

DIPTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

ON TUESDAY 17th February 2026 @ 7.30pm

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

a) Alan Mighall from South Hams Ramblers – The South Hams Way walk has been created which is 100 miles long, this is using paths already in situ and roads. The Ramblers now wish to make a walk from South Brent to Salcombe and are currently looking at routes and rights of way which are already in situ, there may be other options but landowners would be spoken to and asked if they would agree to any permissive paths.

A discussion with Councillors and those present followed:- points raised

Landowners would need to be approached individually.

Parking along the route – would this be an issue for residents – Alan confirmed parking would be at South Brent and this would be shown on the website.

Wildcamping- Alan confirmed that this is not being encouraged, one person has posted on facebook about this as he travels the country walking.

DCC – they are in support but are unable to fund anything.

Path maintenance – the ramblers can offer free manpower to Parishes and volunteers are covered under insurance.

b) Planning Application - 3503/25/HHO - Robins Nest – The agent for this application was present and outlined the application which will be discussed later in item 8c.

c) Rannoch – noted that parishioners have been concerned about the state of the site.

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 (from item 6), D Cllr G Pannell.

In Attendance – 7 members of the Public.

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

4) Declarations on interest – Item 8c) Cllr L Carroll has declared an interest.

5) Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 20th January 2026.

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 – A meeting was held in the Parish Hall and a good presentation was given by South Dartmoor Community Energy – 2 cameras have been loaned for a month, Cllrs Franklin & Parker-Davidson have them and they are available for Parishioners to use.
- b) Emergency Plan - some suggested amendments to the draft plan have been made by Community Resillance.
- c) LGR – Consultation – Cllrs to look at the various options with a response to be made at the next meeting.

7) Reports

- a) County Councillor D Thomas – reported by email as follows:-

County Cabinet agreed a budget this week which includes a 5.7% rise for Highways as well as an extra £4million next year for drainage, white lining and potholes as well as £15million for capital projects. A portion of this will be ringfenced to match fund parish projects where the PC has its own desires.

As such, I think it would be useful for Council to formally agree its priorities for the Parish so that we can see what is achievable (notwithstanding the already committed stop sign, where I need to get officers to chase Western Power).

There will be a standard 4.99% council tax rise which will also include an extra £20million for children's services as the department continues to make improvements. Currently, LGR is still on the cards, although the recent decision to U turn on the decision to postpone local elections suggests that the pressure to race ahead with changes is less pressing than it might have been, had elections not taken place.

- b) District Councillor G Pannell & D Hancock – written report circulated – government fair funding review SHDC has been cut by 2.7 million, the coming year budget has balanced but if LGR is delayed then SHDC will have no money left in reserves.

- c) Diptford Amenity Trust.

1) Installation of new Play Equipment work commencing on the 19th Feb – the site has been cleared and is ready to go. The cradle swing will be taken down and saved for later use.

2) Planting of Fruit Trees x 10 & the Landmark White Hornbeam Tree – Will Young the Parish Tree Warden now has these, Cllrs Franklin, Parker-Davidson and Carroll will arrange to meet and get them planted.

3) Installation of New Bench – Cllr L Carroll will take delivery of the bench wheelchair/pushchair friendly which is arriving on Monday to be installed at the Playing Field.

- 4) Field Maintenance – Hedge Cutting – Keith Jane who cuts the grass has been asked for a price to keep the hedge maintained.
 - 5) Coombeshead Solar Farm 17/0265/14/F – 106 Agreement – Cllr T Crocker confirmed that he has arranged to get a copy of the agreement which was not a 106 but will be kept on file for future reference.
 - 6) Cllr L Carroll confirmed that the hole in the Tennis Court Tarmac has been booked in to be done within the next 6 weeks.
 - 7) Annual Alliance Insurance report – Cllr S Franklin reported – items which have been flagged up are – The swing but this is being taken down so no further action is needed. Climbing frame wooden ramp will be removed as this was flagged up as rotten, some rubber will be put around the metal feet and the exposed piece of concrete will be covered with soil.
 - d) Tree Warden.
 - e) P3 Co-Ordinator – Cllr Parker-Davidson reported – DCC grant money has come through, now looking at some path maintenance on footpath 1 using the volunteer help from the South Hams Ramblers, the land owners are in agreement.
 - f) Parish Councillors reports.
 - g) Snow Warden – Salt/Grit Spreader purchase – The grant money has been confirmed and a new spreader has been purchased for £1650.00 – Cllr T Crocker the new snow warden will arrange for delivery.
- The Parish Council want to express their thanks to Andrew Savery for his years of service as the Snow Warden – the Clerk will arrange for a gift to be sent to him as thanks.

8) Planning Applications / Matters.

Applications received from South Hams District Council –

- a) Application no 0287/26/HRN – Land at SX 759 534 Moreleigh – Application for hedgerow removal notice of 20 metres to create a level access onto the non-classified service road. The Parish Council Support the application.
- b) Application no 3224/25/FUL – The Bungalow, Simpson Farm TQ9 7NF – Proposed new extension to existing agricultural building for storage. The Parish Council Support the application.
- c) Application no 3503/25/HHO – Robins Nest TQ9 7NU – Householder application for proposed single storey rear extension to create dining room and 2 storey side extension to create a workshop/utility space and additional bedroom.

Cllr L Carroll has declared an interest. The Parish Council Support the application in principle on the condition that the window which is overlooking the rear of Cross Farm is obscure glass. The Parish Council note that the Barn at Cross Farm already has obscure glass as a condition of planning.

Decisions received from South Hams District Council

- a) Conditional Approval – Application no 3621/25/VAR – Spindle Wood Farm, Halwell TQ9 7JZ – Removal of condition 5 (removal of temporary dwelling) and variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent 3079/22/FUL.

9) Correspondence

10) Highways

- a) Continue to report Potholes in the Parish on the DCC website.

11) Finances.

Payments

BACS – 28.1.26 = £30.00 – Lucy Carroll (expenses).

BACS – 2.2.26 = £180.00 (vat £30.00) – John Widdicombe (Lengthsman).

BACS – 2.2.26 = £6011.40 (vat £1,001.90) – Rhino Play (Play Equipment Deposit).

BACS – 4.2.26 = £800.00 – Sharon Raggett (Clerks Expenses 12 months).

Bank Balances February 2026

<u>Parish Council Community Account</u>	£22,849.46
<u>Parish Council Instant Access Account</u>	£7,263.47
	<u>£30,112.93</u>

<u>Amenity Trust Treasurers Account</u>	£3,465.68
<u>Amenity Trust Instant Access Account</u>	£2,494.24
	<u>£5,959.92</u>

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

There be no further business the meeting closed 8.49pm

Next Meeting Date – Tuesday 17th March 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