

DIPTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING - HELD AT DIPTFORD PARISH HALL TQ9 7NY

ON TUESDAY 21st October 2025 @ 7.30pm

1) Open Forum – Public & Parishioners (15 minutes) – no points raised.

a) Vandalism has occurred in the Parish Hall toilets, the Parish Hall Committee have written to the school as they used the Hall plus several other users of the Hall so that they have been made aware of the situation. Cllr S Franklin suggested that the Parish Council write to the Village Hall committee, very disappointed to hear about the vandalism in the Village Hall, would be happy to see a change of the entry code immediately and maybe every 6 months thereafter. CCTV would maybe be a thing to look at for the future and ensuring that users lock up after themselves. The Police maybe should be informed of the situation so that this has been recorded.

2) Present - Cllr S Franklin (Chair), Cllr T Crocker, D Cllr G Pannell, Cllr S Parker-Davidson, Cllr D Dugdall, Cllr C Peach.

In Attendance – 1 member of the public.

3) Apologies for Absence – C Cllr D Thomas, Cllr G Paterson, Cllr L Lethbridge, Cllr L Carroll.

4) Declarations on interest – none received.

5) Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 16th September 2025.

Minutes have been circulated – proposed by Cllr S Parker-Davidson & seconded by Cllr D Dugdall with all in agreement and duly signed by the Chair – Cllr S Franklin.

6) Matters Arising

7) Reports

- a) County Councillor D Thomas – reported in Highways (item 10b).
 - b) District Councillor G Pannell & D Hancock – Cllr G Pannell reported - LGR continues to be discussed, the final proposals to be submitted in November to Government to make a final decision. There will certainly be less representation from District Cllrs as they will have more electorate per person to cover. SHDC – offering up hire of a thermal imaging camera for residents to see how much heat their homes are losing. Local Plan – call for sites currently ongoing.
- Cllr C Peach asked if Cllr Pannell could chase up the Street cleansing team as this has still not been done.

c) Diptford Amenity Trust.

- 1) Slide Repairs – thankyou to Cllr Crocker & Paterson for their work done to repair the slide.
- 2) Update on Mr Tanners work to the Climbing Frame – this has now been completed.
- 3) Monthly SHDC inspection has been completed and circulated to Cllrs.
- 3) Diptford Community Fund – Application for new play equipment. Decision required to install Trim Trail (Rhino Play) and use Rhino Play quotation quote to base costings for application. The Rhino Play quotation needs to be around £10,000. All Cllrs in agreement to ask if Cllr L Carroll could look at the Fund Application to get this in for the sum of £10,000.
- 4) Decision whether to keep Cradle Swing bearing in mind regular defect reported on it. Recommendation to consider from Cllr S Franklin - RELOCATE cradle swing to REPLACE one of the normal swings. Reason, a) although not yet reported, the supporting wooden frame is deteriorating and the hangers have been criticised and b) the space can be utilised, as discussed with Rhino Play, within the proposed trail. Bear in mind that the existing double swing would have to be re-built to accommodate an additional Cradle swing on it. This would be more cost effective than adding an additional cradle swing on to the existing structure. This will depend on the success of any grant application and will be in worked into the scheme by Rhino Play.
- 5) Decide on a working party date to re-lay the safety matting around the swings. Some matting has been moved around the swings. This passed the monthly safety inspection.
- 6) Removal of redundant concrete post on the Playing Field – the post is situated at the rear of the tennis court and was a part of the old hedgerow and has been noted by a Parishioner. This post will be looked at by the Parish Council, however it has not appeared on the monthly safety inspections which are undertaken by an outside body.
- 7) Cradle swing hinges – Cllr Crocker & Paterson will look at this and make any repairs necessary.
- 8) SHDC reporting – suggestion of a traffic light system for the reports – Clerk to ask if this can be incorporated into the monthly reports to show the severity of any defects. This would help with maintenance as urgent jobs can be undertaken first before less important ones.

d) Tree Warden.

e) P3 Co-Ordinator – Cllr S Parker-Davidson – some more stoning of paths has been undertaken.

f) Parish Councillors reports.

- 1) Cllr C Peach reported - an email has been received from MP Caroline Voaden, this has been circulated to Cllrs, there is no good news on the provision of fibre broadband for the whole of the Parish, and no timescale as to when Openreach can provide this.
- 2) Cllr T Crocker to source a Village Xmas Tree for this year.

8) Planning Applications / Matters.

Applications received from South Hams District Council –

a) Application no 2627/25/LBC – Broadmead, Diptford TQ9 7LX – Listed Building Consent for replacement roof tiles. No objections , all Cllrs in agreement.

Decisions received from South Hams District Council -

a) Prior Approval not required – Application no 2697/25/AGR – Land at Crabdon Farm, Halwell – Proposed agricultural storage building – 18m x 9m x 5.5m height to ridge.

9) Correspondence

a) SHDC – Thermal Imaging Camera Hire to show heat loss from Homes during the Autumn/Winter – this will be put in the Parish Magazine to ask if any Parishioners are interested in using it.

10) Highways

a) Lengthsman – Cllr Parker-Davidson reported - he has spoken to John Widdicombe and suggests one hour per month extra to deal with debris during the Autumn & Winter months. All in agreement to pay another £25 per month until March 2026 and then Johns contract will be reviewed for another 12 months.

b) New Stop Sign – Diptford Cross – C Cllr D Thomas has confirmed that this is now progressing, although there is no timescale on the installation at present as western power will need to do the wiring for the lighting of the sign.

c) Cllr C Peach – will keep reporting broken signs and potholes/flooding on the DCC website.

d) Snow warden training – Cllr T Crocker & his son Toby to be signed up for training.

e) Cllrs reminder to check grit bins and report on line if needed to be refilled.

11) Finances.

Payments

BACS – 16.9.25 = £135.00 – Diptford Parish Hall (Hall Hire).

BACS – 29.9.25 = £120.00 – K Jane (Grass Cutting & Weed Spray Courts).

BACS – 6.10.25 = £291.60 (vat £48.60) – SHDC (Play Area Annual Insurance)

BACS – 6.10.25 = £252.00 (vat £42.00) – PKF Littlejohn (External Audit).

BACS – 6.10.25 = £150.00 (vat £25.00) – John Widdicombe (Lengthsman).

BACS – 15.10.25 = £60.00 (vat £10.00) – DALC (Annual Conference).

Bank Balances October 2025

<u>Parish Council Community Account</u>	£24,048.44
<u>Parish Council Instant Access Account</u>	£7,249.22
	<u>£31,297.66</u>
 <u>Amenity Trust Treasurers Account</u>	 £3,465.68
<u>Amenity Trust Instant Access Account</u>	£2,284.60
	<u>£5,750.28</u>

12) Any Items to go onto the next Parish Council meeting Agenda.

There be no further business the meeting closed 9.06pm

Next Meeting Date – Tuesday 18th November 2025 @ 7.30pm.

ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAS SPECIAL NEEDS AND REQUIRES A COPY OF THESE MINUTES SENT TO THEM – PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK 01364 654607.

They can also be found on the Parish web site – diptfordparishcouncil.org