



South Brent Parish Council Newsletter

Summer 2024, Issue 82

Any Organisation in South Brent may use the Parish Crest

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

Chairman's Parish Report

Following the election in May 2023, Councillors Alastair Childs, Rich Fone, David Hancock, Stephen Hanney, Katharine Johnston, Cathie Pannell, Guy Pannell and me were all re-elected. We were very pleased to welcome four new members, Councillors Katy Armstrong, Paul Astal-Stain, Sue Astal-Stain and David Butcher. This brought the Council up to its full strength of 12 members.

On Sunday 16th July 2023, a reception and presentation was held for former Councillor Peter Kelly to be enrolled as an Honorary Freeman of South Brent. This is a very rare honour as only three others have been awarded in the past 25 years.

In the Autumn, the Council made the decision to move Full Council and Committee meeting back to the Village Hall, Station and initially were held upstairs in the Stansbury Room. This has now changed to the Side Hall, which is more accessible.

Over the winter the Parish Council carried out a Staff review. The result of this review, was to change the hours of our Clerk, Jane Sullivan, from 23.5 to 18.5 per week and employ an Assistant Clerk for 9.25 hours per week. In March 2024, we were very pleased to welcome Sophie Jones as South Brent's Assistant Clerk. This move will give improved support for the Clerk, Committees and Working Groups, as well as providing cover for any absences.

The Parish Council has started a review of Council assets and amenity land inside the 30mph zone. The Council has an extensive list of Parish Assets, this is being updated by adding locations to every item to allow the Council to improve the inspection and maintenance of these assets.

Amenity land are small parcels of land, usually grassed and unfenced, that are near or adjacent to residential properties. These areas of land may be owned by the County, District or Parish Council or the responsibility of local residents. It is anticipated this review will identify unmanaged areas of amenity land.

Our various committees and working groups have met as and when it was necessary, and the Parish Council has met many times to conduct Parish Business.

These are the reports covering this past year from our Chairs of Committees and working groups:

Planning Committee, Cllr. Richard Fone

This is my third year in post as Chairman of this committee. As was the case last year, these figures refer to the 2023 calendar year.

Applications details

- 33 Planning applications were received, exactly the same as 2022
- 24 Planning Applications were in Dartmoor National Park Authority area: 14 were granted, 3 were refused, 4 were withdrawn and 3 still pending a decision

- 9 Planning Applications were in South Hams District Council Area: 3 were granted, 5 were refused and 1 was withdrawn

Only 4 of the planning authority decisions differed from the view of the Parish Council Planning Committee.

Application by type

5 (4 in 2022) Commercial Applications

3 (4 in 2022) Agricultural Applications

23 (25 in 2022) Householder Applications

2 Other

Changes

This year there has been exactly the same number of applications as in 2022. In 2021 there were 36 applications, so numbers of applications seem to be stabilising in the low to mid 30s. As in previous years, householder applications form the majority of the applications (23). Commercial applications (5) have increased by 1 compared to 2022 and there has been a drop of 1 in Agricultural applications (3). It is really encouraging to see that the recommendations of the Parish Council Planning Committee largely agree with all the decisions of the two planning authorities. Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Planning Committee for their service to the community and the rigour with which they approach the planning process.

Finance and Human Resources Committee, Cllr. Alastair Childs

The precept request for 2024-2025 is £94,000, increased from £88,700 last year. This is an increase of just under 6%. It was deemed, by the committee, appropriate to increase the precept by this amount due to inflation and increasing costs being incurred in management of the parish. The parish does have reserves which could be utilised if necessary, however it was felt prudent in the current financial situation not to rely too heavily on these.

During the year a new assistant clerk was employed on a part time basis, due to the increasing size of the parish and commensurate increase in workload for the existing clerk.

Parishioners are always welcome to attend finance and human resources committee meetings with any queries and can view our meetings agendas on the village noticeboard and online accompanied by minutes of the meetings.

