

# Diptford Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 9 January 2018 at 7.30 pm

## Questions from the Public

One member of the public attended, Geoffrey Hyde. He confirmed that Totnes Rotary Club would match fund up to £500 for the defibrillator. Some funding might also be available for signs advertising the defibrillator's location. He thanked Councillors for their help in trying to find a solution to the flooding at Bradridge Cross. This was discussed in detail later in the meeting, (Item 5).

SHDC Cllr Steer reported that:

- The public toilets in Totnes were closed over the Christmas period due to anti-social use for the safety of the cleaning operatives.
- The budget is still being discussed. There are still difficult choices to make.
- There is a planning meeting tomorrow (Wednesday 10 January) with some contentious applications.

DCC Cllr Richard Hosking reported in a written update that:

- Sajid Javid has announced that we will have the flexibility to increase our Precept by a further 1% in 2018/19 to meet additional demands for Adult Health Services making the potential increase in Council Tax 5.99% without the need to hold a referendum. This will help to offset a reduction in Central Support Grant estimated at £23 million. The planned setting of the Devon County Council Budget for 2018/19 is in February 2018.
- Devon is to be among the first 10 Counties to pilot 100% Uniform Business Rate retention. Early indications are that this will help our financial situation a little.
- Another National Pothole Action Fund has been announced for 2017/18 with a total of £45 million to be distributed between Counties and Unitary Authorities. We are hopeful this will mean another £1.75 million to help repair the County's roads

## DRAFT MINUTES

**Present:** Cllr Foster (Chair), Franklin, Hill, Peach, Parker Davidson, Crocker, Lethbridge, SHDC Cllr Robert Steer & Zoe Oldman, (Clerk).

**09.01.1 Apologies for absence** Cllr Baggott and DCC Cllr Hosking

**09.01.2 To note declarations of interest and Dispensations in items on the Agenda** Cllr Crocker declared a non pecuniary interest in Planning Application Item 5 (v).

**09.01.3 The minutes of the meeting held on the 12.12.17, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

### 09.01.4 Planning Applications

i. Proposal: Listed building consent for internal and external detail alterations. Ashwell Court, Ashwell, Halwell, TQ9 7LB. Reference: 4278/17/LBC

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/174278>

**No Objection.** Councillors agreed that the property was at the end of a lane so there was no adverse effect on neighbouring properties and the proposals were sympathetic alterations to a listed building.

ii. Proposal: Internal and external detail alterations to a listed building. Ashwell Court, Ashwell, Halwell, TQ9 7LB. Reference: 4277/17/HHO

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/174277>

**No Objection (see above).**

iii. Proposal: Notification for prior approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development (Class Q (a) and (b)) (resubmission of 0907/17/PDM). Valley End Farm, Harberton, Devon, TQ9 7NE. Reference: 4294/17/PDM  
<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/174294>

**Object.** Councillors visited the property in 2013 during a site visit for a planning application made by a previous owner. They saw that the building was being inhabited in a possible breach of planning permission then. They do not feel that the building was being used as an agricultural dwelling prior to March 2013.

Councillors were concerned about the viability of the property as a permanent dwelling due to the distance from drainage and electricity. It is also very close to a water course.

iv. Proposal: change of use of land to provide extended residential curtilage. Boreston Foot Cottage, Spanish Lane End to Moreleigh, Halwell, TQ9 7LD. Reference: 4203/17/FUL  
<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/174203>

**No Objection.** Councillors were pleased to see an application regularising parking.

v. Proposal: READVERTISEMENT (revised plan received) Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of primarily single storey dwelling with two storey element. Lower Coombe Bungalow, Diptford, TQ9 7NP. Reference: 3364/17/FUL  
<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/173364>

**Object.** Councillors objected to the original plan owing to:

- The disproportionate size
- The increase in ridge height
- The insufficient sewerage and drainage system

Councillors also had concerns about the access road but this is not a material planning consideration.

Councillors didn't feel that there were any differences in the revised plan which addressed these objections. They remain concerned about the dispute over the ownership of the access lane.

vi. Proposal: Householder application for proposed new window opening in south elevation. The House at Pooh Corner, Curtisknowle, Diptford, TQ9 7JU. Reference: 3984/17/HHO  
<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/173984>

**No Objections.**

#### **09.01.5 P3, footpaths & highways**

Cllr Franklin has had several positive comments about the work of the new community lengthsman. Cllr Crocker will continue passing requests to unblock drains, gulleys and buddle holes to the community lengthsman.

Councillors discussed the problem of the flooding at Bradridge Cross in detail. It was agreed that there are several possible problems – the buddle hole may be blocked, the culvert under road may be blocked and the pipes through the fields may be blocked or broken. It has been reported to Highways many times. This issue will be addressed with Cllr Hosking.

It was agreed that there are multiple areas which need ploughing (clearing the edges of the lane). The Clerk will write to Highways using text provided by Cllr Peach.

Councillors reviewed the winter weather arrangements and agreed that they are satisfactory.

