

Diptford Parish Council Meeting

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

OPEN FORUM

The Tree Warden, Beverley Sugden, advised parishioners about the Greater Horseshoe Bat project. Devon Wildlife Trust are running this project, with help from the Woodland Trust. South Hams tree wardens have been asked to help by identifying landowners who might be interested in getting involved. This could be simply a case of being sent an information pack, or there are also a number of grants/free tree packs that can be provided. Beverley is happy to be contacted by any interested landowners or with suggestions about whom she could approach. Please contact her at Beverley.sugden@btinternet.com Cllr Peach will also suggest names.

A parishioner commented that, “The beautiful Magnolia tree that was planted in the school grounds to commemorate the school’s centenary in the 60’s, by the oldest former pupil, Mr Albert Blake and two of the youngest, Linda Colwill and Tim Perring, is now beginning to be spoiled by another tree.” The Tree Warden advised that this is a rogue beech tree. The Parish Council and Tree Warden agreed that Richard Paul will be approached for a quote to remove the beech tree by the Chairman of FODS.

The owner of Crabadon Cottage Farm attended the Parish Council meeting to talk about their plans.

Training in the use of the Defibrillator will take place in the Village Hall on 28 March from 6 – 8 pm. Donations will go to St John’s Ambulance who are providing the training. Please contact Cllr Franklin at: johnsue_willowbrook@outlook.com to book a place.

Update from District and County Councillors

SHDC Cllr Steer noted that:

- There has been another brief issue with the waste collection in Diptford but this was quickly resolved.
- A new waste contract has been issued to a private company. This will increase the collection of recyclables.
- There are nine big applications in front of the Planning Committee.
- There is a proposal for SHDC to build a hotel on the site of an SHDC owned car park in Kingsbridge and lease it to a national chain. Objections were raised about SHDC moving into property development and borrowing money. The Parish Council were also concerned about the loss of car parking spaces in towns.

There was a discussion about the requirement to have a local connection to Diptford as part of the selection process for the affordable housing at Wheat Park. The Parish Council agreed that Cassandra Harrison from the Right to Buy Team would be invited to the Annual Parish Meeting on 28 May.

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Foster (Chair), Franklin, Lethbridge, Peach, SHDC Cllr Steer and Zoe Oldman (Clerk).

12.02.1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Parker Davidson, Cllr Crocker and Cllr Hill.

12.02.2 **To note declarations of interest and Dispensations in items on the Agenda** There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

12.02.3 The minutes of the meeting held on the 8 January 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

12.02.4 Diptford Playing Field

Diptford Amenity Trust. Current account £4,628.94 Savings Account £30.86

Mike Cox provided an update on the Playing Field Group. This is available from the Parish Clerk. In 2017 the Town and Parish Fund provided new oak sleeper steps to the WI bench to improve access, new oak planters for the village square and new tennis nets with posts. The old steps were piled up to create a bug hotel. The 2018 Town and Parish Fund has again improved access to the park by creating a shingled picnic area. A donation of £600 from the WI may provide a canopy over this area for shade in the summer months. Funding has also been secured from Diptford Community Fund to repair the shelter. A large grant application for £14,900 has been submitted to Pocket Parks Plus for general improvements and to resurface the tennis court and turn it into a multi-use games area. The Parish Council thanked SHDC for their support for the Pocket Parks Plus application.

Last year's playing field inspection report was discussed in advance of the 2019 inspection in March. It was agreed that there were no serious faults and that the situation had been monitored over the past year by the Playing Field Group.

Cllr Franklin will investigate the feasibility of a small shipping container to store the ride on mower, probably on the roadside of the gate. It was agreed that planning permission would probably be required. This will be discussed at the March meeting and all Councillors will think about options for the storage of the ride on mower.

There is no date yet for the training in the use of the strimmer and the ride on mower but there are two more volunteers. The Clerk will contact Cllr Parker-Davidson regarding training for the strimmer and Cllr Hill for training on the ride on mower.

12.02.5 Planning Applications

Reference: 0090/19/FUL

Repairs, partial demolition, external landscaping works and extension

Site address: Crabadon Farm Cottage, Halwell, Devon, TQ9 7JZ

No Objections

The Parish Council were concerned that they had not been consulted on the previous Class Q application for the redevelopment of one of the barns. They also had concerns about the water course and any sewage treatment works but no objections to the proposal for the redesign of the cottage which seemed to be a sympathetic design.

