

**Minutes of the Brixham Annual Parish Meeting**  
**held in the Function Hall of Brixham Town Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 at 7.00 pm**

**Present:** Town Council Chairperson Cllr R Clarke and Tracy Hallett, Town Clerk.

**Attending:** 12 members of the public.

**18/001 Introduction by the Vice-Chairperson of Brixham Town Council.**

Vice Chairperson, Cllr J Stock, welcomed everyone to the Brixham Annual Parish Meeting.

**18/002 To accept any apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Town Councillors R Clarke, I Carr, J Regan, J Stockman, and Torbay Councillors V Ellery and T Manning.

**18/003 To accept the minutes of the last annual parish meeting held on 25.05.17.**

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 25.05.17 were confirmed and signed as a true and correct record.

**18/004 To hear the Police Report.**

Apologies were received from the Police. Cllr Haddock reported that the Police had thanked the public of Brixham for their help in the latest drug arrests. The Police have also closed down a new illegal printing works. All this was thanks to information from residents of Brixham and they would like to use this model of support for Paignton and Torquay.

**18/005 To hear an update on the Dial a Bus Scheme.**

Tracey Cabache and Mike Norton from Torbay Community Development Trust updated members on the Dial a Bus scheme. The amount of subsidies that Torbay Council have to fund means that this is all going on the bus concessionary pass and are unable to support any other subsidised service. Torbay Community Development Trust are therefore focusing on the areas that need support and have agreement to run a not-for-profit bus service.

Torbay Community Development Trust are in the process of identify the vehicle needed and will engage with the Town Council and the community on how they are going to provide the service.

Councillor Giles advised that the vast majority of those that campaigned at the beginning would be happy to pay for the service of between £7 - £8 return.

Torbay Community Development Trust still have a few logistics to resolve but offered to hold an open meeting to discuss the dial a bus with those that would be interested in using the service.

**18/006 To hear details about the new Information Point Service**

The Clerk reported that the Information Point Service will be located in the reception area of the Museum. It is a new service the Town Council are providing for both residents and public. An interactive kiosk has been ordered and the Clerk has set up the details of what will initially be available on the kiosk. However, it is hoped that this service will grow and further information can be added and updated to the kiosk at a later stage.

**18/007 A hear a report on the storm damage around the Town, following Storm Emma**

Cllr Day reported that a survey was required on the Breakwater to ascertain how much damage had been caused. A contractor is ready to start as soon as they know the extent of the damage. In the meantime, the Breakwater is closed because it is dangerous.

Cllr Stock reported that the Shoalstone kiosk was washed away and there was damage around the pool. The integrity of the pool is fine and they are all working hard to ensure the pool opens on 26<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Stock thanked everyone that had supported the fundraising.

Cllr Morey advised that there are two options open to the tenants of the kiosk (1) start work and apply for retrospective planning permission or (2) apply for planning permission and then start the work. Cllr Stock reported that the work had started.

Cllr Haddock reported the Breakwater is 2/3rds insured and they will need to apply for funding for the remaining cost of the repair work.

Cllr Haddock also reported that Brixham had been congratulated for their initiative for setting up a crowd funding page.

### **18/008 Brixham Torbay Ward Councillors session**

Thanks was given to Cllr Haddock and his team for helping to grit the roads and clearing the road leading from Hillhead to Brixham Road during the recent snow storms.

Cllr Haddock reported that they dug out 6 vehicles from the Hillhead Road.

Questions were raised with the Ward Councillors.

Cllr Haddock asked if Brixham Town Council could extend their flood plan to include snow and other emergency planning. Cllr Haddock asked to be part of the emergency plan.

### **18/009 An opportunity for the electors of the Parish to raise any matters of interest that relate to the Parish of Brixham**

Sally Lord, Chair of the Brixham Community Partnership advised that the Community Police are reallocating their limited resources to deal with the crimes as best they can. Police will be concentrating on a 'big hit'. The Police are keen to ensure that the community continue to report crime. The Community Partnership had invited the Police Commissioner for 13<sup>th</sup> March. Unfortunately, the Police Commission had to cancel the meeting.

Sally Lord went on to read her report on what the partnership has been working on in the last 12 months. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

Electors had an opportunity to raise any matters of interest that relate to the Parish of Brixham.

Brixham Peninsula Neighbourhood Forum update was requested. It was advised that an inspector has been instructed by Torquay and Brixham with a separate inspector for Paignton. It is hoped that a referendum will be held in the autumn.

Brixham Future were featured in the Devon Life magazine for the work they did on the murals in Brixham. It was also noted that they had done a good job on the planters in the central car park. The main comment received was that it would be good to see the planters labelled so people knew who had installed them.

Cllr Haddock advised that he had been approached by Brixham Chamber of Commerce for a donation of plants for the town centre and Middle Street.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

Chairperson..... Date.....



## Report for Brixham Parish Meeting, Thursday 22 March 2018

The last report to the Parish Meeting, dated 25 May 2017, was just before the General Election Hustings, arranged by Brixham Community Partnership (BCP). This proved to be a very lively affair and was ably chaired by former Brixham Councillor Brian Harland.