Land and Estates Committee. Cllr. Stephen Hanney

Taking over the Chair 9 months ago, I resolved that because the last time the village won the Best Village Plaque was in 1993 and since then, this scenic and beautiful area has gone downwards, this Committees' ambition would be to get back to high standards for the benefit of the parishioners. A start was the Council employing a Roadside De-Weeder, (for want of a better title), Mark Bancroft, who has already made tremendous improvements to the roads within the 30 MPH zone.

The Stockbridge Lane Toilets have been under attack from vandalism these last 12 months, costing the villagers over £11,000, which cannot carry on and therefore there will be a consultation with the people and traders of South Brent as to the future of the Toilets, in the following months.

Railway Wood has already received this Councils' approval for remedial work on a lot of decaying and dangerous trees, which is scheduled for this summer. On the Plymouth bound side of the Exeter Road, a new bus shelter will be constructed opposite the shelter outside Pool Park to enable waiting passenger a dry and safe refuge during inclement weather, after going through Dartmoor National Park Planning. Negotiations are underway with Stagecoach to move the Falcon coach stop from Marley Head to bus stops on Exeter Road, mainly for the principle reason of safety of passengers, from traffic and night-time worries.

Wellington Square, an eyesore at the moment, will be attended to at the beginning of autumn, we are currently obtaining expert advice as to the best course of action, as to weed control and preserving any fauna of natural interest, and quotes for works.

The future of Station Yard has already had a public opinion poll undertaken in the village and the Working Group are working with South Hams District Council to put forward ideas for discussion by this Committee in the near future.

These, coupled with the everyday running of the grass cutting, Playpark, Toll House, Allotments, and others falling under the remit of this Committee, will improve the ambiance of the village for the benefit of its inhabitants.

Media Working Group, Cllr. Stephen Hanney

This small working group has met when necessary throughout the year and continued to produce the Parish Newsletter four times a year. The newsletter is available online and emailed to subscribers (via the sign-up on the website). There are also 200 copies printed and distributed at prominent sites in the village, such as the Toll House

Christmas Lights Working Group, Cllr. Cathie Pannell.

The Christmas Lights Working Group has met during the year, in the run up to Christmas 2023 to discuss and decide on the displays in the Village Centre. It was decided to do a similar format to the previous year with some additions and changes of colours of the display. More lights were added to Station Road. Unfortunately scaffolding in Church Street prevented some lights being put up.

The switch on was very well attended by the community. The fact that it was a fine and dry night undoubtedly encouraged this. The lights were, as is traditional, switched on by Molly Yates our Junior Community Champion. After some initial problems the displays were completed and very well received by the community.

Our thanks go to the businesses and individuals who have supported the Parish Council in helping to provide financial backing and especially to Freeman Peter Kelly who continues to help with the practicalities. We also appreciate the work of our suppliers, Torbay Display, in providing and fitting the displays. We hope to continue with the Christmas Lights in the Village and would welcome input from the Parishioners.

Station Yard Working Group, Cllr David Butcher.

The Station Yard working group was established to make a recommendation to the full council for action, when the present lease expires in October 2026.

A meeting with representatives of South Hams District Council (SHDC) clarified their views of the options available to the council, which basically left the decisions with the Parish Council.

The options available are basically:-

1. Purchase the site from SHDC
2. Renew the lease
3. Surrender the lease

The Working Group are engaged in a consultation exercise and have received a number of responses reflecting the varying opinions of parishioners.

The Working Group will work towards making a recommendation to the Parish Council by October 2024

Beating the Bounds Working Group, Cllr. Katharine Johnston.

South Brent Parish Council once more organised and re-enacted the ancient ceremony of Beating the Bounds which had to be stopped due to Covid in 2020. The first bound chosen to be beaten again was the northern moorland part. September 2023 saw 113 walkers, aged between two and the upper seventies, meet in the Station car park and be transported up to Heathstone Head using Bob the Bus and Kingsbridge Community College mini busses.

