

DIPTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

ON TUESDAY 16th December 2025 @ 7.30pm

1) Open Forum – Public & Parishioners (15 minutes) –

a) Many thanks to Cllr Crocker for organising the Village Christmas Tree, also thanks to all those who helped in putting it up.

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

In Attendance – no public present.

3) Apologies for Absence – C Cllr D Thomas, D Cllr D Hancock.

4) Declarations on interest – none received.

5) Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 18th November 2025.

Minutes have been circulated and read – proposed by Cllr T Crocker & seconded by Cllr C Peach with all in agreement and duly signed by the Chair – Cllr S Franklin.

6) Matters Arising

a) Thermal Imaging Camera Hire – January 2026 – Cllr Parker-Davidson reported - a date to be agreed for a meeting in the Hall towards the end of January 2026.

b) Emergency Plan – a draft plan has been circulated – there are a few items to add but all agreed to keep the plan fairly brief. The Village Hall and the School to be approached to be named as places of refuge if needed for the vulnerable. A list of Parishioners who have items which could be offered – ie: generator, chain saws, tractors would also be kept but this would be confidential, they would only be contacted in an emergency.

7) Reports

a) County Councillor D Thomas – no report given.

b) District Councillor G Pannell & D Hancock – written reported circulated to Cllrs. LGR submission has been put in to government, there will then be consultations next year with elections in 2027 and the new Council to take over in March/April 2028.

c) Diptford Amenity Trust.

1) Diptford Community Fund – Application submitted for new play equipment, the Parish Council hope to hear early in the new year as to whether this has been successful.

2) Removal of redundant concrete post on the Playing Field – Cllr S Parker-Davidson has inspected and reported as follows:-

The central concrete post is in the middle of a path, which runs either side of the post. The post is solid with no wear. The secondary post is off to one side and again, the post is solid with no real wear and is in a piece of rough ground with no path. The posts have been in situ since the mid 1970's with no evidence of recorded safety concerns. The post form part of a separation fence between the top field and the bottom field with the last metal fence removed.

Parish Councillors all in agreement for no further action to be taken on this matter.

3) Play area legs – Cllr S Parker-Davidson reported – Climbing Frame - The ramp legs on both sides are showing signs of rot but at present they are still stable and are not moving. The legs will be monitored and Cllr L Carroll confirmed that she would start looking into fund raising for replacement of the climbing frame.

4) Delivery of Wildlife Trust Fruit Trees x 10 – 2nd Feb 2026 – suitable space will be found for these.

d) Tree Warden – Free Landmark Tree – Will Young has been asked to look into a suitable space for a Landmark Tree – this could be used to commemorate 800 years of the Parish Church in 2026.

e) P3 Co-Ordinator –

1) South Hams Way – North South Link – The proposals have been circulated to Councillors who have no problems with this as the paths being used to join up are already in situ.

2) Footpath number 1 Tree down has been dealt with.

f) Parish Councillors reports – no reports given.

8) Planning Applications / Matters.

Applications received from South Hams District Council –

a) Application no 3344/25/AGR – Creber Barn, Diptford TQ9 7NG – Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed agricultural farm equipment, machinery and fodder storage building 18.2m x 17m x 5.8m to ridge height. Noted by Cllrs, this application is for information only with no comments required.

Decisions received from South Hams District Council - none

9) Correspondence

- a) South Hams Citizens Advice – Request for Funding - £100 all in agreement.
- b) Devon Wildlife Trust – Free Landmark Tree – Tree warden has been asked to look at a suitable site (Item 7d).

10) Highways

- a) Overgrown hedges in the Parish – these can be reported on the DCC website.
- b) Mud on Roads in the Parish where the hedges are coming in – these can also be reported on the DCC Website.
- c) Mud from Farm Crabadon to Curtisknowle – the farmer will be contacted by the Clerk, noted that this has also been reported on the DCC website by a Cllr.
- d) Lengthsman - John Widdicombe has asked for £50 towards some new rods for cleaning drains – all Cllrs in agreement.

11) Finances.**Payments**

BACS – 27.11.25 = £30.00 – L Carroll (Expenses).

BACS – 2.12.25 = £180.00 (vat £30.00) – J Widdicombe (Lengthsman November).

BACS – 9.12.25 = £700.20 – Sharon Raggett (Clerks Salary Oct, Nov, Dec).

Bank Balances December 2025

<u>Parish Council Community Account</u>	£22,405.72
<u>Parish Council Instant Access Account</u>	£7,253.03
	<u>£29,658.75</u>
 <u>Amenity Trust Treasurers Account</u>	 £3,465.68
<u>Amenity Trust Instant Access Account</u>	£2,285.80
	<u>£5,751.48</u>

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

There be no further business the meeting closed 8.40pm

Next Meeting Date – Tuesday 20th January 2026 @ 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