

Brixham Town Council

Committee Terms of Reference



Review History

Reviewed May 2008, May 2009, May 2010, May 2011, May 2012, July 2013, May 2014.

Contents

1. Evaluation
2. Community Services Committee
3. Finance and General Purposes Committee
4. Town Hall Sub Committee
5. Planning and Regeneration Committee

Evaluation Committee

This committee is appointed to:

- evaluate the overall performance of Brixham Town Council (BTC) and its component committees;
- develop a long term strategy and recommend changes in BTC policies and procedures;
- evaluate, review and adapt (if required) BTC specific meeting procedures;
- agree any dispensation requests with regard to the current agreed Code of Conduct;
- make decisions about all staffing matters, subject to budget and expenditure limits decided by Full Council;
- consider any other matters delegated to the committee by the Council.

Format of committee

1. All recommendations on all matters, excluding personnel issues, must be referred to Full Council.
2. Membership to be the Chairpersons of the other committees, the BTC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, with a quorum of four members.
3. The Chair to be held by the Vice Chairperson of BTC. If the Vice Chairperson is not able to attend, the BTC Chairperson shall preside.
4. The committee to meet quarterly or as required.
5. The agenda to be published, with items to discuss listed, three clear days in advance of the meeting.
6. Minutes to be taken and distributed with BTC papers and agreed at the next committee meeting.
7. The Town Clerk or Assistant to the Town Clerk to undertake any correspondence required.
8. Members of the committee may vote on resolutions put to the committee.
9. All councillors may attend and contribute to the meeting, unless the item to be discussed is personal to a member of staff and the committee pass a resolution to exclude members of the public, press and non-committee members for that item.

Personnel issues

The committee has the responsibility for the following:

10. To establish and keep under review the staffing structure in consultation with Full Council.
11. To draft, implement, review, monitor and revise policies for staff, including staff contracts.
12. To establish and review salary payscales for all categories of staff and to be responsible for their administration.
13. To prepare and submit budget proposals in respect of salaries and training for all staff to the Finance & General Purposes Committee (not later than 31 October each year) as laid down in Financial Regulation 2.1.
14. (a) To oversee the recruitment and appointment of staff with the exception of the Town Clerk/RFO, where instead it would
 - (b) short list applicants for the post of Town Clerk/RFO. The successful short listed applicants would be interviewed by the committee, before giving a presentation to Full Council on a topic relevant to current issues. A decision to appoint will be made at Full Council, following the presentations.
 - (c) To establish and review performance management (including considering outcomes of annual staff appraisals) and staff training programmes for staff, where
 - (d) the Vice Chairperson shall conduct an appraisal of the Town Clerk annually in April, keeping a written record;
 - (e) the Town Clerk shall conduct appraisals of all staff annually in April, keeping a written record;
 - (f) the committee shall supervise the work of the Town Clerk.
 - (g) To monitor the leave and absences chart, so as to address regular or sustained staff absence.

- (h) To keep under review staff working conditions, and health and safety matters.
- (i) To consider a grievance or disciplinary matter (and any appeal) and oversee any process leading to dismissal of staff (including redundancy).
- (j) To consider any pay disputes and any appeal against a decision in respect of pay.
- (k) To ensure that confidentiality is maintained over all staffing matters under the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Model Code of Conduct as signed by all members of the Town Council.

Community Services Committee

1. To respond to consultation documents and projects generated by other organisations (unless the nature of the consultation falls within the operational remit of another Brixham Town Council Committee).
2. To formulate and maintain a directory of the voluntary groups in the Town to include contact details for each group e.g. Lifeboat, BM Does Care, RNMDSF, Churches etc.
3. To maintain an annual diary of group events in planning e.g. The Hap'nin in the Park, Regatta, Trawler Race, etc.
4. To manage Council Communications, eg website & newsletter.
5. To consider issues regarding public amenities within the town, eg. bus shelters, benches; and implementation of environmental, amenity and clean up schemes.
6. To monitor the condition of street furniture in the Town in conjunction with groups such as "Pride in Brixham" to ensure that Torbay Council fulfil their obligations with regard to waste bins, bus shelters, seats and the war Memorial etc and to make recommendations to Council for funding for community improvements to the Town infrastructure.
7. To manage or facilitate the Christmas lights and other promotional and tourism related displays such as floral decoration and maintenance.
8. To allocate and authorise Seasonal Display budget expenditure.
9. To manage all Civic Events in the town.
10. To advertise the Annual Civic Award, to compile entries and resolve the winner of the Civic Award in time for presentation of the award at the Annual Parish Meeting each May.
11. To manage all matters relating to entertainment and the arts including ideas and schemes for recreation. To liaise with schools and youth groups to facilitate youth related events.
12. To liaise with the Brixham TIC to ensure that notice of local events are prominently displayed and regularly updated.
13. To liaise with the local press in respect of local groups and events.
14. To liaise with the TEDC (formerly TDA) and ERTC with regard to Brixham specific Tourism advertising.
15. Membership to be 7 Councillors including the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and with a quorum of 4 Members, to be appointed annually.

