

Diptford Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall.

Tuesday 8th October 2019

MINUTES

No members of the public were in attendance

Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Pannell (SHDC)

- Reported that he had followed up a planning query regarding Farleigh Farm and that no permission is required for up to 14 days.
- BREXIT – Main issues for SHDC

The clear message from all government departments is that councils should be preparing to leave the EU on 31st October and assuming the 'reasonable worst case scenario' (RWCS) which is that we will be leaving without a deal. DEFRA are focused on food exporters - engagement with business, at all levels, remains a major challenge. SHDC have been working with the fishing industry in the South Hams but there is real concern about engagement with the farming industry.

All information will be available on the Gov.UK website and that this should be the 'go to' place for residents and businesses. The link is; www.gov.uk/get-ready-brexit-check. SHDC have added a 'Brexit button' to the front page of their website.

There is an expectation that Government will expecting information from local authorities very quickly as we near the 31st October and reporting is likely to be required 7 days a week - officers have commenced planning to meet this requirement. A full-time officer has been seconded to respond to these challenges.

- The A38 through the South Hams sits within the Highways England South West Asset Delivery contract. This places the responsibility for network management with Highways England. In terms of **ragwort management**, the process requires instruction by Highways England to our Maintenance & Response contractor. Highways England do adopt the DEFRA Code of Practice for Ragwort and all Highways England operational estate through South Hams is currently rated as High Risk. The summer ragwort has just been completed.
- New **planning** guidelines have been published that give communities the legal right to challenge ugly buildings and poorly designed new homes in their towns and villages. Additionally, the owners of purpose-built blocks of flats and detached properties will be able to add two storeys to their homes without planning permission. Homeowners will still need to comply with building regulations, but neighbours will not have a formal route to object

- SHDC Resolutions:

"We propose that SHDC lobbies National Government to create a structure of fines that Local Authorities can impose for planning breaches. These would include illegal felling or damage to trees, illegal removal of Devon Bank and all mature hedge banks." This would speed up enforcement.

- *In the interest of public health, of our residents and of tourism there shall be no further closure of SHDC public lavatories.*

- SHDC is looking at the Wigan way of working. Background:

There is growing recognition across the political spectrum that authorities at every level of Government can achieve savings, while at the same time giving the communities they serve a much improved experience and sense of belonging, by the simple expedient of re-thinking their relationship with these communities and working in partnership with them. Instead of a Local Authority seeing its role as delivering services to its clients/customers, its role becomes one of working with, not for, people and

bringing individuals and groups together. This approach is often called Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) or Asset-Based Working.)

Cllr Hosking (DCC)

- Confirmed that 1 of the applications for funding for the equipment for the village Hall had been agreed and the second application was in process.
- Informed that additional government funding would lead to 20,000 more police officers and 16 new hospitals including a rebuild for Derriford.
- Confirmed that additional funding has enabled the whole length of road at Ashford to be repaired.
- Agreed to chase up the request for a warning sign for the dip in the road at Benicknowle which he acknowledged was deteriorating.
- Agreed to follow up Cllr Franklin's concern regarding the issue of worsening flooding at Larcombe Corner and new Park Farm
- Agreed to follow up Cllr Peach's query regarding progress with the repairs of road signs at Crabadon Cross and Horner Corner.
- Agreed to chase up the new designs for Gara Bridge traffic solutions.

Present Cllrs Foster (Chair), Franklin, Hill, Lethbridge, Parker-Davidson, Pannell (SHDC), Hosking (DCC) and Sally Smale (Clerk)

AGENDA

08.10.01 Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Peach.

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

08.10.03 The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th Sept 2019, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the chair.
Cllr Franklin commented that Shorter Cross had been cleared and that no potholes had been observed because they had been previously filled. There was general concern that the holes were appearing again.

08.10.04 Highways and Community Lengthsman

- a) It was agreed that the Lengthsman is doing an excellent job, slight amendments to the contract for 2019-2020 were agreed**

7.45pm Standing orders were suspended for Cllr Hosking to give his update. (See Open Forum) Agenda resumed at 7.55pm

- b) The response from DCC re concerns raised at last meeting were noted.**

- The buddle hole was reported as cleaned on the 7th August and working when they left.
- An order for the visibility splay at Shorter Cross to be cleared has been raised however DCC had not seen any defect potholes. Potholes can be reported on <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/> and they will be assessed by an inspector.

