

# Diptford Parish Council Meeting

## Tuesday 11 December 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Diptford

### OPEN FORUM

Two members of the public attended to talk about their plans for Crabadon Cottage Farm in advance of the planning discussion on application 3914/18/HHO. They also raised concerns about the back road from Crabadon to Halwell which has been shut for 6 months. This has subsided but is being fixed in the New Year. There is a new section on the Parish Council website called 'Highway Information' which details road closures and associated works. Please visit <https://diptfordparishcouncil.org/highway-information/>

There was one question regarding chickens on the road between Moreleigh and Diptford and stock straying, which was raised on behalf of the resident by Cllr Franklin. Cllr Foster has bought more fencing in the past two weeks.

There were two questions regarding the affordable homes being built at Wheat Park. Mark Edwards from Jameson Homes has confirmed that the process will be managed by Right to Buy South West. However, their application process will not start until the homes are ready to be marketed which will probably be in the Summer. Jameson Homes have asked Right to Buy South West to start a list of interested local applicants but they have said this is not possible under data protection rules until the process is ready to start. The opportunity to buy the homes will be advertised widely locally as soon as the development is at the marketing stage.

Jameson Homes now have a date from South West Water when their contractors are looking to undertake the offsite works connecting the Wheat Park site to the existing public sewer further down the road. This is expected to start on 4 February 2019 for five weeks. It is hoped Western Power Distributions main extension works will also take place during this period.

Parish Councillors passed on their thanks to Jameson Homes for taking measures to prevent flooding during the site works.

Concerns were also raised about a bag of rubbish left by Oakham contractors in the hedge at Coombeshead Cross. This included leftover wires, lunch debris and an Oakham vest. It has been dealt with by the local farmer. Parish Councillors will take action if it happens again.

### Update from District and County Councillors

DCC Cllr Hosking noted that:

- Devon is getting nearly £19m as its share of the road transport fund so will be able to do more to tackle pot holes.
- DCC has joined the Peninsula Transport Partnership to improve local infrastructure.
- The Government has now reported on its investigation into 20 mph zones. There is no evidence that they reduce accidents. DCC will produce its own report in due course.
- Avonwick station probably needs funding beyond DCC resources. They are aware the brick culvert is collapsing.
- DCC will inspect the blind summit at Coombeshead Cross.

Councillors discussed the dip in the road between Diptford and Avonwick Station. It is likely that a culvert or water pipe has collapsed under the road.

Councillors also discussed bridge damage, especially the old railway bridge at Bickham Farm and the small bridge at Butterford Mill, known locally at Stretchney Bridge – both in North Huish parish. Cllr Hosking will investigate.

Parish Councillors thanked Cllr Hosking for his regular attendance and help.

### DRAFT MINUTES

**Present:** Cllrs Foster (Chair), Franklin, Crocker, Lethbridge, Parker-Davidson, DCC Cllr Hosking, and Zoe Oldman (Clerk).

- 11.12.1**      **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Baggott, Cllr Hill & Cllr Peach.
- 11.12.2**      **To note declarations of interest and Dispensations in items on the Agenda** There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.
- 11.12.3**      **The minutes of the meeting held on the 13 November 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.**

**11.12.4**      **Diptford Playing Field**

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

- a) To discuss training for grass cutting volunteers – postponed in the absence of Cllr Hill.
- b) To discuss storage for the ride on mower – postponed in the absence of Cllr Hill.
- c) A composting toilet at the Playing Field is currently not affordable due to the disability requirements
- d) The work to make the picnic area more accessible is being carried out on Friday 14 November

Cllr Hill is unwell but will be asked for a written report, if possible.

**11.12.5**      **Planning Applications**

SHDC are stopping sending hard copies of planning applications to Parish Clerks despite unanimous opposition as it is very hard to see detailed planning applications on a small screen. Parish Councillors agreed to see if the Village Hall has a large screen which could be used and if not discuss funding for this at the January Parish Council meeting.

**3915/18/LBC**      **Listed building Consent**

Crabadon Cottage Farm, Crabadon to Crabadon Cross, Halwell, TQ9 7JZ

**Support**

**3914/18/HHO**      **Householder application for repairs, partial demolition and extension to dwelling**

Crabadon Cottage Farm, Crabadon to Crabadon Cross, Halwell, TQ9 7JZ

**Support**

**Planning decisions made by SHDC**

**0766/18/FUL**      **Installation of new heating tank**

St Mary’s Church, Church Square, Diptford

**Conditional approval**

**3222/18/FUL**      **Provision of agricultural building**

Holsome Park, Diptford, TQ9 7NA

**Conditional approval**

**2706/18/FUL**      **Replacement & extended agricultural building**

Lower Farleigh Farm, Moreleigh, TQ9 7JW

**Conditional approval**

**Planning enforcement**

The Parish Council discussed the outstanding enforcement cases as of 3 December 2018.