16. Chair to be elected at the first meeting of the Committee after Brixham Town Council annual meeting. If the Committee Chairperson is not able to attend the Town Council Chairperson shall preside, then if he is not in attendance the Town Council Vice Chairperson will preside.
17. To meet quarterly or as required.
18. The Agenda to be published with items to discuss listed 3 clear days in advance of the meeting.
19. Minutes to be taken and distributed with Brixham Town Council (BTC) papers and agreed at the next Committee meeting.
20. The Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk to undertake any correspondence required.
21. Members of the Committee may vote on resolutions put to the committee. All Councillors may attend and contribute to the meeting.

Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP)

1. The Finance & General Purposes Committee (F&GP) to act in accord with the Financial Regulations adopted at the Brixham Town Council Annual Meeting.
2. To have Delegated Powers by BTC Resolution to pay invoices already agreed by a Council minute such as:
 - i. Salaries
 - ii. Rent
 - iii. Stationery
 - iv. Postage
 - v. Telephone and any other Utility
 - vi. Maintenance Contracts already resolved by Council
 - vii. Project Contracts already resolved by Council
3. To have the delegated power to authorise and make expenditure up to 50% of the emergency repair expenditure limit (ex VAT) in any four week period.
4. To prepare and present to BTC detail of the Financial Business such as:
 - i. Budget
 - ii. Precept
 - iii. Monitor the income and expenditure quarterly in relation to Budget.
5. To review the detail of the following and present its findings, actions and recommendations to Council on:
 - i. Subscriptions
 - ii. Grant applications for money from the Council
 - iii. Estimates for Project Work
6. To appoint a councillor who is not a member of the Committee to monitor BTC accounts on a quarterly basis and report to the Committee (known as the Internal Internal auditor).
7. To liaise with Internal Auditor.

8. To discharge all aspects of the allotments, including management and maintenance, in accordance with relevant legislation, any policy or strategy relating to the function approved by the Council and within the budget provision made by the Council.
9. To review & manage Town Council Emergency Protocols.
10. To undertake with the Clerk, through a sub committee, negotiations with the current & prospective tenants of the Brixham Town Hall. Including agreeing terms & conditions for leases. To attract new tenants for the Town hall and to proceed with all arrangements for the smooth handover and management of the Town Hall.
11. To have the delegated power to spend, or the sub committee to spend, up to £5,000 (ex VAT) on emergency repairs, for example any that may be required on the Town Hall. (see 3 above)
12. The Responsible Financial Officer to service the Committee and undertake any correspondence required.
13. To meet once a month or as required with the Agenda to be published with items to discuss listed 3 clear days in advance of the meeting and report back to Full Council.
14. Minutes to be taken and distributed with Brixham Town Council (BTC) papers and agreed at the next Committee meeting.
15. Membership to be 7 Councillors including the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and bank account signatories, with a quorum of 4 members, to be appointed annually.
16. Chairperson to be elected at the first meeting of the Committee after BTC annual meeting. If the Committee Chairperson is not able to attend the Town Council Chairperson shall preside, then if he is not in attendance the Town Council Vice Chairperson will preside.
17. Members of the Committee may vote on resolutions put to the committee. All Councillors may attend and contribute to the meeting.

Town hall Sub Committee (agreed minute no 13017)

1. The membership to be 7.
2. To support and encourage use of the Town Hall, Scala Hall and theatre as a community resource.
3. To work towards achieving the best levels of income possible from all areas of the Town Hall that can be let, to ensure the future viability of the Town Hall for both those tenants based in the Town Hall and for Community use of the Theatre and Scala Hall.
4. To explore options for long term funding.
5. To negotiate and agree leases for all long term tenants of Brixham Town Hall.
6. To consider the impact of charges to users.
7. To create working groups as and when required to work with tenants and or contractors on specific Town Hall issues, including but not limited to leases, fire safety, alterations, maintenance and complaints; but excluding setting rent levels.

