

**Minutes of the Brixham Annual Parish Meeting held in the Function Room of  
Brixham Town Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 18:00pm.**

<b>Present</b>	Cllr R Haddock, Town Council Chairperson and Tracy Hallett, Town Clerk.
<b>In Attendance</b>	32 electors and 3 non electors; Sgt Ed Thomas

<b>23001</b>	<b>Introduction by the Chairperson of Brixham Town Council</b> Brixham Town Council Chairperson, Cllr R Haddock, welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and asked Town Councillors to introduce themselves to the meeting.
<b>23002</b>	<b>To accept any apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received from Town Councillor S Laurie and Ward Councillor M Morey
<b>23003</b>	<b>To accept the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b> The minutes of the last Parish Meeting held on 27.04.22 were confirmed and signed as a true and correct record.
<b>23004</b>	<b>To hear a report from the Brixham Police</b> Sgt Ed Thomas the Brixham Neighbourhood Team Leader introduced himself and advised that the new crime database is not compatible with the analytical database. However, overall the crime records in Brixham are low.  Brixham Police have been working with other agencies towards a Public Space Protection Order, which is in the formal consultation process. If approved, this will help all agencies work towards resolving the issues at Berry Head quarry.  Electors were given the opportunity of asking Sgt Thomas questions. Concerns raised included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Berry Head Quarry</li> <li>• Over fishing at the Breakwater</li> <li>• Catalytic convert crime</li> <li>• Drugs</li> </ul>

<p><b>23005</b></p>	<p><b>To hear a report on the Town Council's draft Strategy Plan</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk gave an overview of the draft strategy plan and the results of the consultation showing where the Council had listened and included additional objectives from the results.</p> <p>Electors were given the opportunity to ask questions. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns that Torbay Council may not listen to Brixham Town Council</li> <li>• Concerns that Brixham was ignored in the handling of the Brixham Road closure</li> </ul> <p>The Clerk reported the steps that Town Council and Torbay Council Officers are taking in order to improve partnership working between both Councils.</p> <p>Cllr Haddock stated that he believed Torbay Council should carry out an investigation into what went wrong and what can be improved.</p> <p>Cllr Stockman responded that Torbay Highways did not object to the application and the Planning Inspector was only obliged to consider parts of the application that had received objections.</p>
<p><b>23006</b></p>	<p><b>To receive presentations from Community Groups and Organisations</b></p> <p><u>Brixham Theatre</u></p> <p>The Clerk reported that the Chair of the Brixham Theatre sent their apologies.</p> <p><u>Shoalstone Seawater Pool</u></p> <p>Representatives from the CIO presented to the meeting, the progress they are making working towards their reopening and that they have employed an Operations Manager. The focus of their presentation was based on the need for Shoalstone to be repaired and their newly launched fundraising campaign "to save Shoalstone from the waves".</p> <p>Electors were advised that Shoalstone had applied to the Levelling up Community Fund for £250,000. However, they need to raise the match funding to support their application and asked electors to encourage people to sign up as friends of Shoalstone to show that the Brixham community supported the pool and identified it as a community asset.</p> <p>Shoalstone Seawater Pool CIO are trying to link up with lots of community groups that haven't used the pool before, to encourage them to use it.</p>

	<p>Shoalstone Seawater Pool CIO were thanked for their presentation and electors were given the opportunity to ask questions.</p>
<p><b>23007</b></p>	<p><b>An opportunity for the electors of the Parish to raise any matters of interest that relate to the Parish of Brixham.</b></p> <p>Cllr Haddock reported that he had been advised that an elector which to speak to the meeting.</p> <p>The elector read the following statement:</p> <p>“As a community I feel that we are not treated as equals within the Bay. We cannot be served by our Brixham MP when dealing with Torbay Council due to the manner in which the boundaries are currently drawn. This lack of high-level support makes it almost impossible to get fair representation with Torbay Council. As a Town Council we need to have our voice heard to protect our community, our heritage and our future.</p> <p>Therefore the next logical step is for our community to move formally away from the control of Torbay Council and request to join South Hams so that our political boundary is aligned to best suit our community’s needs.</p> <p>We here present put this resolution forward tonight to be voted on by this meeting. We request that the meeting puts forward a resolution for a Parish Poll to have the right to ask its residents if they wish to leave the jurisdiction of Torbay Council.”</p> <p>This statement was signed by 11 Brixham electors and their names were checked by Council Officers against the electoral roll.</p> <p>Electors asked for information on how the poll works and the legalities of the outcome of a poll.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A poll may be demanded before the end of a parish meeting on any question arising at the meeting</li> <li>• poll shall be held unless the person presiding at the meeting consents to it or the poll is demanded by 10 or one third of the electors present (whichever is less) call for it</li> <li>• The poll is a poll for the local government electors of the parish, there is no provision for a ward poll</li> <li>• The meeting does have to vote on the question which is to be put in the poll</li> <li>• Once the wording of the question has been agreed, it cannot be changed</li> <li>• The poll will cost the Town Council in the region of £15,000</li> </ul>

- The outcome of the poll is no more and no less an expression of the views of the electorate of the parish and is not legally binding

An elector asked the Clerk to advise if the Town Council had been in contact with South Hams District Council and Devon County Council. The Chairperson advised that he had, but the elector expressed a response from the Clerk. The Chairperson agreed that the Clerk could answer who proceed to report that the Town Council had written to South Hams District Council and received a response stating that because the Devon Councils had agreed a Devon Deal, they could not enter into discussions about any potential Principle Area Boundary Review. The Clerk further reported that the Town Council had not been in contact with Devon County Council.

A vote took place and the electors agreed to demand a poll.

The meeting was asked to vote on the following question:

“Do you wish to leave the jurisdiction of Torbay Council?”

16 electors voted for the question

9 electors voted against the question

An elector advised that they were confused as to the process. The Clerk reminded the electors of the process and an elector in the room also reiterated the process.

A discussion took place as to whether there should be a question relating to whether electors wished for Brixham to join South Hams District Council and an elector put forward the following question:

“Do you wish Brixham to join the South Hams District?”

18 electors voted for the question

5 electors voted against the question

3 electors abstained from voting

The Chairperson closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 19:50.

Chairperson .....

Date .....