**11.12.6 P3, footpaths & highways**

It was agreed to allocate £2,000 to fund the Community Lengthsman - £1000 would be sought from DCC Highways Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund and £1000 from the Parish Council. Cllr Franklin will oversee this work.

Cllr Foster will ask if a local landowner can push debris off the passing places on the road from Curtisknowle to Gara Bridge.

Parish Councillors gave the Clerk additional information about Larkham Quarry to pass to DCC.

The Parish Council is not aware of any action from the school regarding problems with school run traffic and parking. The Clerk will write to the school asking for an update on the situation and expressing concern about parents who park in dangerous locations.

The problems are exacerbated by the overhanging brambles on the church wall. The Clerk will write to the Diocese again asking for them to be cut back.

### 11.12.7 Defibrillator

Claire Pollak is in touch with Cllr Peach regarding training and awareness of the new defibrillator at Curtisknowle.

### 11.12.8 2019 Budget

The budget for 2019-20 was agreed and any interested parishioners are welcome to request a copy from the Clerk.

It was agreed that the precept should increase by £1,000 – from £8,500 to £9,500 a year. The internal auditor and funders such as South Hams District Council (through the Town and Parish Fund) have all commented on the fact that Diptford Parish Council has few reserves and allocates all the funding that it receives. Parish Councillors have chosen to raise the precept as little as possible for successive years and it has now reached the point where an increase is needed to have slightly more flexibility and allow for any contingencies. There is also a Parish Council election next year when the Parish Council has to reimburse the costs to SHDC.

There is pressure from SHDC to raise the precept as it is not capped unlike the District Council budget and the District Councils would like Parish Councils to pay for some areas which were formerly their responsibility such as the Community Lengthsman. Diptford Parish Council has always resisted this pressure and sought grants and ways of making their budget go further without raising the precept significantly.

### 11.12.9 Finance

#### 1. To approve cheques for payment:

Cheque	Description	VAT	Gross
898	Instalment of the defibrillator at Curtisknowle		442.70
899	HMRC – Clerk’s November tax		35.60
900	Clerk’s November salary		297.15
892	Clerk’s November expenses – Office £16, stamps £8.04, mileage £24.30		48.34
<b>Receipts</b>			
09/11/18	12p interest in saving account		

#### 2. To receive the Financial Statement

Lloyds Current Account to 03.12.18	6154.36
<i>Less</i> payments & unrepresented cheques	823.79
<i>Plus</i> uncleared receipts	442.70
<b>Total Current Account</b>	<b>5773.27</b>

#### Earmarked Reserves

P3 Footpaths	74.29
Winter Emergency Planning	800.00
Community Lengthsman	1000.00
Defibrillator / Composting toilet	557.30
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>2431.59</b>

Lloyds Saving account to 06.11.18	2874.92
Total funds	8648.19

**Total uncommitted funds                      £6216.60**

A cheque for £1200 for the Community Lengthsman was also signed. This has been agreed in previous minutes.

**3. Funding request**

South Hams Citizens Advice have requested funding of between £150 - £300 following a reduction in their funding from South Hams District Council. The Parish Council usually grants them £100 a year. It was agreed to raise the grant to £150. The Clerk will write explaining that the Parish Council supports their excellent work but that unfortunately it also has pressure on its finances.

**11.12.10            Annual Parish Meeting**

This will be held on 28 May. The Clerk will compile a list of possible speakers for discussion at the January meeting.

**11.12.11            Christmas arrangements**

It was agreed not to send Christmas cards.

The Clerk will send a letter of thanks to the generous donors of the Christmas tree, which was put up by Parish Councillors and their families.

The Parish Council Christmas meal is on Thursday 24 January.

**11.12.13            Correspondence received & available at the meeting**

DEVA Digest

Rural Bulletin

NHS Commissioning Bulletin

Invitation to the school Nativity Rehearsal on Tuesday 11 December at 1.45 p.m. at Diptford Church.

Register of electors – it was agreed to request this and display the required sign.

**11.12.14            Any other business**

Most of the website problems have been resolved but it is still slightly linked to Ugborough Parish Council. It does not seem possible to stop this without affecting Ugborough Parish Council's website. Cllr Parker Davidson will be transferring over the extra pages from the Diptford.org website.

The aims and objectives of the local Eleemosynary Trust have been reviewed. The Parish Council will consider its representation on the Trust at the next Parish Council meeting.

*Meeting ended 9.30 p.m.*

*Date of next Meeting Tuesday 8 January at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.*

DRAFT