

DIPTFORD AMENITY TRUST

Tuesday 2 April 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall, Diptford

Minutes

Present: Cllrs: John Foster (Chair), Sue Franklin, Stephen Parker-Davidson, Chris Peach, Louise Lethbridge, Trevor Crocker, Steve Hill and Sally Smale (Minutes)

Also present: Mike Cox, Linda Balfour and Jeremy Balfour

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Bob Baggott.

2. **The minutes of the meeting held on the 11.09.2018 as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.**

3. **Chairman's Progress Report**

Although there has been little activity over the winter months since the last Cllr Foster recognised the excellent work done by Mr C Talbot with the picnic area and the progress being made with the reconstruction of the shelter.

4. **Financial Report**

At the end of the financial year the accounts stand as follows:

Current account £3937.95 Savings Account £30.86

6. **Playing Field Group Report**

Mike Cox provided a report on activity in the past six months.

The date of the Parish Boundary walk for 2019 is now set for 29th September. It is hoped that fixing a date outside of the half-term school holiday break will enable even more people to participate. The committee is particularly keen to see an increase in the number of children and young people taking part.

The new picnic area has proved to be very popular and the first maintenance day was well attended and very successful.

Work is on-going to repair the items identified in the recent ROSPA report with items being dealt with in priority order.

The annual BBQ will take place on Saturday 18 May – a warm welcome is extended to all. Signage will be erected to concur with insurance guidelines.

7. **AOB**

7.1 Grass cutting and the mower.

It was agreed that as the grass cutting of the field was on the agenda of the Parish Council meeting later there would be a preliminary discussion at this stage whilst members of the playing field group were still present.

It was noted that the current storage for the mower was likely to terminate soon. The proposal to erect a container was considered to be expensive and possible an unsightly addition to the field. It was proposed that although the purchase of the mower had been a good idea at the time,

it was proving to be an unsustainable option and a return to the use of a grass cutting contractor needed to be considered.

Two options were presented:

- A) Attempt to sell the mower at the beginning of the season
- B) Use the mower for this season whilst there is still storage and sell at the end of the season.
It was agreed that it might prove more difficult to sell at the end of the season and that this option would also incur an extra servicing fee prior to selling.

It was agreed:

- **That the Clerk would contact Cllr Smerdon for details of grass cutters used by other Parish Councils**
- **Cllr Hill would approach Keith Jane to discuss an immediate service and sale of the mower**
- **An immediate cut would be arranged for the playing field**
- **Keith Jane would be asked to submit a tender for grass cutting**
- **The Playing Field Group would design a cutting plan for the area designating wildlife areas that would not need cutting thereby improving the environment and reducing cost of maintenance**

Cllr Hill was thanked for all his work to date arranging mower training and scheduling volunteers.

7.2 The issue of a large tree next to the tennis courts overhanging a neighbouring garden was raised.

John Foster to review

Date of next meeting: TBA

Meeting finished at 7.50 PM