hitchins confirmed that the report from the Planning Officer had been received just before the meeting and would be circulated to the working group. In the report the Planning Officer stated that 'a sensitively designed proposal which accommodates the advice is capable of officer support'.

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

Cllr Clegg has spoken with the landowner, who is in full agreement with the installation of a tree trunk rather than a bench BPC with a local landowner is looking for a tree trunk to be placed in this location. At the January meeting Cllr Hawken offered to shape the trunk and Cllr Martin offered to reinstate the 'bug magnet' when the trunk is in situ. Steven Cane will be looking for an appropriate log. Cllr Clegg has confirmed that this is still being actively sought.

9.10 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 prep and paint the inside and outside of both telephone boxes (on the Green and at Fordbrook) and replace some steel parts for the windows is being undertaken. There was an issue this week due to the door of the telephone box being closed whilst the paint was still wet, but this was soon rectified by Cllr Clegg and the contractor is aware and will ensure that any damage is rectified.

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

Community Engagement and Training Officer for SW Ambulance Service has offered to undertake the annual defibrillator awareness session. There will be two sessions – one in Brixton and one in Sherford.

- Brixton - Wednesday 10th June in Brixton Community Room from 7-9pm
- Sherford – TBC but possibly September

Clerk will liaise with Cllr Maclennan to look at the Sherford date

9.11 Street Furniture

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

Contact has received a new quotation to replace the wooden slats on the 2 concrete benches with hardwood Iroko (30x70 Timbers), frame fix screws & installation at a cost of £888.14 + VAT (labour £200 and materials £688.14). This quotation is cheaper than the original one and is valid until 10th May. Cllr Gillard proposed that BPC accept this quotation (spec above) at a cost of £888.14 +VAT seconded Cllr Wills. All others in attendance were unanimous.

- **Update on memorial bench on A379**

Cllr Hitchins is liaising with parishioner and family regarding a memorial bench and confirmed BPC will find a site for the bench and the family will be responsible for everything else.

The location is possibly on the grass between Lodge Lane and Brixton Lodge Gardens. Cllr Hitchins will be meeting with Nick Colton, DCC Highways Officer to decide on the best location.

- **Update from monthly street sweeping**

There was no street sweeping in April due to inclement weather. Thanks were expressed to the volunteers who did some litter picking and general tidying up.

- **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.

Date: 20th May 2026...

Signed: *E Hitchins*

Mrs E Hitchins – Chair Brixton Parish Council

9.12 Wildflower area at the top of Chittleburn Hill

The sleepers have been removed, and Steven Cane has offered to clear the area of debris and the flower bed. This will be completed soon.

9.13 Life on the Kitley Estate – exhibition Spring 2027

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

There is no further information at this stage.

9.14 Net Zero Vision artwork

Clerk has received an email from Matt Chown (the ex-District Councillor) regarding the Net Zero Vision artwork, this has now been completed and ready to be displayed in the parish. They are in A1 or A2 size (rolled).

10. Local issues relating to Sherford

10.1 Climate Change / Bio-diversity update

A very successful visit to Zoo Field Community Composting Site and Swarthmore Allotments was undertaken by members of the Environment & Heritage Group; they will be converting lessons learnt in their preparation for the introduction of allotment in Sherford.

The first Farmer's Market of the year took place on 12th April; over 200 people the event. Sherford Day, held on 18th April was enormously successful with 475 people attending the event. A variety of activities included the following:

- an educational talk about bats; nature trail in the country park, with questions relating to wildlife and plant life; skill transfer for making a bug hotel; face painting and a number of activities from the Conscious Sisters on how people can engage with the ocean; coppicing skills demonstration also took place.

People were very interested in the archive presentation exhibiting the interests of various Sherford residents, starting with the first resident who moved to Sherford in April 2017. Engagement at the event has helped to identify other residents who will need to be interviewed as part of the Oral Histories Project.

10.2 Street Naming Project

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

The Heritage Event, 3rd June 2026 has been advertised, and people have been applying for tickets. The event was highly advertised at Sherford Day and numerous residents were not only really pleased to hear about the event but would be booking tickets.

10.3 Sherford Community Emergency Plan

The Emergency Plan is still being drafted, there is no further update.

10.4 Traffic Update

- Update on Community Speedwatch

A recruit is undergoing the relevant training, currently operating with 5 volunteers. Two Speedwatch Sessions have been undertaken:

Date: 20th May 2026...

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

- 3rd March on Hercules Road, monitoring traffic travelling South - 506 vehicles, the highest recorded speed was 32mph.
 - 31st March junction of Aquila Drive and Orion Drive - 103 vehicles, all within the speed limit
- Working closely with Amy Turton, Community Speedwatch Manager for Devon and Torbay, who has linked the group up with the Neighbourhood Beat Manager, Rob Pike who will be attending some sessions.

- Update regarding road safety in Sherford

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

Q 1 January to March 2026

- Light vehicles (motorcycles, cars & light vans) as a % 69,068 = 90%
- Medium (2/3 axle vehicles, buses & trucks) 7,462 = 10%,
- Heavy (Articulated lorries) 431 = 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

Average weekly Volume

Jan to Dec 2025	Jan to Dec 2024	Jan to Dec 2021
78,414	73,702	50,433
January to March 2026	76,962 (-2%)	Still 53% increase on 2021

Currently the average daily traffic volumes on Hercules are at 10,995

- Both charts above show that Q1 is below trend
- NB: Q1 Jan to March 2024 is 218,912
- Q1 Jan to March 2025 is 219,944
- Q1 Jan to March 2026 is 230,885
- Historically, the Jan to March figure is below the average annual figure.
- The 2026 figure is in fact the highest in 6 years

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

Update on Pavement Parking

Beat Manager, Rob Pike has attended the school to educate parents about not parking on the pavements.