BCP public meetings in 2017 were scheduled for 11 April (AGM), 13 June, 15 August, 6 October and 12 December (subsequently rearranged to 14 November). It was intended to try to reinstate the regular programme of BCP meetings but, due to poor attendance, BCP has changed direction over the past year. It now holds meetings on topics of current interest with guest speakers, and this has proved more successful. As well as emailing the BCP membership (currently standing at 231 subscribers, individuals and groups), meetings are publicised through the Herald Express and Brixham News. On 15 August, the guest speaker was Torbay Councillor Richard Haddock who gave frank answers to questions raised by BCP members. On 6 October, guest speaker Dr. Sarah Wollaston MP answered questions ranging from the Dawlish rail line and the NHS, through to the fishing industry post-Brexit. The 12 December meeting was rearranged to 14 November because many people had expressed concern about Torbay Council's Investment Strategy. Torbay Councillors David Thomas and Alan Tyreman were guest speakers and again, a frank discussion ensued. Full reports of all these meetings can be viewed on the website of Torbay Community Development Trust: [www.torbaycdt.org.uk/community-partnerships](http://www.torbaycdt.org.uk/community-partnerships) (Brixham page).

BCP has, over the years, been an integral part of Brixham life, leading to now-established bodies such as Brixham Town Council, Brixham Future CIC and the Brixham Peninsula Neighbourhood Forum, all of which now fulfill functions previously carried out by the BCP. It has supported, both financially and with advice, many of the voluntary groups which now exist in Brixham. Voluntary group representatives no longer attend BCP meetings, probably because they are mature groups who seek their own funding. A new role has been found for the BCP - holding public meetings on topics of concern and these are well attended, providing an essential public forum where the general public can directly question, and receive answers from, relevant representatives of local and national bodies. However, the BCP Steering Group now consists of only four members, the minimum quorum and, despite appeals, it has not been possible to persuade people to join. At present, the BCP Steering Group are consulting with TCDT and with the BCP membership to find a way forward for the BCP.

Sally Lord  
Chair, Brixham Community Partnership

## **Notes of a meeting of Torbay Community Partnerships held at 6.30pm on Thursday 8 March 2018 at the offices of Torbay Community Development Trust**

Topics: Damage caused to Torbay infrastructure by Storm Emma  
The Future of Community Policing

Guest speakers from Torbay Council:

Anne Marie Bond – Executive Head of Commercial Services (and Monitoring Officer)  
June Gurry – Governance Support Manager

Guest speaker from D&C Police: Inspector Si Jenkinson, Section Inspector

The meeting was originally called to discuss the future of community policing, but now included a report on the damage caused by Storm Emma.

### Storm Damage

To date (8 March) there were 185 instances of damage to Torbay infrastructure but the Council is still assessing so may be more. Repairs may cost in excess of £1million and central government has asked for a list of the damage. Significant damage was caused to the seafronts at Torquay, Preston, Paignton and Goodrington including flooding, sea walls, coastal defences, pathways, street furniture, shelters and beach huts. Paignton's Geoplay Park is closed until it can be assessed. Large amounts of debris have accumulated and the Council and TOR2 will be working to clear this. Communities are asked to inform their Ward Councillors of damage/debris. Brixham's damage included the Breakwater and the lighthouse was put out-of-action with the door washed in and electrics damaged. The maritime authorities have been informed. Brixham's Shoalstone pool was damaged, together with Breakwater Bistro and the promenade and car park. Storm Emma has been assessed as a 1-in-75 year storm and Torbay Council is reviewing its situation to find a balance between preparedness and the likelihood of recurrence. The final report will be shared with the community.

It was mentioned that gritting bins had been a problem as, when required, some were empty, others locked or missing completely. TC said TOR2 will replenish bins and the community were asked to report on their bins. Unfortunately, the locations of bins were not known to some CPs, so Darren Cowell will ask TOR2 for a list of gritting bins and their locations, and will pass this to CPs.

### Future of Community Policing

The future of community policing is not going to be the 'bobby on the beat' model. This is obvious not only because of the reduction in numbers of front-line police, but also because of the changing challenges of policing.

D&C has had to reduce the numbers of police by 600. The PCSOs, originally brought in for community engagement, went from being Government-funded to locally-funded. This meant that in Torquay for example, numbers were reduced from 25 down to 7, shortly to be reduced to 5. At the same time, new policing challenges emerged:

- child sex exploitation, today and also historically,
- counter-terrorism intelligence, and
- people trafficking.

To cover these new challenges, staff have to be taken from the front line. Torquay is the busiest policing area in Devon and Cornwall. There were 12 'beats' in Torquay but because of reduced manpower, these are no longer sustainable. All this means that community policing has to be done in a different way. Shift patterns had not been reviewed for several years but have now been adapted to cover 'high level' days. The reduced force has been redistributed to form teams that can provide a 'big hit' on areas such as:

- Drugs - supply, dealing and use which contributes to crime to feed drug habits
- Youth anti-social behaviour - groups of 'feral' youths
- Protection of vulnerable people, for example:
  - child sex exploitation via internet
  - the targetting of elderly men exploited by young women who are drug users,
  - . 'cuckooing' - where gangs from outside area take over dwellings of vulnerable people from which to operate.

This means that lower-level activity such as shoplifting, theft from cars etc., is not going to get the same attention as in the past. However, after a 'big hit' operation such as those mentioned above, there is a 'ripple effect' when crime is down. Police officers can then be tasked to tackle community policing. In areas where this system is operating, it is noticeable that community reporting is up because of reaction to a 'big hit' operation.

The police now use social media, eg. Spotted, Twitter and Facebook, both to gather information, and to directly communicate with the public. However, It is essential that the community still reports crime, so that police can identify a problem and bring significant resources to address it.