

Diptford Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 12 March 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Diptford

OPEN FORUM

No members of the public attended.

Update from District and County Councillors

SHDC Cllr Steer noted that:

- Council tax will rise by the maximum 5%.
- Sophie Hosking has been appointed Chief Executive of South Hams & West Devon District Councils.
- There will be elections in May.
- Consultants are undertaking a feasibility study into the possible new hotel in Kingsbridge.

SHDC Cllr Smerdon noted that:

The Council has agreed that any investments to generate income have to be in the district. Parish Cllrs raised concerns about the cost of feasibility studies at a time when the District Council does not have much money. Cllr Smerdon said that due diligence has to be carried out as getting a scheme wrong could be very expensive.

DCC Cllr Richard Hosking noted that:

- DCC have now come up with two options for Gara Bridge. One is a chicane and the other bollards and build outs. Parish Councillors will be sent the report for comments. Following local consultation it is hoped that the work will be carried out in the Spring. This work will be placed on the April Parish Council agenda. Cllr Peach noted that Loddiswell needs to be consulted as well as Gara Bridge is the boundary between the parishes.
- DCC Council tax is increasing by the maximum – 3.99%. An additional £495 million (3% increase) is due to the growth in demand for Children's Services. The adult health and care budget will also be increased by 2%. Corporate Services (administrative costs) have reduced by 6.6%.
- DCC is continuing to roll out LED street lights.
- Devon schools still get below average funding. DCC is lobbying hard to change this.

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Foster (Chair), Franklin, Lethbridge, Peach, Parker-Davidson, Crocker, SHDC Cllr Steer, SHDC Cllr Smerdon, DCC Cllr Richard Hosking, Sally Smale (new Clerk from 1 April 2019) and Zoe Oldman (existing Clerk).

12.03.1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Hill.

12.03.2 **To note declarations of interest and Dispensations in items on the Agenda** Cllr Crocker declared an interest in Planning application 4032/18/FUL.

12.03.3 **The minutes of the meeting held on the 12 February 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.**

12.03.4 **Diptford Playing Field**

Diptford Amenity Trust.

Current account £4,628.94 Savings Account £30.86

The process of preparing the annual accounts identified the fact that the ride on mower is costing more in insurance and repairs than expected. Cllrs Smerdon and Steer said that a shipping container to store the ride on mower probably would need planning permission. There were a lot of concerns about the cost of the container plus the planning and Cllr Peach felt strongly that it would be an unattractive addition to the Playing Field. It was decided not to proceed with the shipping container.

The ride on mower was also discussed. Cllrs noted that it was a good idea at the time, and great to get the village working together and volunteering, but that the bureaucracy around the health and safety implications, the high insurance costs and the storage issues have made it problematic. It was agreed to discuss this further and make a formal decision on how grass cutting should take place at the next meeting.

The Playing Field Inspection report had just been received. There are no significant issues. The report will be placed on the April agenda.

12.03.5 Planning Applications

Reference: 0435/19/HHO

Avon Rise, Diptford, TQ9 7NZ

Householder application for removal of previous extension, change of roof to pitch and finish, proposed dormer and new rooflights to the front and rear.

No Objection

Reference: 0356/19/FUL

Beenleigh Copse Farm, Diptford, Totnes, TQ9 7NF

Provision of temporary agricultural dwelling (mobile home).

Object on the grounds there is no proven agricultural or local need

Reference: 4032/18/FUL

Murtwell House, Diptford, TQ9 7NQ

Creation of car park with temporary gravel surface

No Objection

Cllrs decided not to object but the vote was not unanimous. One Cllr voted to Object.

Planning decisions made by SHDC

0363/19/ARC

Lower Farleigh, Moreleigh, TQ9 7JW

Approval of reserved details (surface water drainage)

Discharge of condition approved

0068/19/AGR

Land at Crabdon View, Halwell, Totnes, TQ9 7JZ

Prior notification for proposed agricultural building for storage of agr. equipment, hay, straw and livestock pens.

