

Diptford Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall.

Tuesday 12th November 2019

MINUTES

Open Forum

Mrs Elizabeth Lethbridge (Executive Academy Head) Diptford School attended the meeting to give the council an update on school life and background to the bid for grant-funding:

Lizzie welcomed the opportunity to improve communication with the council and outlined her aims for the school – to increase pupil role and for the school to thrive. She explained that the Link Academy Trust specialises in small schools with 12 primary school members and no secondary schools. She described how the introduction of the breakfast and after-school clubs has helped to recruit new pupils and talked briefly about the various extended opportunities available to pupils as a result of Diptford School being in the Academy Trust and benefiting from economies of scale and a wider field of specialisms.

Lizzie explained that the Playground had recently been cordoned off following the recent health and safety check which identified numerous repair work to equipment that has really reached the end of its life-span. As outdoor play is an important element of the School's ethos and a factor in attracting new pupils she has put in a bid to the Lottery Fund for 10,000 and The Friends of Diptford School are aiming to raise the remaining £7,000.

Cllr Peach asked if it was possible for some of the Sports Grant to be used but this year the funds are already committed. There is a possibility that some of the money could be allocated next year.

Councillors thanked Lizzie for attending the meeting, emphasising how important the school is in the community and welcoming her reassurance that the school is thriving with a stable budget and a "Good" OFSTED rating.

Report from Cllr Hosking (DCC)

Cllr Hosking expressed regret that there had been another incident on Gara bridge and apologised for the delay in providing an alternative solution. He reassured Council that work was in hand. He will pursue whether there is sufficient evidence from the witness to the damage to pursue prosecution. Cllr Hosking confirmed that grit bins would be filled this winter and that there was a procedure for requesting new bins. He agreed to chase the warning signage for the depression in the road at Benicknowle. Cllr Hosking advised that there are 2 important consultations being launched – Connecting Devon and Somerset (wifi speed) and School budget allocations and transport provisions to schools. He urged councillors to respond and share the online links widely when they are available. There was a discussion regarding the reporting of potholes and the decision-making process for the repair of potholes and Cllr Hosking agreed to chase up the status of the stretch of road recently logged by Cllr Lethbridge.

Cllr Franklin commented that there was a need to revisit the classifying of roads as many are used very differently now from when last classified.

Report from Cllr Smerdon (SHDC)

PARKING PERMITS

At the Executive Committee meeting on 31 October Members received a report recommending the review of the issue of parking permits due to the fact that in some town car parks most of the spaces are taken up by permit holders leaving fewer for shoppers. It was agreed that the sale of all new parking permits be ceased pending this review.

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Executive Committee considered a proposal to consult on reviewing the Statement of Community Involvement, last carried out in 2009. This will set the principles for how the Councils will aim to conduct their community engagement and consultation processes for Planning matters.

There will also be an opportunity for public involvement through a six week public consultation.

LANGAGE ENERGY PARK

An agreement has been reached between SHDC and the owners of Langage Energy Park, close to the A38 near Plympton, to develop 30,000 sq.ft of business starter units on a block of land next to the power station.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS

A two year project to install at least 25 electric vehicle charge points for public use in car parks across Devon begins this month.

A379 SLAPTON LINE

The Slapton Line Partnership has secured funding for an Adaptation Manager to work closely with local village communities to ease traffic issues and to create positive changes to prepare for the possible future loss of the A379 Slapton Line.

DEVON CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

A top team of environmental experts, charged with ensuring that Devon reduces carbon emissions as quickly as possible, is now calling on residents to submit their ideas on how to do it.

Have your say by going to www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk

Cllrs requested that Cllr Smerdon once again investigate the problems with waste collections and also review the assisted bins register.

Cllr Franklin had been asked to raise the issue of the church clock not working. Cllr Parker-Davidson confirmed that the problem is being looked at and that it could be a very expensive project.

There was a brief discussion about Christmas arrangements for the village. Cllr Foster explained that large trees are very scarce and expensive this year, but that he has spoken to 2 people regarding provision for the village. Cllr Crocker requested new lights and this spend will be formally agreed at the next meeting.

Cllr Smerdon was asked to look into the recent brightly lit hoardings at The Totnes Christmas Tree Farm.

AGENDA

Present Cllrs Foster (Chair), Franklin, Crocker, Lethbridge, Parker-Davidson, Peach, Smerdon (SHDC), Hosking (DCC) and Sally Smale (Clerk)

12.11.01 Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Baggott and Hill.

12.11.02 There were no declarations of interest and Dispensations in items on the Agenda.

12.11.03 The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th September and 8th Oct 2019, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the chair.

12.11.04 Highways and Community Lengthsman

- a) It was agreed that Cllr Parker Davidson would instruct The Lengthsman to do the annual road – sign clean and tidy up the verge where the lorry had recently crashed.

- b) Winter emergency planning - Cllr Foster confirmed that the snow warden had agreed to continue in the role. Cllrs confirmed that grit bins were full and the clerk was asked to look into replacing the bin outside the playing field and purchasing a bin for Curtisknowle Hill. (DPC has previously funded the bin on Horner Tongue)
- c) Cllrs were pleased to note that the hedges had been cut at Brushford as requested.

