

**DIPTFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**ON TUESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 @ 7.30pm**

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

a) Delivery of the newspapers at North Huish is stopping, its been done by South Brent Shop but they want to cease the service. Cllr L Lethbridge suggested that the Eleemosynary Trust would maybe provide funds for the delivery to continue as it's a service used by the Parish and if the Shop were willing to continue. Cllr L Carroll will go into South Brent and ask the cost of this and whether they would continue if they were paid.

**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, Cllr L Lethbridge, D Cllr D Hancock.**

**In Attendance – no public present.**

**3) Apologies for Absence – C Cllr D Thomas, D Cllr G Pannell.**

**4) Declarations on interest – none received.**

**5) Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

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

**6) Matters Arising**

a) Thermal Imaging Camera Hire – Cllr S Parker-Davidson reported that an event has been organised for 16th February 2026 in the Parish Hall 7pm to 8.30pm, the Parish Council will pay for the Hall Hire, all Parishioners are welcome to attend, this will be advertised on social media, website and noticeboards.

b) Emergency Plan – simple draft plan has been circulated to Cllrs – Cllr S Franklin proposed the draft is accepted at this stage, with appendices to be added/changed as the plan evolves, Parish Hall & School have agreed to be places of refuge, the draft will be put on Parish Council website and also used to apply for funding for the new Salt Spreader from the Devon Emergency Resilience Fund. Cllr C Peach commented that the lack of phone signal in the Parish could be a problem where electric is lost.

## **7) Reports**

a) County Councillor D Thomas – reported by email - I attended a Cabinet meeting last week where we discussed the likely financial settlements for departments, highways is in line for a 5.7% rise, which although not enough is not unwelcome. I hope we will have some extra money for drainage as well as white lining.

b) District Councillor G Pannell & D Hancock –

Government fair funding review means that's SHDC will have a 2.5 million funding cut, this will mean they will be one of the worst hit Councils in the country. The structure will mean that the budget from main government will be gradually reduced over the next 2 years.

c) Diptford Amenity Trust.

1) Diptford Community Fund – Play Equipment Grant Award – DCF has awarded £7500 together with £500 from Cllr Hancock & Cllr Pannell, the gift aid reclaim will make up the extra shortfall of £2000 as the total cost of the project was £10,000. Cllr L Carroll will now speak to Rhino Play about progressing the project. Chairman – Cllr S Franklin thanked all involved in applying for the grant.

2) Delivery of Wildlife Trust Fruit Trees x 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2026 – These to be delivered to the Playing Field with a decision to be made about planting once they have arrived.

3) Wheelchair Access Picnic Bench – Grant approved – Cllr L Carroll will take delivery of the bench to be sited on the Playing Field.

4) Playing Field Maintenance – Cllr S Franklin proposed that someone is asked to do some tidying up of the interior hedges – The Clerk to ask Keith Jane who currently cuts the grass for a price, this needs to be an annual part of the maintenance schedule.

5) Monthly safety report highlighted the climbing frame which will be replaced in time so no further works will be done to it.

d) Tree Warden – Landmark Tree for 2026 – A White Hornbeam has been organised to be delivered and planted by the Tree Warden. A decision on where it should be planted will be made once it has arrived.

e) P3 Co-Ordinator – DCC have now awarded £2,460.00 for 25/26 – Cllr Parker-Davidson will organise some more footpath works.

f) Parish Councillors reports.

g) Snow Warden – Salt/Grit Spreader purchase – Cllr T Crocker is awaiting 2 tonne of Salt from DCC which has been ordered, emails from DCC for the online training have been received. New Salt Spreader – Specs for 2 spreaders to be sent to Trevor to make a decision on which is best to purchase.

Cllr S Franklin confirmed that she had spoken to Nick Colton DCC Highways Officer who confirmed that Avonwick to the School is on the secondary gritting route and would be done but no other roads in the Village.

The Clerk to ask Nick Colton & Cllr D Thomas if Short Cross through to Shorter Cross at Moreleigh could go on the gritter route for next year as this is now a well used road during certain parts of the day.

## **8) Planning Applications / Matters.**

### **Applications received from South Hams District Council –**

a) Application no 3621/25/VAR – Spindle Wood Farm TQ9 7JZ – Removal of condition 5 (removal of temporary dwelling) and variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent 3079/22/FUL. No comment from the Parish Council.

### **Decisions received from South Hams District Council**

a) Conditional Approval – Application no 3310/25/FUL – Etheridge Farm Barn, Diptford TQ9 7NQ – Erection of detached garage building with integrated storage & associated change of use of adjacent land from agricultural to domestic garden.

b) Prior Approval not required – Application no 3344/25/AGR – Mr & Mrs Green – Creber Barn TQ9 7NG – Proposed agricultural farm equipment, machinery and fodder storage building, 18.2 x 17m 5.8m height to ridge.

## **9) Correspondence**

## **10) Highways**

- a) Blocked drains in the Parish – these have been logged on the DCC website, Cllr S Parker-Davison will ask the lengthsman to have a look and see if he can unblock some of them.
- b) Hedgecutting – some around the Parish which still need doing.
- c) Potholes – lots around the Parish, residents must keep reporting them on the DCC website.
- d) Stop Sign – Cllr D Thomas & Nick Colton DCC will be asked if there is any date for the installation of this.

## **11) Finances.**

**Precept 2026/2027 –** Budget figures have been circulated to Cllrs – proposed by Cllr S Franklin that this years Precept is £22,880.00 this equates to £79.27 per household Annually on a Band D which is the Parish Councils part of the Council Tax – seconded by Cllr S Parker-Davidson with all in agreement.

### **Payments**

BACS – 22.12.25 = £30.00 – Lucy Carroll (Expenses).

BACS – 5.1.26 = £240.00 (vat £40.00) – J Widdicombe (Lengthsman December).

BACS – 5.1.26 = £100.00 – South Hams Citizens Advice (PC Donation).

**Bank Balances January 2026**

<b><u>Parish Council Community Account</u></b>	£22,375.11
<b><u>Parish Council Instant Access Account</u></b>	£7,260.19
	<b><u>£29,635.30</u></b>

**Held with the PC Account £2,460.00 P3**

<b><u>Amenity Trust Treasurers Account</u></b>	£3,465.68
<b><u>Amenity Trust Instant Access Account</u></b>	£2,288.06
	<b><u>£5,753.74</u></b>

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

There be no further business the meeting closed 8.52pm

Next Meeting Date – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 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](http://diptfordparishcouncil.org)