

# Diptford Parish Council Meeting

## Tuesday 7 August 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Diptford

### Questions from the Public

A member of the public attended to talk about planning application 2325/18/FUL. The original application was for three treehouses but it is now reduced to two to accommodate the Greater Horseshoe Bats.

Steve Mullineaux, acting Deputy Chief Executive at SHDC attended in response to concerns about the waste collection services at the request of Cllr Steer. He apologised on behalf of SHDC and explained the current difficulties. These include:

- Problems caused by the three day stoppage during Storm Emma, then the Easter Bank Holidays and May bank holidays which all require collection staff to work additional shifts to catch up so there is little staff capacity to catch up if there is a vehicle breakdown.
- Limited spare vehicles for the routes with the smaller vehicles if there is a vehicle breakdown.
- IT difficulties, again particularly with regard to the smaller vehicles.
- Difficulties recruiting experienced Waste Managers some of whom have to be Government licensed and can earn more elsewhere working for larger or private organisations
- Delays with the maintenance programme for the vehicles leading to more vehicle breakdowns.
- Poor staff morale during the procurement exercise looking at whether outsourcing the collection of waste would provide a better service and better value for money. The final evaluation of the bids is happening at the moment and should be concluded by December.

SHDC are working hard to resolve the situation. The Localities Team are helping track reports of problems and focusing on problematic routes to resolve problems.

Cllrs encouraged residents to report problems on line.

Steve Mullineaux offered to return in another month to report back on the progress they had made.

Consultation on new recycling arrangements is currently taking place. It may be more practical to move to Devon wide recycling arrangements so there are more collections in the South Hams. This may include collecting glass and more frequent food waste collections.

### Update from District and County Councillors

Cllr Hosking asked Cllrs about broadband connections in their area. A lot of people have expressed interest in the GigaClear offering but no one has heard back to date. In the meantime speeds have slowed down considerably.

Cllrs asked Cllr Hosking for an update on Gara Bridge and the outstanding highways issues. The flooding at Bradridge Cross needs addressing urgently before the winter. Cllr Hosking agreed to investigate and report back.

Cllrs asked whether pot hole reporting was now possible – if the contractors had caught up with all the outstanding pot holes. Cllr Hosking said that this had happened in some areas but not all.

Cllrs thanked Cllr Hosking for providing a reference for the Diptford Community Fund application for the Curtisknowle defibrillator.

Cllrs thanked Steve Mullineaux and Cllr Steer for attending to talk about waste collection. Cllr Steer offered to ask if Patrick Whymer could attend to talk about planning difficulties and possibly provide some training to Cllrs. This could be done in conjunction with North Huish.

## DRAFT MINUTES

**Present:** Cllrs Franklin (Chair), Hill, Peach, Lethbridge, Parker-Davidson, Baggott, SHDC Cllr Steer, SHDC Cllr Smerdon, DCC Cllr Hosking and Zoe Oldman (Clerk).

**07.08.1**           **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Crocker.

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

**07.08.3 The minutes of the meeting held on the 10 July 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.**

**07.08.4 Planning Applications**

2172/18/FUL Retention of holiday lodge  
3 Gara Bridge Cottages, Moonriver, Gara Bridge, Diptford, TQ9 7JT

There has been one objection by two local residents.

Cllrs were concerned about creeping development. Planning permission was granted for the original building as a holiday let. This was then approved for residential occupancy and a second structure built. It is possible that if planning permission is granted for this holiday let then residential approval will be sought at a later date.

**Object**

2325/18/FUL Construction of two treehouses for self contained tourist accommodation  
Gara Lodge, Gara Bridge, Diptford, TQ9 7JT

Councillors had a long discussion about the need to protect Greater Horseshoe Bats. They are a protected species and the site is one of the biggest maternity sites. The application was supported only if the following conditions were met:

- That the development was restricted to the bottom area and two treehouses only and that no further development is permitted in the future.
- That the footprint of the development and the people staying there are strictly controlled.
- That there is no vehicular access and that arrangements are put in place for the management of people crossing the road to access parking and other facilities
- That there is a guarantee that the Greater Horseshoe Bats are protected and that specific arrangements are made to minimise the impact of construction.
- That there is no development of the path to the road way.
- That any development is subject to the comments of the AONB team and experts.

**Support subject to these conditions**

2096/18/FUL Two replacement dwelling houses  
Hastings Farm, Etheridge, Diptford, TQ9 7NQ

Cllrs were concerned that the development is not necessarily in the spirit of the planning regulations.

**No objection**

2112/18/PDM Notification for prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to dwellinghouse  
The Cabin, Murtwell Farm, Diptford, Totnes, TQ9 7NQ

SHDC have explained that the former PDM was refused as there would be new structural elements. The new PDM addresses this issue by reducing the window sizes.

Cllrs agreed the same response as before, 'No Comment' as they do not have statutory authority to comment on PDMs although they can note local concerns.

**No comment**

**Planning decisions**

The only planning decision has been the final approval of the Wheat Park development.

**07.08.5 Finance**

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

<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
878	Clerk's July expenses - Office £16, mileage £24.30		40.30
879	Clerk's July salary		332.75
880	Cllr Hill – repayment of expenses associated with grass cutting		88.25
<b>Receipts</b>			
TFR	Transfer from Amenity Funds for repairs to ride on mower		506.50

**2. To receive the Financial Statement**

**Earmarked Reserves**

Lloyds Current Account to 26.07.18	4347.21
<i>Less</i> payments & unrepresented cheques (£35 direct debit for ICO not yet cleared)	496.30
<i>Plus</i> uncleared receipts	0
	3850.91
Total Current Account	3850.91
Lloyds Saving account to 03.0718	3,330.38
Total funds	7181.29

P3 Footpaths	74.29
Winter Emergency Planning	800.00
Community Lengthsman	1000.00
Defibrillator	1456
Total Reserves	3330.29

**Total uncommitted funds                    £ 3,851**

**07.08.6                    Correspondence received and available at the meeting**

Letter from parishioner regarding hedge cutting - noted

An update on policing from SHDC Cllr Smerdon – noted. The mobile phone number of the local Community Support Officer PC Russ Broadhurst will continue to be publicised.

Update on Crowd Funder and SeaMoor Lottery - noted

Information from SHDC on Recycling Services – discussed in Open Forum

Government technical consultation on the Local Government Finance Settlement - noted

Email from Mike Cox regarding rubber chips – to be discussed at the September meeting

Correspondence from Cllr Hosking on the Fight against Fraud - noted

Rural Services Network monthly bulletin - circulated

**07.08.7                    Reports on meetings attended**

Meeting with the school on 13 July – noted

**07.08.8                    Any other business**

There was no other business.

*Meeting ended 9.20 p.m.*

*Date of next Meeting Tuesday 11 September at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall after the Amenity Trust AGM. There will be a detailed discussion on the Playing Field and it is hoped that members of the Playing Field Committee can attend.*