12.11.05 Diptford Playing Field

The accounts were noted: Current account £ 5718.15 Savings Account £ 36.30
Cllr Foster presented an invoice for tree removal – this will be approved at the next meeting.

a) The clerk was asked to confirm safety check arrangements with the Playing Field Committee.

12.11.06 The Parish Council budget for 2020 was deferred to the next meeting.

12.11.07 It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting in 2020 would be on 21st April 2020.

12.11.08 Planning Applications

1) Hastings Farm Diptford TQ9 7NQ 3057/19/ARC - Valid From 16/09/2019
Application for approval of details reserved by condition 6 of planning consent 2096/18/FUL
THERE IS NO STATUTORY CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT ON THE APPLICATIONS BELOW - THE INFORMATION IS BEING SENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Noted

- 2) **3418/19/CLE** Lawful development certificate for existing development of agricultural buildings
Larcombe Barns, Larcombe End, Diptford, TQ9 7PD

The above application has been submitted to the Council for determination. Evidence is required to either support or refute the claim that the above building has been in situ for in excess of the last four years.

This application is to be dealt with on the basis of factual evidence only. The planning merits of the building do not fall to be considered. If, on the balance of probability, the careful appraisal of the factual evidence supports the claim, the Council will be obliged to issue a certificate recognising the erection of the building as lawful.

DPC confirmed that evidence has been provided and agreed unanimously to support the application.

- 3) **3480/19/FUL** Creation of new dwelling to replace Class Q approval (1943/18/PDM) and demolition of redundant and dilapidated range of buildings with landscaping (resubmission of 1597/19/FUL) Crabdon Cottage Farm Halwell Totnes TQ9 7JZ

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/193480>

Deferred to the next meeting when the applicant will be in attendance.

12.11.09 The following Planning Decisions made by SHDC were noted:

2105/19/LBC Curtisknowle Cottage Curtisknowle Nr Totnes TQ9 7JU

Ms V Bennett: Listed building consent to remove 5no. defective windows and install 5no. replacement single glazed hardwood windows

DECISION: Conditional Approval

2817/19/FUL Wagland Farm Halwell TQ9 7LB Mr J Burgess PROPOSAL : New dwelling

DECISION: Refusal

Standing orders were suspended at 9PM for the update from Cllr Hosking (DCC) – see “Open Forum”

12.11.10 Finance

1. The following cheques were approved for payment:

Cheque	Details	Amount
944	Clerk salary	£278.35
945	Clerk expenses	£43.57
943	HMRC - clerk's tax	£69.40

2. It was resolved that DPC would approve payment to the Parochial Church Council of Diptford for the inclusion of the minutes in the Parish Magazine (£100) and a grant for Graveyard maintenance (£400)

3. It was resolved that a donation of £100 would be made towards the Ivybridge and District Ring and Ride scheme (Cllr Franklin declared an interest in this and abstained from the vote) and that grant funding of £250 would be made to The Friends of Diptford School for new play equipment pending legal advice from the National Association of Local Councils.

4. The following Financial Statement was received:

Current Account 31.10.2019	9,610.88
MINUS Unpresented cheques	0
PLUS Uncleared receipts	0
Current Account	9,610.88
Savings Accounts	3,563.30
TOTAL FUNDS	13,174.18

P3 Footpaths	234.00
Winter Emergency Planning	800.00
Community Lengthsman	1,770
Elections	400.00
	3,204

Total uncommitted funds £9,970.18

12.11.11 Wheat Park

The clerk had written an email to Jameson Homes requesting an update to progress and stating that: “The Parish Council are concerned that the site is deteriorating into a wilderness and becoming an eye-sore at the entrance to the village and disappointed that, despite all the support for the development, no progress is being made.”

Jameson's reply was:

“Further to our last update in May there has been no change and the project currently remains on hold. As soon as the situation changes and we have a firm start date we will of course let you know.”

12.11.12 There was no Parish Website Update

12.11.13 The following correspondence was received

Rural Services Funding Digest 2nd Oct

Devonshire News 2nd Oct.

NALC Chief Exec Bulletin 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th Oct, 1st Nov

Diptford School Newsletter 4th , 11th , 18th Oct. Info. Re open day

Rural Bulletin 8th , 15th , 22nd , 29th Oct

SHDC – notes from recent Standards Training event attended by Cllr Parker-Davidson and the Clerk

DCC – notification of Town and Parish Council event on 4th Dec.

SHDC – notice of cost incurred for the election held on 2nd May

DALC Newsletter no. 23

DCC – Clean Devon Design Competition

DCC – Flood protection scheme update

DALC – support for Devon Air Ambulance

P3 Autumn Newsletter

SHDC – Final notification to BT regarding payphone removal

DCC – notification regarding Net-Zero task force to deliver a Devon Carbon Plan

Cllr Hosking – seeking information regarding ASB, rough sleeping and begging in the Parish

SHDC – Discussions for Executive 28th Oct

DCC - Devon County Council (Traffic Management) Permit Scheme Order

Devon Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Update – Oct 2019 Newsletter

SHDC - guidance for waste and recycling over Christmas

SHDC - News release - Council lays out ambitions for new commercial centre at Langage Business Park and review of parking permits

SHDC - consultation re paperless planning applications

The next meeting is on Tuesday 10th December 2019

Meeting closed at 9.40PM