After registration and the traditional Loyal Address from Cllr. Glyn Richards our Parish Council Chairman and an explanation from Tim Harvey of the Explorers Scout Unit they all set off. The walkers were led by the Explorer Scouts who escorted everyone safely on their way for the nearly eleven miles with no lost people or mishaps. At an elevenes' stop at the Avon Dam, South West Water arranged to open up the tunnel underneath so walkers could walk under the dam. We saw the boundary line between South Brent and Dean. Parishioners went through from South Brent side to the parish of Dean and popped up again. Traditionally they should have been beaten back with sticks as the people of Dean defended their territory but we fortunately went unnoticed.

The walkers continued for the longer section, via Buckland Ford, Petre's Cross and back to the road at Aish. Then downhill all the way to finish at a South Brent pub for a pasty and a drink. A round trip of nearly eleven miles completed by ninety-two people. This memorable event was provided by our Parish Council with invaluable help from many people, most especially the Explorer Scout Unit led by Tim Harvey. South Brent managed with no clashes with neighbouring parishes to Beat the Moorland Bound. The Southern Bounds we will hopefully aim to beat again in 2027. There have been no further meetings of the Beating of the Bounds Working Group but look forward to regrouping for the next walk.

Finally,

Among many items that have come to the Parish Council during this past year, as there was an underspend in the Local Projects budget, we agreed to provide funding towards three Bell Tents for South Brent Scout Group following their unsuccessful application to the National Lottery.

The Community Benefit Fund has provided small grants of up to £250 to several local organisations. As this fund has now come to an end, with the exception of specific funding for projects at the Recreation ground, additional funding has been added to the Local Projects budget line to continue to provide this extremely valuable financial support to local community groups.

I thank all Councillors and our Clerk Jane Sullivan and new Assistant Clerk Sophie Jones for their hard work. I also wish to thank John Shepherd for his work on the South Brent Community website for many years of valued service. We are also very grateful to our County Councillor Dan Thomas and our two District Councillors, David Hancock and Guy Pannell for their very regular attendance at Parish Council meetings and for their assistance on so many matters.

Thank You

Cllr. Glyn Richards.
Chairman, South Brent Parish Council.

South Brent Parish Council year end Accounting statement 2023 – 2024

		31.3.2023	31.3.2024			31.3.2023	31.3.2024
1	Balances brought forward	117,240	122,881	6	All other payments	71,649	88,385
2	(+) Precept or rates and levies	83,625	88,700	7	(=) Balance brought forward	122,881	128,069
3	(+) Total other receipts	29,679	31,556	8	Total value of cash and short term investments	122,881	128,069
4	(-) Staff costs	33,506	24,255	9	Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	292,402	304,528
5	(-) Loan repayments	2,509	2,428	10	Total borrowings	14,400	12,600



3 GREAT WINS FOR SOUTH BRENT

1. South Brent Repair Cafe

South Brent now has its very own Repair Cafe! If you have small household items that need mending (max.2 per person), bring them along to the first session at the Old School Community Centre, **9.30-12pm on Sat.13th July**. Skilled volunteers will fix them (if repairable), for free (donations towards costs welcome). So don't bin it, give it a new lease of life, save money and cut waste.



2. Solar PV for South Brent School

South Brent Primary School will be getting a rooftop solar array, thanks to a great collaboration between the school, SSB and South Brent Community Energy Society.

The 29kW photo-voltaic array is predicted to:

- * Save about £5,000 a year off the school's electricity bill.
- * Earn a further £1,500 a year for surplus energy exported to the grid.
- * Help to reduce the school's carbon emissions.
- * Provide the children with many learning opportunities.



SSB Trustee Hayden facilitated the project, with the backing of her fellow Trustees and permission from the Head Teacher. It was all made possible by a very generous donation from SBCES. SunGift Solar won the installation contract. Thanks and big congrats to all involved.

3. Marsh Site Extension

Dartmoor National Park Authority have extended the lease on the Marsh Site for a further 25 years. This will, hopefully, enable planned developments to go ahead and help secure funding. Huge thanks to DPNA for supporting this project.

Want to be part of our highly successful charity?

