

**Diptford Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall.**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

**MINUTES**

2 Members of the public attended the meeting.

**Community website.**

A presentation was delivered from the company WesternWeb introducing the web services they could deliver:

- They have designed and host 36 local government websites in Devon and Cornwall alongside other work for private companies and individuals
- All their sites are custom built to respond to individual customer requirements but have a similar style based on what works well
- Their websites consist of 2 designs to ensure best fit for all devices
- They can register .gov domains through approved Internet Service Providers but there are restrictions regarding format and some content – no business use but certain advertising permitted and Parish Hall booking software could be included.
- A search on the day showed that the domains diptfordparish.org and diptfordcommunity.org are currently available domains
- For the design of a basic page similar to other parish councils the cost would be in the region of £300 - £400 (this would increase with added content eg. Parish Hall bookings.
- The annual hosting fee would be £80 +VAT with an hourly rate of £30 per hour for any future work.

Cllr Foster thanked Chris and Barry for their excellent presentation and Cllr Parker-Davidson for researching the various options and organising for WesternWeb to attend the meeting.

**As discussed at the July meeting it was agreed for Cllrs Hill and Parker-Davidson to be the representatives on a working group to take this forward.**

The Open Forum was opened for comment and questions and the 2 members of the public made a representation regarding their planning application 2136/19/PDM, reassuring Council that their plans were solely to finally develop the family home they had always dreamed of and manage the small farm in a sustainable manner. They were not interested in and further development beyond the barn conversion.

**Update from Cllr Pannell, SHDC**

- A huge amount of Builders waste was tipped in Dean Prior near Buckfastleigh on Thursday 11 July, blocking two public rights of way. The costs of removing and disposing of the waste is likely to be more than £5,000. The council has the power to fine fly tippers, or prosecute. Residents are urged to keep an eye out for vehicles carrying large loads or acting suspiciously, and note down registration numbers if possible, but without putting themselves at risk. Householders have a responsibility to check whether people removing waste for them are properly licensed.
- DCC Investment plans – Ivybridge supermarket, Kingsbridge hotel, Dartmouth health and wellbeing centre. Investment in solar farm – outside Devon to increase grid capacity.
- The Council will be consulting with all of the Town and Parish Councils within the District, regarding the withdrawal of the Council Tax Support Grant from Town and Parish Councils with effect from 1April 2020 by 50% per annum over the next two years

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

**13.08.01** **There were no apologies for absence.**

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

**13.08.03**                    The minutes of the meeting held on the 9 July 2019, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the chair.

**13.08.04**                    **Diptford Playing Field**

The financial update was noted:

Diptford Amenity Trust.                    Current account £ 4037.95                    Savings Account £ 36.30

- a) Cllr Hill announced the sale of the Mower and equipment for £2,000 and Cllr Foster thanked him for his efforts.

**Agreed that the clerk amend the insurance policy accordingly.**

**13.08.05**                    **Highways and Community Lengthsman**

- a) The proposed proposed work on Gara Bridge was discussed in depth with various concerns expressed regarding whether it would be successful and what other options might be considered. **It was agreed that councillors would continue to monitor the situation.**

- b) **The response from DCC regarding the poor condition of the road between Curtisknowle and Gara Bridge was noted:**

*The lengths of road below are on the pothole recovery list for this year and at the moment is with an external contractor to measure and let us know costs before they prepare a works programme. Additionally they will also need to arrange for core testing to establish if the material is tar bound which if present will require specialist disposal. Unfortunately this may take a while to complete so we may not be in possession of a works programme for a while yet. With regards to the two reports mentioned they will be assessed by an inspector and any potholes that meet our criteria for a defect will be repaired.*

- c) **The response from DCC regarding the buddle hole, Mill Lane Diptford was noted:**

