

Diptford Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall.

Tuesday 9th July 2019

MINUTES

Two members of the public attended the meeting. No issues were raised.

Update from Cllr Pannell, SHDC

Work continues to look at how we can improve performance, and following training with the planning officers and the supporting specialists and case managers, we will be implementing this in July. We hope that this will speed up planning decisions and reduce the number of cases planning specialists are dealing with at any one time.

The Spending Review 2019 might not proceed as planned and therefore there may only be a one year Spending Review, followed by a further Spending Review in 2020. There are questions around whether the reforms around Business Rates, the Fair Funding Review and New Homes Bonus will all be delayed due to the political situation.

Professionals from a range of statutory agencies joined forces to discuss strategies for combatting crime and to share successful community safety initiatives. The event, held at Rattery Village Hall, was well attended with over 115 participants. A powerful presentation was then heard of how parent support groups help to influence their young people and keep them from harm's way. Suicide awareness and prevention is now a big part of the Police's role as they increasingly support vulnerable people in our communities. People living with dementia are being encouraged to keep a list of safe contacts in their homes. The gang culture in Newton Abbott is a growing concern.

In the next two weeks, councillors at South Hams District and West Devon Borough Councils will be discussing a proposed new management structure for their Senior Leadership Team. The proposal changes the focus of three of the senior roles. One Director would now focus on the delivery of all Council services; one would focus on place shaping and enterprise, supporting our towns and villages, and one would support governance and compliance.

DPC asked whether Planning Enforcement would be improved as part of the changes – Cllr Pannell replied not in the near future and agreed there were some very long- term outstanding decisions. A meeting has been arranged between councillors and officers.

Cllr Pannell noted to share with other parishes the report of white van(s) loitering around agricultural properties in the Parish – this has been reported to Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr Franklin raised on behalf of members of the parish the issue of dog fouling from the school along to Rectory Corner. Environmental Health have erected extra signs and it was agreed it would be beneficial for The Lengthsman to be tasked with clearing the undergrowth from the side of the road.

AGENDA

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

09.07.01 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Crocker, Hill and Peach

09.07.02 Cllr Foster declared an interest in planning application 801/19/VAR being adjacent to his farmland.

09.07.03 The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 June 2019, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the chair.

09.07.04 Diptford Playing Field

The financial update was noted:

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

- a) Cllrs thanked Cllr Hill for his work on the sale of the mower and associated equipment which is near completion.
- b) Cllrs thanked Diptford Horse Show for their donation of £100
- c) It was noted that the HMCEF grant monies could not be used for work on the playing field.

09.07.05 Highways and Community Lengthsman

It was agreed that The Lengthsman would be tasked to complete the work between the School and Rectory Corner. It was noted that the 2018-19 budget should now be committed and the clerk will seek an update.

- a) It was noted that there is no obligation to report the presence of Japanese Knotweed along the Avon river wall at the bottom of New Road hill. Cllr Parker-Davidson will discuss options for treating the weed with The Lengthsman and assess whether he is comfortable with completing the work using the necessary precautions for weed control close to a water source.
- b) It was noted that the HMCEF grant is now only 20% of the total bid from the council and would not include work on the playing field.
Cllrs resolved to leave the bid at the current amount, broaden the scope of The Lengthsman's work to include roadside clearance and commit the extra £500 not matched by DCC.
- c) Cllr Franklin reported on an on-going issue with a Buddle Hole in Mill Lane. DCC Highways were following up the problem and **it was agreed the clerk would contact Highways for an update on the situation for the next meeting.**
- d) It was noted that work had been completed to clear Public Footpath 1

09.07.06 Planning Applications

a) 1279/19/HHO

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/191279>

Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs S & C Mills

Description: Householder application for construction of conservatory

Address: 3 Church Park Close Diptford Devon TQ9 7PH

Cllrs supported this application at the last meeting.

b) 1801/19/VAR

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/191801>

Application for variation of condition 7 following grant of planning permission 22/0848/15/F

Location: Solar Park, Place Barton Farm, Moreleigh. Devon TQ9 7JN

Cllrs supported the application to increase the time from 25 – 40 years.

