

**Diptford Parish Council**  
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## **Amenity Trust and Parish Council Meetings (April 2019)**

### **Amenity Trust**

Diptford Amenity Trust met on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019. John Foster (Chair), Sue Franklin, Stephen Parker-Davidson, Chris Peach, Louise Lethbridge, Trevor Crocker, Steve Hill and Sally Smale (Minutes) were present. Mike Cox, Linda Balfour and Jeremy Balfour also attended the meeting.

The Chairman reported that although there has been little activity over the winter months since the last meeting, he recognised the excellent work done by Mr C Talbot with the picnic area and the progress being made with the reconstruction of the shelter.

Mike Cox reported on activity in the past six months. The date of the Parish Boundary walk for 2019 is now set for 29<sup>th</sup> September. It is hoped that fixing a date outside of the half-term school holiday break will enable even more people to participate this year. The committee is particularly keen to see an increase in the number of children and young people taking part.

The new picnic area has proved to be very popular and the first maintenance day was well attended and very successful. Work is on-going to repair the items identified in the recent ROSPA report with items being dealt with in priority order.

The annual BBQ will take place on Saturday 18 May – a warm welcome is extended to all. Signage will be erected to concur with insurance guidelines.

It was noted that the current storage for the mower was likely to terminate soon. The proposal to erect a container was considered to be expensive and possible an unsightly addition to the field. Various options were discussed to ensure a sustainable quality approach to maintaining the grass areas of the field and the matter will be on the Parish Council's May meeting agenda.

Cllr Hill was thanked for all his work to date arranging mower training and scheduling volunteers.

### **Parish Council Meeting**

The Parish Council meeting followed on from the Amenity Trust meeting. No members of the public attended.

South Hams District Councillor Steer attended the meeting and noted that The Joint Local Plan had been adopted and the Planning Policy updated. He commented that in the approach to the elections many members were busy canvassing and it was hoped that there would be a good turn-out for the voting.

Cllr Steer agreed to alert planning enforcement regarding concerns from a parishioner over the removal of a hedge.

Two planning applications were considered. One was the re-advertisement of plans for the field at Gladsfield and the council stated that there are local objections regarding the lane and the

over-development of an underdeveloped area and confirmed that DPC comments on the previous application still stand. The second application (Laplands Farm) was pre-determined but the council expressed concerns that the development was the home of a Barn Owl and also their concern at what appears to be consent for general sporadic development in rural areas.

DPC welcomed a statement from Devon County Highways confirming a programme of work for the cleaning and ploughing of roads in the parish and the council was particularly pleased to see the inclusion of the last section of the road between Curtisknowle and Gara Bridge which has become increasingly hazardous for the public and vehicles. The council has requested that attention is also given to the road Beneknowle bends and Avonwick where there is a large area of subsidence, suspected to be over the water main.

It was reported that there have been other requests for the provision of a screen in the Village Hall and the Village Hall Committee will be meeting with a company to provide a quotation on Thursday 4 April.

There have been 8 nominations for the council and so there will be no election in Diptford on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

The Parish Council AGM is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Please come to the **Annual Parish Meeting on 28 May** at 6.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. This event will provide information on the work of all the local charitable and community groups.