8. The Working groups are to report back to the Sub Committee.
9. To report to and recommend proposals to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Planning and Regeneration Committee

1. Delegated powers to comment on planning applications placed before it, within Brixham Town and adjacent areas and respond on behalf of the Town Council, to all consultations by Torbay Council in relation to planning applications.
2. Members of the Committee may vote on resolutions put to the Committee. All Councillors may attend and contribute to the meeting.
3. Members of the public, officers and Torbay Council officers may speak to planning applications during the meeting without the requirement to suspend Standing Orders. The time allowed for a member of public to speak to an application is five minutes. *NB Members of the public who wish to speak on items on the agenda other than planning applications being considered must do so prior to the commencement of the meeting in accordance with standing orders.*
4. In the case of applications deemed by the Chairperson of Planning, the Chairperson of Brixham Council and the Clerk to be contentious a full Council meeting will be called.
5. Nominate speakers to represent Brixham Town Council at Torbay Council Development Management Committees.
6. Comment on Licence applications.
7. Highway matters: monitor the condition of highways, pavements, lighting, signs and street names. Report matters of concern to Torbay Council.
8. To consider development plans (e.g. County Structure Plan and Torbay Council's Local Plan) and other development related consultation documents and to respond, on the Council's behalf, as appropriate.
9. To consider and make recommendations to the Council on any matter relating to planning consultation processes.
10. If a Councillor is unable to attend the Planning Committee meeting, the Councillor should immediately advise an Officer and e mail, or verbally state, their comments and recommendations for any site visits already undertaken. The Officer should then reallocate any unvisited assigned application to an alternative member of the Planning Committee.
11. Membership to be 7 Councillors including the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and with a quorum of 4 Members, to be appointed annually.
12. Chairperson to be elected at the first meeting of the Committee after Brixham Town Council annual meeting. If the Committee Chairperson is not able to attend the Town Council Chairperson shall preside, then if they are not in attendance the Town Council Vice Chairperson will preside.
13. To meet once a month, a week prior to the Torbay Council Development Control monthly Committee meetings. The Agenda to be published with items to be discussed listed 3 clear days in advance of the meeting.
14. Minutes to be taken and distributed with Brixham Town Council (BTC) papers and agreed at the next Committee meeting.

15. The Town Clerk, or administration assistant, or Deputy Town Clerk, is to administer the Committee and undertake any correspondence required.

Substitution of members on Committees

1. Procedure for giving Notice of inability to attend a Committee meeting:
 - Members of a Committee (“Members”) will notify the Chairperson of the Committee in question and the Town Clerk’s office as soon as they are aware that they will be unable to attend the Committee Meeting.
 - Members will also notify if they are able to undertake application research, site visits and submit a report to the relevant Planning Committee Meeting.
 - The Member(s) concerned will notify the Chairperson and the Town Clerk’s Office if they are aware of a Councillor who is willing to substitute for them at the relevant Committee Meeting and if that Councillor is willing to undertake application research and site visits if required where the substitution is for a Planning Committee meeting.
2. Need for a substitute.
 - Arrangements for a substitute will not be instigated unless two or more Members notify that they will be unable to attend a Committee Meeting.
 - When a Member notifies they are unable to attend, the Town Clerk’s office will in the first instance arrange for a substitute to be on stand by in case any further Members subsequently notify their unavailability. The Town Clerk’s office will inform the Chairperson of the relevant Committee when this has been done and the identity of the Member concerned (“the Substitute”).
 - If the number of Members able to attend falls to four or less the Town Clerk’s office will notify the Substitute(s) that they are required to attend the relevant meeting and, if applicable, to undertake Site Visits (see 4 below).
3. The standing of a Substitute on a Committee.
 - A Substitute will have full voting rights as though they are an elected member of the Committee.
 - A Substitute may vote in the manner they so choose.
 - Proxy voting is not available to Members unable to attend a Committee Meeting.
4. Planning Committee Site Visits:
 - If the Member to be substituted is so able they will undertake application research and site visits for the applications allocated to them and submit a verbal or e-mail report to the Town Clerk’s office giving their recommendations.
 - If the Member is not able to undertake the application research and site visits then the Substitute will undertake this. In the case of a Substitute being inexperienced in planning matters the Town Clerk’s office will endeavour to allocate the most straightforward applications and guide the Substitute.
5. Planning Committee Site Review Meetings:
 - When Site Review Meetings are called by Torbay Council the Substitute will be invited in the first instance to attend such meetings on applications in respect of which they have undertaken application research and Site Visits.
 - Should the Substitute be unable to attend such a Site Review normal process will be followed and another Member invited to attend.

6. Planning Committee Substitute Training:

- Any Member who has neither (i) been on the Planning Committee before nor (ii) undertaken planning training must come to at least one planning meeting before they become a Substitute. All Councillors to which this applies must attend the earliest possible meeting after the date of adoption of this policy. Town Clerk's office to so notify those concerned.
- If the Substitute is inexperienced in planning matters and so requires, an experienced Member will accompany a Substitute on first Site Review Meeting.

Policy	<i>A way of doing something that has been officially agreed /adopted by the Council</i>
Strategy	<i>A planned series of actions for achieving something</i>
Plans	<i>A set of actions that has been considered carefully and in detail</i>
Protocols/compacts	<i>A written record of a formal agreement, or an early form of an agreement</i>
Procedure	<i>A set of actions which is the official or accepted way of</i>