*....the issue appears to be more a maintenance one for DCC to get Skanska to deal with because the buddlehole has only been cleared partially to its outfall and the approach to it needs attention also. Once I've managed to get that dealt with I am sure the buddlehole will function as it was originally designed to do but if there are any issues once we've done our part I will speak with the owner of the property again. At the moment we are waiting for a decision on a contractual issue with regards to cleaning the outfall into private land from buddleholes which may have an effect on how we deal with issues like this but until I am instructed otherwise I would expect our contractor to at least make sure the outfall is clear and taking surface water.*

**and it was agreed that the Clerk would seek an update to the situation.**

- d) Cllr Peach expressed concern at the volume of traffic on the Ridge Road, the length of grass on the East side of the junction at Shorter Cross causing hazardous driving conditions (exasperated by the pothole on the west side) and the damaged road signs at Horner Tongue Corner and Crabadon Cross.

**It was agreed that the clerk would report all matters.**

**13.08.06**                    **It was agreed that Cllr Lethbridge would join Cllrs Foster and Peach as DPC representative to the Eleemosynary Trust**

**13.08.07**                    **It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to The Devon & Somerset Fire Service Safer Together Consultation on behalf of the council and state the council were against any closures**

**13.08.08**                    **It was agreed that the clerk would advise South Dartmoor Community Energy about the newly formed Diptford Sustainability Group.**

**13.08.09**                    **It was agreed that now the village has good mobile signal the council had no objections to the removal of the phone box which has not been used in the last year.**

**13.08.10** It was noted that the Curtisknowle defibrillator has failed its recent routine check and that its replacement is in hand.

**13.08.11** The proposal from a parishioner regarding initiatives to “Tidy up Diptford” was discussed and it was agreed that, whilst councillors were happy to actively and continually encourage individuals to take pride in the appearance of their own homes and surroundings, they were not in a position to take responsibility for insurance and chapter 8 training that were basic requirements for any work being done by third parties.

**It was agreed that the clerk would communicate this response to the parishioner and also write to 2 householders regarding roadside hedges which have remained uncut for more than a year causing dangerous driving conditions.**

**Standing orders were suspended for the update from Cllr Hosking (DCC)**

- The depression in the road between Diptford and Avonwich has been examined and a query has been sent to South West Water regarding historical work there.
- Cllr Hosking expressed concerns that the proposed work at Gara Bridge could potentially have a detrimental effect on local businesses and that he would support consideration of alternative options.
- A request was made to the clerk for minutes to be sent to him
- Cllr Hosking supports Diptford Councillors contacting individuals regarding hedgerow maintenance and reminded Council that there were information resources on the DCC website that the clerk could send to the households concerned.
- In response to a question regarding funding opportunities from DCC for the proposed cinematic screen and equipment in the Parish Hall, Cllr Hosking agreed there was a sum available and advised on the application process. It was noted by Cllr Panell that the current SHDC grants do not enable capital projects.
- Cllr Hosking noted concern at the volume of traffic on the Ridge Road.

**13.08.12 Planning Applications**

- a) Ref: 1688/19/HHO. Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs Mortimore. Description: Householder application for extension to rear Address: Hedgerows Diptford Devon TQ9 7NZ.  
**Noted that this already had conditional approval**
- b) Ref: 2108/19/PDM. Applicant Name: Harefold Ltd. Description: Notification for prior approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to dwellinghouse (Class C3) and for associated operational development (Class Q(a+b)). Address: Crabadon Manor Barn Crabadon Cross Halwell Diptford TQ9 7JZ .  
**Class Q – No comment**
- c) Ref: 2136/19/PDM. Applicant Name: Mr And Mrs T Roe. Description: Application for prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Class C3) and for associated operational development (Class Q(a)&(b)) Address: Larcombe Barn SX745574 Lower Larcombe Diptford TQ9 7PD.  
**Representation had been made during the open forum regarding this application and council support this application**
- d) Ref:2105/19/LBC. Proposal: Listed building consent to remove 5no. defective windows and install 5no. replacement single glazed hardwood windows. Site Address: Curtisknowle Cottage, Curtisknowle. Nr Totnes. TQ9 7JU.  
**No objection**
- e) Ref: 2102/19/HHO. Applicant Name: Mrs M Dorman & Mr R Swinscow. Description: Householder application for conversion of ground floor to provide additional bedrooms. Address: Mow Cottage Diptford TQ9 7NU.  
**Agreed that Council would support this application if it was made a condition that there would be no vehicular access to the rear of the property now or in the future.**