Prior approval not required

3608/18/ARM

Holsome Park Lane to Holsome, Diptford, TQ9 7NA

Approval of reserved matters following outline approval 3934/17/OPA

Conditional approval

12.03.6 P3, footpaths & highways

Cllr Peach and the Clerk will chase action on ploughing. Cllr Hosking will chase Gemma Cater regarding Bradridge Cross and other Highway problems. Cllr Franklin will send photos of the problems to Cllr Hosking.

Larkham Quarry and the school run difficulties were postponed to the next meeting. The Clerk will chase a response / update from the school.

Gara Bridge was covered in Open Forum, (page 1).

12.03.7 Planning consultation changes

Cllr Hill provided a written update. The Village Hall Committee are looking into different options.

Cllr Smerdon will investigate any possible grants. He believed that the implementation of the change might be delayed. It was agreed that the Parish Council will wait to hear from the Village Hall Committee.

12.03.8 Parish Council administration

Cllrs warmly welcomed Sally Smale as the new Clerk from 1 April 2019 and said goodbye to the current Clerk as it was her last meeting.

The current Clerk has been storing two boxes of archive paperwork relating to the Parish Council and Amenity Trust. Cllrs Franklin and Foster will go through them to see what needs to be kept. In the interim Cllr Foster will store them. Long term it is suggested that a fire proof cabinet is installed in the computer room under the Parish Hall.

The Parish, Town and District elections will be held on 2 May 2019. All the Councillors present at the meeting are standing again and there may be other local residents standing.

As there was a thorough investigation into insurance costs last year and the costs had not risen it was agreed to renew both insurance policies for the Parish Council and Amenity Trust.

Claire Pollak is the contact for the Defibrillator in Diptford and Cllr Peach is the contact for the Curtisknowle defibrillator. The Clerk will check that the defibrillators are registered for the automatic inspection updates and the Ambulance service.

The Accounts are being prepared by the Clerk and Cllr Baggott. Cllr Baggott will present them at the April Parish Council meeting.

12.03.9 Finance

Cheque	Description	VAT	Gross
918	HMRC – Clerk’s tax for February & March		102.20
TRF	Clerk’s salary for February and March		563.30
TRF	Clerk’s January expenses – Office £16, stamps £6.96, mileage £24.30		47.26
917	Village Hall Committee – hire of Parish Hall		84
913	Zurich Municipal (Parish Council insurance)		206.08
Receipts			
	6p interest in saving account		0.06

2. To receive the Financial Statement

Lloyds Current Account to 04.03.19	3025.80
<i>Less</i> payments & unrepresented cheques*	1371.80
*including £184.48 from February	
<i>Plus</i> uncleared receipts	0
£1,396.60 outstanding from TAP	
£ outstanding from VAT	

Earmarked Reserves

P3 Footpaths	74.29
Winter Emergency Planning	800.00
Community Lengthsman	
	0

	1654
Total Current Account	1654.00
Lloyds Saving account to 04.02.19	1432.48
Total funds	3086.48

Total Reserves	1431.59

Total uncommitted funds £1654.89

The financial statement was agreed.

Three other payments were also agreed as they had been agreed in previous minutes:

- £9 additional Parish Hall hire (cheque 919)
- £107.40 for the RoSPA playing Field (cheque 920)
- £100 for B Sugden for new Village Square planting.

12.03.10 Any Other Business

Beverley Sugden will be putting additional planters on the Village Square to stop car parking.

The Clerk will contact two local residents with regard to hedge trimming as the overgrown hedges are causing road safety issues.

The Parish Council discussed a rogue tree in the school grounds which will possibly cause damage to the existing Magnolia tree. A tree surgeon has quoted £150 to remove the rogue tree. The school doesn't have any money and money raised by FODs is designed for the school children not maintenance. The Parish Council agreed that it was not their responsibility but that they would support any grants that might be available.

Meeting ended 9.30 p.m.

Date of next Meeting Tuesday 2 April at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, following the Amenity Trust meeting.