Could you help us further develop and manage the strategic direction of SSB and overall governance of our diverse range of projects? We'd particularly welcome: a **Treasurer**, to present finance reports and ensure SSB meets its financial obligations; and people with expertise/passion for **H&S/Safeguarding; Energy; Transport; Comms**. We also need a **Project Co-ordinator** for our nature group, 4B's. For further information, please contact Andy Harker: chair@ssb.org.uk

Catch up with all our activities in our [Annual Newsletter](#), full of inspiring news from all our projects, plus views from users of SSB's services. Copies also available via ssb.org.uk (under the Resources section), where you'll also find our latest events. Or check us out on social media: [Facebook](#), [X](#) and [Instagram](#).



Brent Island Trust

Easter Egg Trail

The weather was kind throughout the day and saw what may well have been a record number of people visiting. All the Easter Eggs and fruit baskets plus additional Easter treats that were purchased were claimed as youngsters hunted for clues and sorted the resulting anagram. Thank you to all who visited The Island



Island membership Renewal: Membership subscriptions are now due for renewal.

Individual £6. Family £10. Junior £2

Those who pay by BACS please make payment in the usual way to the Brent Island Account.

Bank details. Account: Brent Island Trust

Sort Code: 30-94-58

Account Number: 00535426

Dates for your diary

Annual General Meeting: The AGM will be in the Stanbury Room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25 June.

30th Anniversary event: Fun Day Saturday 21 September 2024.

As, part of the 30th Anniversary of the Island the Committee will be compiling a display in the Corridor of the Old School. If anyone has photographs from over the last 30 years of their time using The Island that they would be happy to lend the Committee, please contact Graham or Geraldine (contact details below)

Contacts: Website: brentisland.org.uk ; Graham Royle (Chair) 01364 - 72803,

grahamroyle@outlook.com

Geraldine Coleman (Secretary) 01364 - 388477, geraldinemcoleman7@gmail.com

South Brent Recreation Association

LATEST NEWS

We were pleased to learn that 90% of respondents to the recent survey felt that the Rec was important or very important to them. Many of whom use the facilities every week, several times a week or every day benefitting in many different ways.

Our survey report is complete and can be found at various venues around the village or :

Results of PALSTONE PARK RESIDENTS SURVEY can be found at

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r078D8JeRBVEf24RV5fMuXybzmxYb1li/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=108604113692658628841&rtpof=true&sd=true>

- We are keen to establish **FOCUS GROUPS** where people with a particular interest eg. skate park or creating new activities can channel their energies into a particular project. We want to encourage people to help fundraise, develop, and plan for our next steps. We recognise that attending committee meetings may not always be the best use of people's time.

Please do get in touch if you'd like to take part or if you have ideas that you'd like to help make happen at the Rec.

Contact Peter Kelly: peterkelly@spxservices.co.uk

or Anne Nicholls: nichollsbennie2@gmail.com 01364 72223

There were many ideas for enhancements and improvements which we will attempt to address as funds become available.

Please visit our website to see our current fundraising options:

[SOUTH BRENT RECREATION ASSOCIATION - Home of South Brent Recreation Association \(weebly.com\)](http://www.southbrentrecreationassociation.weebly.com)

Thanks to the Parish Council for providing new tennis nets and new table tennis table

What's on in South Brent

Drop in and Meet the Parish Clerk - each Friday

"Do you have any questions about the Parish Council or want any information about what we do, or report any problems that you are experiencing around the village ?

Come to the Old School Centre
from 9.30 - 11.30am

Free Knitting Workshops

Every Wednesday in the HUB and
Warm Space in the Moor Room at the
Old School Community Centre
From 3 - 5pm

South Brent Community Fridge

Located at the Old School Community Centre in the
Village Centre, it's open to all
Open 24/7, supported by local businesses and manned
by volunteers.

