

DIPTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

ON TUESDAY 20th October 2026 @ 7.30pm

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

2) Present - Cllr S Franklin (Chair), Cllr T Crocker, Cllr D Dugdall, C Cllr D Thomas, Cllr L Carrol, Cllr G Paterson, D Cllr G Pannell, Cllr C Peach.

In Attendance – 3 members of the Public.

3) Apologies for Absence – Cllr L Lethbridge, Cllr S Parker-Davidson.

4) Declarations of interest –

5) Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 15th September 2026.

Minutes have been circulated and read – proposed by Cllr T Crocker & 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 – the DCC SEND plan has been approved by the government 191million pounds, this will pay 90% of the SEND debit of DCC. Highways – another 1 million will go into rapid response teams for potholes and drainage.
After the pause of LGR, Strategic Mayoral authorities will be happening for Devon, there is currently a consultation ongoing regards this.
- b) District Councillor G Pannell & D Hancock – Cllr G Pannell reported - mobile fly tipping cameras are working well and catching people in areas which are prone to fly tipping. Let SHDC know of any locations where a camera is needed as they are moving these around. Campaign for kitchen waste recycling is currently being sent out. Social Housing providers disposing of properties in rural areas is being publicised at present. The drought is becoming critical in some areas of Devon.
- c) Diptford Amenity Trust – the current safety report does not highlight anything other than the amount of leaves on the skateboard surface, no further action on these until the autumn leaves have all fallen.
- d) Tree Warden – no report.
- e) P3 Co-Ordinator – no report.

f) Parish Councillors reports.

- Cllr S Franklin reported that she attended the online meeting regards the new planning rules coming into force in November, decisions will be more officer lead but there still will be an opportunity for the District Councillor to speak to officers but they will be unable to call an application into Committee.
- Post Office – this has now closed after 25 years, all Cllrs in agreement to send a thankyou bunch of flowers to the Postmistress.

8) Planning Applications / Matters.

Applications received from South Hams District Council –

- a) Application no 2461/26/FUL – Land North of Diptford Downs Farm Bungalow – Siting of temporary agricultural workers dwelling (mobile home).

The Parish Council support the application, there is an essential functional need for the farmer to be on site for calving.

- b) Application no 2490/26/FUL – Gladsfield, Diptford TQ9 7PD – Change of use of barn to mixed use, rural workers dwelling, farm office, drying and processing barn, construction of outdoor bathroom.

The Parish agree that this is a good rural business, however, they object to the application.

The Parish Council question as to whether there is an essential justification for a person to live on site. There are no animals on site that need 24 hour care.

There is also the dangerous crossroads at Larkham Cross, this is a blind junction and any increase in traffic at this point would be unsuitable. The Parish Council have serious concerns about the junction and would ask that DCC look at this.

Vote taken 5 in agreement to object, Cllr D Dugdall abstained.

Decisions received from South Hams District Council -

- a) Prior Approval required & given – Application no 1903/26/PDM – Simpson Farm TQ9 7NF – Prior approval for the conversion of three agricultural buildings to five dwellings (Class Q).
- b) Discharge of Conditions approved – Application no 1908/26/ARC – Stert Barton Farm, the Old barn TQ9 7NB – Approval of details reserved by conditions 11 (Solar Panels) and 12 (Heat Pump) of planning consent 3700/24/FUL.

9) Correspondence

10) Highways

- a) 20mph Limit extension scheme – the flashing sign has now been purchased, this will be installed as soon as possible and the data it collects can be looked at before any further action is taken.
- b) Road Warden – Ralph Mortimore has completed his online course, Dave Shaw has yet to do his. When both have completed the online course the practical bit of the course can be completed and then they will be ready to install the speed sign.
- c) Lengthsman – Cllr Parker-Davidson to contact John Widdicombe and ask him to look at places which may block up in the storms which are forecast later in the week.

11) Finances.

Payments

BACS – 17.9.26 = £300.00 (vat £50.00) – SHDC (Insurance Play Area & Inspection).
 BACS – 24.9.26 = £37.50 – Benjamin Titford (Hall Hire for Film Screening).
 BACS – 24.9.26 = £252.00 (vat £42.00) – PKF Littlejohn (External Audit).
 BACS – 30.9.26 = £180.00 (vat £30.00) – J Widdicombe (Lengthsman).
 BACS – 1.10.26 = £85.00 – K Jane (Grass Cutting).
 BACS – 5.10.26 = £3,107.99 (vat £518.00) – Elan City (Speed Sign).
 BACS – 5.10.26 = £34.98 (vat £5.83) – Ralph Mortimore (High Vis Jacket).

Bank Balances October 2026

<u>Parish Council Community Account</u>	£31,021.98
<u>Parish Council Instant Access Account</u>	£7,287.59
	<u>£38,309.57</u>

<u>Including P3 Monies</u>	£1,996.50
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<u>Amenity Trust Treasurers Account</u>	£1,173.77
<u>Amenity Trust Instant Access Account</u>	£5,455.93
	<u>£6,629.70</u>

12) Next Meeting date – 17th November 2026 @ 7.30pm.

- a) Parish Xmas Tree.

There be no further business the meeting closed 8.21pm

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