Facebook update from Ivybridge and Rural Police: In response to an increasing number of Sherford residents complaining about road safety in Sherford, they have been providing a visible presence and educating road users;

On Friday 20th March the Police carried out a Speeding Operation on Hercules Road and 1 in 5 cars were travelling over the threshold the Police would normally prosecute. One driver was travelling at 46 MPH, in a 30 MPH limit.

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

- **Sherford Road Traffic Calming Project**

Sherford Road Traffic Calming Project began 13th April 2026 and is scheduled to last for 14 weeks. Include a mini roundabout, improvements to Gemini Road junction, a permanent pedestrian and cycle patch. Diversions have been publicised.

10.5 Footpath updates including PROW.

The meeting to discuss PROWs was cancelled; Ros Davies, DCC PROW Officer will look to reschedule this meeting. There is no further update.

10.6 Defibrillators

To include

- **Update on an additional defibrillator**

The original application for the purchase and installation of 3 x defibs in Sherford Country Park was sent to the Consortium on 8th October 2025.

The issue of funding for the payment of the three units will be raised by Judy Talbot, Project Co-Ordinator, Sherford Community Land Trust at the next liaison meeting on 27th April.

10.7 Publicity / events

- The very successful Oasis Community lunches are continuing alternate Thursdays.
- The second Farmers Market will be held on 10th May and every 2nd Sunday in the month until October.
- Sherford Heritage Event 3rd June, booking open now.
- Open gardens 7th June 2026 - nature trail, bug hotel, Community Church

11. Local issues relating to Carrollsland

There were no updates from Carrollsland.

12. BPC Administration

12.1 Discuss and update General Practice Policies: Civility & Respect Councillor and Officer Protocol, Complaints Policy, Community Engagement Policy & Strategy and Correspondence Policy

Cllr Hawken proposed that BPC approve the General Practice Policies: Civility & Respect Councillor and Officer Protocol, Complaints Policy, Community Engagement Policy & Strategy and Correspondence Policy, seconded Cllr Clegg. All others in attendance were unanimous. Clerk will place the updated General Practice Policies on the BPC website.

12.2 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.

As Cllr Carson had not completed any module within the allotted year time frame he asked for these modules to be reactivated which he will pay for.

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

Clerk and all BPC councillors have been registered to undertake DALC Standards in Public Life training module. All councillors have 12 months to complete all the modules. Date of enrollment 6th

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October 2025. Clerk and Cllrs Clegg, Gillard, Hitchins, Hawken, Martin, MacLennan, Nix and Wills have completed the training module. Cllr Carson has yet to complete the training.

- **Discuss GDPR training for Clerk and Councillors**

Due to the importance of GDPR Clerk has obtained details of available training courses. Clerk is liaising with Cllr Nix regarding the best course to undertake.

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

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

BPC has received an email from an interested party who will initially get in contact with Yealm Harbour Authority and the existing BPC representative for further information.

12.4 Discussion regarding the BPC monthly newsletter

The monthly newsletter is available on the BPC website.

There is an issue with the BPC website domains on Mailchimp, this is affecting the delivery of the electronic newsletter to certain email addresses. Clerk is liaising with the website provider to ensure delivery can be for all email addresses.

12.5 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.

12.6 Cybercrime Awareness Presentation – discuss D&C Police providing a presentation

D&C Police offer Cybercrime Awareness presentations in Devon to Community Groups, Businesses, Charities, Parish, and Town Councils

The Home Office funds the role and have asked all Cyber Protect Officers to focus on:

- Strong Passwords (Three Random Words)
- 2 Factor Authentication / 2 Step Verification
- Updating Operating Systems
- Back-ups

The awareness talk lasts about 45 mins to an hour with availability into August, September, October and November now. BPC will consider this for the Brixton Annual Parish meeting April 2027.

12.7 Update regarding BPC website MOT

There is no update.

13. Councillor Reports

There were no councillors reports.

Date: 20th May 2026...

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

14 Other updates / issues / consultations for discussion

14.1 Update on South Hams Community Awards 2026

BPC nominated Community Road Warden / Snow Warden Roger Smith for the Community Champion Award and Cllr MacLennan nominated Christine King for her work with the Friends of Sherford Country Park.

The presentation was held on 26th March.

Christine King was a runner up in the Climate and Biodiversity Champion Award category

14.2 Update from South Devon National Landscape Partnership meeting – 13th March 2026 and parish councils' representative

Notes have been received from the meeting.

14.3 Update from South Hams Dementia Forum – Wednesday 22nd April 2026

This was postponed.

14.4 Highways Assembly – Wednesday 6th May 2026

DCC are holding a Highways Assembly on Wednesday 6th May

BPC Community Road Warden will try to attend online.

15. Correspondence for information

15.1. Cascade 'Temporary Traffic Regulation Order*s (TTO) for Road Closures relating to DCC works:

- A379 Elburton Road (near Brixton Road Station Bridge) – Monday 21st July 2025 – Friday 10th July 2026
- Road past Vealeholme (for Deep Lane Cycle Bridge Scheme) – Wed 22nd April 2026 – Thurs 21st Oct 2027
- Elliots Hill (road closure) & Horn Lane (parking suspension) one way system suspended – Wed 29th April – Fri 1st May 2026

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

15.3. South Hams District Council – News Releases

Cllr Hitchins closed the meeting at 9.26 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 20th May in Sherford Community Room, this will be BPC Annual Meeting

Kirstie Aldridge, Clerk, Brixton Parish Council

Date: 20th May 2026...

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