New volunteers always welcome - please contact :
fridge@ssb.org.uk



Ivybridge Library
2024

NO Mobile service from February 2024

Monday 09.00 – 18.00
Tuesday 09.00 – 17.00
Wednesday 09.00 – 13.00
Thursday 09.00 – 18.00
Friday 09.00 – 17.00
Saturday 09.00 – 13.00

Brent Community Library

Monday 10.00 – 12.00
Wednesdays 14.00 - 1600
Fridays 10.00 – 12.00
Saturdays 10.00 – 12.00

Report a Crime online

Residents sometimes contact the Parish Council to tell us about anti-social behaviour or acts of vandalism. The

Parish Council is grateful for these reports but you should always report them to the Police as well. People don't report incidents to the Police therefore the Police believe South Brent is crime free !

If you've witnessed or been a victim of a crime, please report it by telephoning 101 or by reporting it really quick and simply online by:

<https://www.service.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/?frc=50>



Mobile ShareShed 'Library of Things' – every Friday from 10 am to 12noon, at South Brent Old School Community Centre <https://sharesheduk.lend-engine.com>.

For more information, visit www.shareshed.org.uk



LLOYDS BANK

Old School Community Centre.
Every other Monday 09:45 and 11:15

<https://www.lloydsbank.com/banking-with-us/mobile-branch/south-west.html#South-Brent>



Old School Community Centre

Mon: 09:00 to 12:00
Wed: 09:00 to 12:00
Fri: 09:00 to 12:00

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings start at 7:30 pm, at South Brent Village Hall, Station Approach, South Brent, TQ10 9JL

Meetings are open to everyone and there are opportunities for members of the public to raise issues that are not on the agenda before each meeting. The agenda and minutes can be found on the Parish Council noticeboards in South Brent Village (outside the Co-op and next to the Children's Play Park) and the website. If you cannot attend a meeting and have any issues or concerns to raise, please contact the Clerk or one of your Councillors.

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

10th June - Land & Estates Committee
17th June - FULL PARISH COUNCIL
15th July - FULL PARISH COUNCIL

15th July - Christmas Lights Meeting
19th August - FULL PARISH COUNCIL

South Brent Parish Council

Ms. Sophie Jones (Parish Council Clerk)		clerk@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Katy Armstrong	07570 - 049044	katy.armstrong@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Sue Astal Stain	07810 - 898777	sue.astal-stain@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Paul Astal-Stain	07484 - 083202	paul.astal-stain@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. David Butcher	07929 - 239970	david.butcher@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Alastair Childs (Finance & HR Chair)	07801 - 368117	alastair.childs@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Richard Fone (Planning Chair)	07738 - 288647	richard.fone@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Stephen Hanney (L&E Chair)	07929 - 253137	stephen.hanney@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. David Hancock	01364 - 649186	david.hancock@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Katharine Johnston	07719 - 346393	katharine.johnston@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Cathie Pannell	01364 - 72275	cathie.pannell@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Guy Pannell	01364 - 72275	guy.pannell@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Glyn Richards (Chairman)	01364 - 73622	glyn.richards@southbrent.gov.uk

Parish Tree Warden:	Ross & Liz Kennerly	to follow
County Councillor	Cllr. Daniel Thomas	Daniel.Thomas@devon.gov.uk
District Councillors		
Cllr. David Hancock	(01364) - 649186	Cllr.Hancock@southhams.gov.uk
Cllr. Guy Pannell	(01364) - 72255	Cllr.Pannell@southhams.gov.uk

Clerk Address: Ms, Sophie Jones, P.O. Box 280, South Brent, Devon TQ10 9GJ



South Brent Parish Council Digital Newsletter

The Parish Council has made the decision to move to a digital newsletter. A smaller number of copies and these will be left at the usual public places in the village centre, e.g. the Toll House, the Village Shop and the Old School Community Centre.

To receive the digital edition of the newsletter you will need to subscribe to updates on the Parish Council website at (or use the adjacent QR code) <https://southbrent.gov.uk/>. The newsletter will also be available on the website.

Autumn Newsletter 2024

The next Parish Council newsletter will be published in September 2024. Organisations wishing to submit articles for publication should send them to newsletter@southbrent.gov.uk (in Word) by Sunday 18th August 2024. Articles should be up to half x A4 page size (unless arranged otherwise)