**13.08.13** The following Planning Decisions made by SHDC were noted:

a) 1270/19/FUL Wagland Farm Halwell TQ9 7LB: Mr J Burgess: Full Planning Application PROPOSAL : Demolition of existing barn and erection of single dwelling house

**DECISION: Conditional Approval**

b) 1279/19/HHO 3 Church Park Close Diptford Devon TQ9 7PH Mr & Mrs S & C Mills PROPOSAL : Householder application for construction of conservatory

**DECISION: Conditional Approval**

**13.08.14 It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Parker-Davidson would attend the Town and Parish Council Standards and Governance Training in October 2019.**

**13.08.15 Finance**

**1. The following cheques were approved for payment:**

Cheque Details	Amount
934 S Smale – Clerk’s salary	£278.35
935 HMRC – Clerk’s tax	£69.40
936 S Smale – Clerk’s expenses	£36.25

Amenity Trust	
228 K Jane (June / July grass cutting)	£170

**2. The Financial Statement was received.**

Current Account 31.07.2019	£6,177.10
MINUS Unpresented cheques	£32.00
Current Account	£6,145.10
Savings Accounts	£2,812.90
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>£8,958.00</b>

Committed Funds:	
P3 Footpaths	£74.29
Winter Emergency Planning	£800.00
Community Lengthsman	£1,180.00
Elections	£400.00

**Total uncommitted funds £6,503.71**

**13.08.16 The communication from The Environment Agency regarding abstracting water was noted and it was agreed that the clerk would summarise the document in the minutes and for The Parish Newsletter.**

**The document is available to download from the DPC website:**

<https://diptfordparishcouncil.org/important-notices/>

**And can be viewed on the Parish noticeboard.**

**SUMMARY**

If you abstract or impound water and were exempt from requiring a licence under the Water Resources Act 1991, the law has changed and you may now need to apply for an abstraction licence. You need a licence if you want to take more than 20 cubic metres of water per day from a surface or groundwater source. This has been the case since January 2018 and the 2 year transitional period ends 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. If you have not applied for a licence it is important that you do so before the deadline.

It is an offence to abstract without a licence and The Environment Agency may take enforcement action against you if you don't apply and continue to abstract after 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**13.08.17      The following correspondence was noted:**

Devon Air Ambulance Trust receipt of £32.07 from Annual Parish Meeting  
DALC - COUNTY COMMITTEE FOR 2019 – 2023 | Nomination results

Rural Services network Bulletin – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> July,

Rural Services Funding Bulletin – July

NALC Newsletter – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, July,

SHDC News – 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> July

DALC News – 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, July

Diptford Primary School Newsletter 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, July

NALC Chief Exec Bulletin – 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, July

Neighbourhood watch – 8<sup>th</sup> July

South Dartmoor Community Energy – invitation to Devon Climate Declaration workshop

Info- Devon Communities – 19<sup>th</sup> July

Devon Home Choice – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> July

Devon Communities Together, Neighbourhood Planning – 24<sup>th</sup> July

Devonshire Magazine – 26<sup>th</sup> July

Invitation to Totnes & District Traffic & Transport Forum, 31<sup>st</sup> July

Invitation to The Bioregional Learning Centre learning journey for climate resilience in September and Water Resilience Summit on Thursday 12 September

Francis Carne Associates – Dog Fouling Stickers for sale

Copper Stallion Mobile Bar – offering to run a community event in the village

DALC annual report and DALC News 2019

Next meeting is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30PM following on from The Amenity Trust meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.40PM