Cllr Parker-Davidson has discussed the submission of the P3 forms with the P3 Parish representative. He is considering bidding for work to reduce the slipperiness of the slate path at Larcombe Quarry. Cllrs agreed this would be helpful. Cllr Parker Davidson will continue to liaise with the P3 Parish Representative.

### 09.01.6 Defibrillator

Mr Sampford provided a written update on behalf of the community group:

- A local electrician has agreed to install the appliance asap.
- Funding is promised to cover the purchase and long-term maintenance.
- Claire Pollak has taken over the training side.
- Geoffrey Hyde has taken over the advertising and awareness side, and has assured a matched funding of £500 from Totnes Rotarians.
- Sue Franklin has pursued avenues of funding to a successful outcome [funds being offered from our District Councillor and our County Councillor], and liaised with 'Heartswell'.
- The Parochial Church Council led by David Sayle have supported the project and notified the Diocese at Exeter [and they have given permission for the appliance to be attached to the Primary School Wall].
- Tony Callcut [the School link Executive] has supported the project for School and Community use.
- As a local community project it appears to have been very successful and is about to be installed - certainly before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. It would be appreciated, if the Parish Council, who have supported the project, could minute the appreciation for all those involved in such a worthy scheme.

The Parish Council thanked Mr Sampford for his report, which was appreciated.

Councillors discussed the provision of a small, electrical usage meter to ensure the school is reimbursed for any electricity used.

Funding has successfully been raised for the £1000 cost of the defibrillator. There will be a quiz night at 8 p.m. on 29 January at the Avon Inn to raise additional funding for any on-going maintenance.

### 09.01.7 Declarations of interest

Councillors were reminded to provide updated declarations of interest to meet SHDC requirements.

### 09.01.8 Finance

#### 1. Cheques were approved for payment:

Cheque	Description	VAT	Gross
	Z Oldman – December pay		325.00
	Z Oldman – Travel £44.10 Office supplies £77.26	7.96	121.36
	Z Oldman – annual SLCC membership (50% shared with Staverton PC)		36
	Community Lengthsman	408	2448
<b>Receipts</b>			
BGC	Santander – Interest December		0.12
BGC	Devon CC (HMCEF)		1000

#### 2. The Financial Statement was received

Lloyds Current Account to 29.12.17	6843.66
Less payments & unrepresented cheques	2930.36
Plus uncleared receipts	0
Total Current Account	3913.30
Lloyds Saving account to 29.12.17	1031.23
Total funds	4944.53

#### Earmarked reserves

P3 Footpaths	74.29
Winter Emergency Planning	800.00
Community Lengthsman	1000.00
Total Reserves	1874.29

**Total uncommitted funds                    £3070.24**

It was agreed to use a payroll company costing £4 a month + VAT (which can be reclaimed) to submit tax and NI receipts to HMRC and provide payslips for the Clerk.

### 09.01.9 Diptford Playing Field

Cllr Foster is finalising a quote for tree maintenance in the Playing Field. It was agreed that surplus funds could be used to improve the village square. Cllr Foster will inform the Clerk as soon as possible about the final tree quote.

Councillors discussed insurance for the Amenity Trust's ride on mower and general insurance provisions. The Amenity Trust has public liability insurance for the volunteers while the Parish Council insures the assets.

Cllr Hill agreed to investigate and report back on:

- A call for specific volunteers for grass cutting
- The necessity for specific DCC training for operating machinery.
- Detailed information on insurance liabilities for Zurich

Councillors noted that the shelter in the field needs renewing and that a new structure could be an option for storing equipment.

It was agreed that in the absence of any further information the use of Diptford Glebe would be reviewed quarterly rather than monthly.

#### **09.01.10 Correspondence received**

- Concerns have been expressed about parking at school drop off times. The Clerk will write to the school asking if parents and carers can park legally and responsibly. There are road safety issues when cars pull over and drop the children off in the road. Car parking is also problematic in neighbouring residential areas.
- Sarah Woodman forwarded an invoice for Wordpress website hosting which is shared with Ugborough Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed to refund Sarah the £23 renewal fee.
- Councillors agreed to nominate Cllr Parker-Davidson to enter a ballot to attend a Royal Garden Party.
- DEVA Digest
- LEAP programme (Cosy Devon) information from Cllr Hosking
- Police & Crime Monthly Report
- Local Government Finance Settlement
- Information on the new external auditors
- Correspondance from SHDC confirming that a possible planning breach will be investigated at Mount Zion.
- Correspondance from SHDC confirming that alleged use of agricultural land as a camping site at Gara Bridge has been investigated and that it is not considered expedient to pursue the matter further at this time.

#### **09.01.11 Reports on meetings attended**

No meetings were attended. Cllr Parker-Davidson will be attending the dementia meeting in February.

#### **09.01.12 Correspondence available at the meeting**

No additional correspondence was available.

*Meeting ended 9.20 p.m*

*Date of next Meeting Tuesday 6 February 2018 (note one week earlier than usual)*