- Signs will soon be looked at. For information - warning and regulatory signs are considered to be a defect and directional signing is always assessed first and takes a while for replacement.
- c) **It was agreed that Cllr Parker-Davidson would instruct the Lengthsman to cut the grass on the kerb opposite Brushford.**
- d) **The Clerk was instructed to report the deteriorating road conditions between Avonwick and Totnes to DCC.**

08.10.05 Diptford Playing Field

Diptford Amenity Trust. Current account £ 5718.15 Savings Account £ 36.30

a) DPC thanked the Playing Field Committee for the work they do to maintain the Field and for their response to the ROSPA safety report:

- p.8 Tennis Court fencing - Posts replaced
- p.12 Skate area tarmac - swept up
- p.13 Basketball posts - Added H&S sign & looking at replacing back board next year
- p. 16 - 17 Multi-play area - All legs replaced. Sourcing new side boards for slide
- p.18 Parallel bars - paintwork - Minor surface corrosion, brushed off with wire brush
- p.21 Slide - corrosion - Brushed off corrosion and applied hammerite paint to extend live
- p.22 Tree branch - to be removed
- p.23 Swing - monitoring top link chain thickness each year, still exceeds weight limit
- p.25 Toddler swing - Grass around four posts removed. Preserver added to base of legs
- p.26 Tennis court service - cleaned up weeds and swept round court. Continue to monitor condition
- p.27 Goal posts - bolt - Reduced height of bolts

b) It was agreed that monthly checks would be adequate and Cllr Foster will discuss this with the Committee.

c) Cllr Foster reported that he had attained a very favourable quote of £200 for the removal of the tree and **it was agreed the work would be commissioned.**

d) **It was noted that a request had been received from a resident to access the rear of their property from the Playing Field and that an alternative arrangement facilitated by Cllr Foster had been much appreciated.**

08.10.06 The revised Financial Regulations were adopted.

08.10.07 Planning Applications

To comply with consultation time limits, planning applications received after agenda publication may be considered at the meeting and any recommendations ratified at the subsequent meeting.

- a) **The planned consultation for a Premier Inn for Kingsbridge was noted.**
- b) Planning Application Ref: 2817/19/FUL Mr J Burgess New dwelling (resubmission of 1270/19/FUL) Wagland Farm Halwell TQ9 7LB
Concerns were expressed about flood risk. There were no further comments regarding this application and no objection or support noted.

08.10.08 Planning Decisions made by SHDC were noted

- a) 0570/19/ARC Diptford Holsome Park Diptford Devon TQ9 7NA Dr L Lethbridge GT & LA Lethbridge Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 6, 7 & 8 of planning consent 3222/18/FUL
DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

b) 2102/19/HHO Diptford Mow Cottage Diptford TQ9 7NU Mrs M Dorman & Mr R Swinscow Householder application for conversion of ground floor to provide additional bedrooms

DECISION: Conditional Approval

08.10.09 Finance

1. The following cheques were approved for payment:

Cheque	Details	Amount
940	Clerk salary	£278.35
941	Clerk expenses	£43.57
942	HMRC - clerk's tax	£69.40
	Transfer to Savings for PPP	£160

2. The Financial Statement was received.

It was agreed that Winter Emergency Planning would be on the November agenda and that Cllr Foster would confirm that the snow-warden will be continuing with the responsibility.

Current Account 30.09.2019	10,002.20
MINUS Unpresented cheques	0
PLUS Uncleared receipts	0
Current Account	10,002.20
Savings Accounts	3,563.16
TOTAL FUNDS	13,565.36

P3 Footpaths	74.29
Winter Emergency Planning	800.00
Community Lengthsman	1,770
Elections	400.00
	3044.29

Total uncommitted funds £10,521.07

08.10.10 There was no update on the Parish Website

08.10.11 The following correspondence was received

- Villages in Action
- Rural Funding Digest – Sept.
- NALC Chief Exec Bulletin – 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th Sept.,
- DCC – Invitation to Highways Parish and Town Council Conference
- Rural Services Bulletin – 10th, 17th, 24th Sept.,
- Devon Home Choice Newsletter – 10th Sept.,
- NALC Newsletter – 12th, 25th Sept.,
- SHDC News – 13th Sept.,
- Devon Highways Parish and Town Council update – Autumn 2019
- DCC Highways update – 16th Sept.
- DALC Newsletter nos. 19 and 20
- DCC News – Micro businesses in Devon invited to take part in a research trial
- Watermark Ivybridge
- SHDC – Draft BT Consultation Response

- CPRE – invitation to planning workshop
- Correspondence with local parishioner regarding access to rear of property via The Playing Field – DPC has responded with an alternative option.
- Invitation to South Devon AONB Annual Forum
- Agenda for Standards and Governance Training to be attended by Clerk and Cllr Parker-Davidson on 3rd October
- Diptford School Newsletter 27th Sept.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 12th November 2019

Meeting closed at 8.35pm