Reference: 3915/18/LBC

READVERTISEMENT (Revised plan received) Listed Building Consent for repairs, partial demolition and extension to dwelling.

Site address: Crabadon Cottage Farm, Halwell, TQ9 7JX

No Objections

Reference:4240/18/FUL

Demolition of existing barn and erection of new dwelling

Site address: Cross Farm, Diptford, TQ9 7NU

Object

The Parish Council objected with regard to drainage and access. The annex and the rental properties all share a difficult access through the original farm entrance onto cross roads right by the Playing Field entrance. Any increased traffic might jeopardise safety.

Cllr Steer agreed to follow up the report of a new Planning Breach.

Planning recommendations for ratification

Reference: 4100/18/FUL

Erection of polytunnel, greenhouse, 2 barns, construction of new access track, hardstandings and pond
Site address: field at Gladsfield, Diptford, TQ9 7PD
Recommendation: **Object** as could interfere with the enjoyment of the neighbouring amenity land

Planning decisions made by SHDC

Reference: 1573/18/FUL

Mobile home at sx743557 Mount Zion Mill, Diptford, TQ9 7NG
Retrospective application for stationing of residential mobile home
Decision: conditional approval

The Planning decisions were noted.

12.02.6 P3, footpaths & highways

The Clerk will chase action on Bradridge Cross, Coombeshead Cross and road cleaning. The Clerk has chased the Highways Officer with regard to ploughing and had a response. Cllr Peach will provide further text on ploughing.

Larkham Quarry and the school run difficulties were postponed to the next meeting.

The overhanging vegetation on the Church Wall has been trimmed.

Formal thanks will be sent to James Hill for completing the P3 Parish Paths forms.

Cllr Peach has contacted DCC and Cllr Hosking regarding further damage to Gara Bridge. A large vehicle has clearly shunted the sidewall of the stone parapet of the bridge. This damage is further to the previous damage to the parapet in 2018, which has still not been repaired. The Parish Council is still awaiting sight of the options and formal design to improve the vehicle approach to the bridge as outlined in the email from the Devon Highway Bridge Engineer in Oct 2017. They were promised in 2017 that work would be carried out in 2018/19.

12.02.7 Planning consultation changes

Cllr Hill has located the projector, which is working. However, it was felt that the Parish Council needs one with an HDMI port to have the best resolution for the very detailed planning applications. A formal letter will be sent to the Village Hall Trustees asking for permission to install a drop down screen. It is hoped that this will increase the desirability of the hall for rentals with additional equipment.

12.02.8 Finance

1. To approve cheques for payment:

Cheque	Description	VAT	Gross
908	HMRC – Clerk’s January tax		35.60
909	Clerk’s January salary		297.15

910	Clerk's January expenses – Office £16, stamps £6.96, mileage £24.30		47.26
911	Village Hall Committee – broadband line rental		184.48
912	South Hams Newspapers		216
Receipts			
09.01.19	8p interest in saving account		0.08
17.01.19	CilCA refund from SLCC		250

2. To receive the Financial Statement

Lloyds Current Account to 04.02.19	3,621.81
Less payments & unrepresented cheques	780.49
Plus uncleared receipts	0
	2841.32
Total Current Account	2841.32
Lloyds Saving account to 04.02.19	1432.42
Total funds	4273.74

Earmarked Reserves	
P3 Footpaths	74.29
Winter Emergency Planning	800.00
Community Lengthsman	0
Total Reserves	1431.59
Total uncommitted funds	£2842.15

The financial statement was agreed.

The invoice for the hire of the Parish Hall has been received. This will be placed on the schedule of payments for the March meeting.

The accounts will be prepared for the April meeting.

12.02.9 Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Franklin will liaise with the local WI with a view to them providing tea / coffees on the evening. The event will be themed around Wheat Park. Cassandra Harrison will be invited to talk at the Annual Parish Meeting on 28 May and Jameson Homes will be invited to attend.

12.02.10 Correspondence received & available at the meeting

Thank you letter from Citizens Advice South Hams

Invitation to the Caring Town Network Public Fair on Saturday 23 March from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Civic Hall, Totnes.

12.02.11 Any Other Business

Beverley Sugden will be asked to put more planter on the Village Square to stop car parking on the Village Square. This is not suitable for car parking.

The Clerk will check whether the Snow Warden is still happy to fulfil this role.

Meeting ended 9.30 p.m.

Date of next Meeting Tuesday 12 March at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.