DIPTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

ON TUESDAY 17th November 2026 @ 7.30pm

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

Olly Tregelles was present to discuss the lack of broadband coverage in the Village – Olly has reached out to MP Caroline Voaden about the lack of provision for broadband in rural areas, especially with the fact that the landlines may be turned off shortly and will be going digital. The only other option for residents without other provision is Starlink which is provided from America and there should be other options available. Pressure needs to be put onto Openreach via MPs to get this coverage sorted before landlines are turned off.

The Parish Council will do a Letter to Caroline Voaden & the Secretary of State to try and force this issue forward. Cllr C Peach and Olly will get together to write this letter.

Chairman – Cllr Franklin thanked Olly for his comprehensive report and for the work he is doing on this subject.

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

In Attendance – 1 member of the Public.

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

4) Declarations of interest –

5) Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 20th October 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) Village Xmas Tree – Cllr T Crocker reported that the Tree has been organised and the residents at the Rising Sun are happy to provide the electric.

b) Stone Planter in the Square.
   1) Cllr S Franklin reported that this has been hit by a vehicle and will need to be re-built, photos of the damage have been circulated to Cllrs. Cllr S Parker-Davidson confirmed that he will get 3 quotes for the rebuild once a decision is made on what is needed.
   2) Letter from Parishioner requesting the Parish Council consider rebuilding it lower to improve visibility.
      Cllr S Parker-Davidson reported that he has spoken to several Parishioners and they would like the wall to be lower and smaller to help improve the visibility. If it was smaller and further back some wooden planters could be put in front, these would be smaller and less costly if hit. The white lines around it could also do with being re-painted. For the time being the loose stones and broken bits will be cleared up to make safe until its rebuilt. Cllrs were all in agreement that it needs to be rebuilt smaller and lower.
      The Parish Council noted that there is also a car which is parked on a regular basis and is causing an obstruction. A polite notice will be put on the car to ask them to park elsewhere if possible to prevent an obstruction for other road users.

7) Reports

a) County Councillor D Thomas – no report given.
b) District Councillor G Pannell & D Hancock – Cllr G Pannell reported – SHDC Community Awards nominations are open, LGR decision - the Government is looking again at all the proposals put forward a second decision will be given by March 2027. Elections for District & Parish will go ahead in May 2027, these will be for 2 or 6 years depending on the LGR decision that is made. Mayoral elections for Devon will be in 2028. Scam emails – watch out for these. Livewest disposing of local houses is currently in the spotlight.
   A full copy of the District Cllrs report can be found on the website.
c) Diptford Amenity Trust – Cllr T Crocker – 3 of the fence posts have been repaired and 2 more to be done which will make the fence secure.
d) Tree Warden – A possible new tree warden has been given the details to look at to see if he would be interested in the position.
e) P3 Co-Ordinator – Cllr S Parker-Davidson reported - Work is to start on laying the chippings on Footpath 1 in Diptford on Friday 20th November. Five volunteers from the South Hams Ramblers along with myself and the landowner will start laying the path. We are working on doing five of the nine-ton bags. Trevor Crocker will be transporting the bags from his farm to the pathway and dropping them off at certain points. Both Trevor and myself have walked the path with the landowner and agreed what will be where and when. In discussions with Trevor and the landowner it was agreed that a power barrow and small plate compactor would help in distributing the chippings and compacting them into place. As a consequence, I have contacted several hire shops to compare prices and I have agreed with The Hire Shop in Totnes to provide the equipment and deliver and return the equipment from the site.

I will also book the Parish Hall from 10:00am to 2:00pm to allow the volunteers to have a place to make a hot drink, heat a meal and use the toilet as well as somewhere to go for warmth and keep out of the rain should the forecast worsen.

f) Parish Councillors reports.

8) Planning Applications / Matters.

Applications received from South Hams District Council –

Decisions received from South Hams District Council -

a) Conditional Approval – Application no 1624/26/VAR – Woodside TQ9 7NQ – Variation of Conditions 2 (approved plans) & 11 (drainage) of planning permission 1225/24/FUL.

9) Correspondence

a) Peoples Emergency Briefing in the Village Hall second viewing and January discussion evening. The Parish Council agreed to paying for one session and regret they cannot fund any further sessions.
b) South Hams Moor to Sea Trail – proposed route. Proposal read and no further comment from the Parish Council.

10) Highways

a) 20mph Limit extension scheme – nothing further to report at present until the speed signs have been installed.
b) Road Wardens – Course booked for the 25th & 26th November for Ralph Mortimore & Dave Shaw.
c) Several areas of flooding in the Parish have been identified, Glebe land – the drain needs clearing out – Cllr Parker-Davidson will contact Nick Colton and ask for this to be done. Horner Downs is also noted and will be raised with Nick.

11) Finances.

Payments

BACS – 27.10.26 = £30.00 – Sue Franklin (Flowers for Post Mistress).
BACS – 29.10.26 = £136.32 (vat £22.72) – Cormac (Chapter 8 Course).
BACS – 9.11.26 = £85.00 – K Jane (Grass Cutting).
BACS – 9.11.26 = £180.00 (vat £30.00) – J Widdicombe (Lengthsman).

Bank Balances November 2026

Parish Council Community Account	£31,295.91
Parish Council Instant Access Account	£7,290.68
	£38,586.59
Including P3 Monies	£1,996.50
Amenity Trust Treasurers Account	£1,173.77
Amenity Trust Instant Access Account	£5,458.25
	£6,632.02

12) Next Meeting date – 15th December 2026 @ 7.30pm.

There be no further business the meeting closed 8.33pm

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