09.07.07 The following Planning Decisions made by SHDC were noted with comments as recorded below:

a) 0356/19/FUL Diptford Beenleigh Copse Farm Diptford Totnes TQ9 7NF Mr A Houston & Miss A Skelly PROPOSAL : Provision of temporary agricultural dwelling (mobile home)
DECISION: Conditional Approval

b) 4100/18/FUL Diptford Field at Gladsfield Diptford Devon TQ9 7PD Ms Jane Acton Full Planning Application Erection of polytunnel, greenhouse, barn, construction of new access track, hardstanding adjacent to barns and hardstanding adjacent to site entrance, construction of pond
DECISION: Conditional Approval

Cllr Franklin commented that there had been a site visit here and she felt the original objections from DPC had been resolved with the relocation of the barn closer to the road thereby protecting the wider landscape.

c) 1015/19/PDM Diptford Middle Etheridge Barn Diptford Totnes TQ9 7NQ Mr & Mrs N & L Hallet Prior Approval Agricultural building to dwelling C3 PROPOSAL : Notification for prior approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to 2no. dwellinghouses (Class C3)(Class Q(a))
DECISION: Prior Approval Not required

d) 1226/19/HHO Diptford Lanquillet Halwell Devon TQ9 7JY Mr & Mrs S Orchard
Householder application for proposed alterations and extensions
DECISION: Conditional Approval

e) 0435/19/HHO Avon Rise Diptford Devon TQ9 7NZ Mr & Mrs P & C Loveland
READVERTISEMENT (Revised Plans Received) Householder application for removal of previous extension, change of roof to pitch and finish, proposed dormer and new rooflights to the front and rear
DECISION: Conditional Approval

Cllrs discussed the removal of a hedge and whether the procedure had been followed for this action. Cllrs Foster and Franklin to review.

There was a debate regarding the Class Q regulations. This had historically enabled buildings previously used for agricultural purposes to be made into dwellings (although planning officers still worked with the applicants to influence appearance of the buildings) with the intention of creating more affordable housing in rural areas. It was noted that there were various interpretations of the restrictions and that a recent court ruling had set a worrying precedent for future developments.

09.07.08 Cllr Parker-Davidson updated council on his research into .gov addresses and the potential complications and expense involved in the process of using this domain. He talked through examples of how a few other parishes work and recommended Saltash Town Council and Brixton Parish Council as possible examples for Diptford.

It was agreed that he would contact Western Web (used by several parishes) to give a presentation on how they could work with Diptford to provide a joint community and Council website.

Cllr Franklin explained the data protection issues that dictate the need for the use of corporate email addresses for council business for the benefit of the members of the public present.

09.07.09 It was agreed that the clerk would recommend the South Dartmoor Community Energy contact the WI with a view to taking part in their Community Event in November.

09.07.10 Finance

1. The following cheques were agreed for payment:

| Cheque | Details | Amount | VAT |
|--------|----------------------------|---------|-----|
| 931 | S Smale – Clerk’s salary | £347.75 | |
| 932 | S Smale – Clerk’s expenses | £36.25 | |

2. The Financial Statement was agreed

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Current Account 30.06.2019 | £6,596.10 |
| MINUS Unpresented cheques | £6,584.10 |
| PLUS Uncleared receipts | £6,584.10 |
| Current Account | £6,584.10 |
| Savings Accounts | £2,812.79 |
| TOTAL FUNDS | £9,396.89 |

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| P3 Footpaths | £74.29 |
| Winter Emergency Planning | £800.00 |
| Community Lengthsman | £1,180.00 |
| Elections | £400.00 |
| | £2,454.29 |

Total uncommitted funds £6,942.60

09.07.11 The following correspondence was noted and Cllr Parker-Davidson requested copies of the Parish Paths Partnership Newsletter and Love Devon magazine.

Information Commissioner’s Office – Data protection fee renewal

SHDC - Invitation to comment at the Development Management Committee on 19th June 2019.

Parish Paths Partnership - Summer Newsletter, a form for recording Parish Clerk and Co-ordinator details and a guide regarding the cutting of vegetation on rights of way.

Rural Services Bulletin – 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, June

Rural Services Network Funding Bulletin – June 2019

Love Devon Magazine 2019

Devon and Cornwall Neighbourhood Alert – 4th June

NALC Newsletter – 5th, 6th, 19th, June

NALC Chief Exec. Bulletin – 9th, 14th, 21st, 28th June

Diptford School Newsletter – 7th June

SHDC News – 10th, 11th, 17th, June

Devonshire Magazine – 12th, 26th June

John Tuckers retirement party invite – 17th June

Parish Online – 17th June

CAB new Opening Times – 17th June (On Parish notice board)

Devon Investigations – Advertising services to assist if you have Travellers in your area - 27th June

The meeting finished at 8.40PM