

# **Diptford Parish Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 2 April 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Diptford**  
**(Due to over-run of the Amenity Trust meeting the Parish Council meeting started at 7.50PM)**

## **OPEN FORUM**

No members of the public attended.

## **Update from District and County Councillors**

DCC Cllr Hosking was delayed and missed the meeting but confirmed the following day that refreshing the painting of road signs at Curtisknowle is in the works programme.

SHDC Cllr Steer noted that:

The Joint Local Plan has been adopted and the Planning Policy updated. Approaching the election many members are busy canvassing.

A parishioner has raised concerns over the removal of a hedge in the parish.

**Cllr Steer will alert planning enforcement.**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllrs Foster (Chair), Franklin, Hill, Lethbridge, Peach, Parker-Davidson, Crocker, SHDC Cllr Steer, Sally Smale (Clerk)

**02.04.1**      **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Baggott

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

**02.04.3**      **The minutes of the meeting held on the 12 March 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.**

**12.04.4**      **Diptford Playing Field**

**a) Grass cutting and the mower. (Discussed at the preceding Amenity Trust meeting)**

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.

#### **02.04.5 Planning Applications**

Reference 4100/18/FUL

Field at Gladsfield, Diptford, Devon, TQ9 7PD

Re-advertisement. Erection of polytunnel, greenhouse, 2 barns and construction of pond, hardstanding and barns.

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/184100>

**It was noted that this is a re-advertisement, that there are local objections regarding the lane and the over-development of an underdeveloped area and confirmed that DPC comments on the previous application still stand.**

*Planning applications received after agenda publication may be considered at the meeting and any recommendations ratified at the subsequent meeting.*

#### **0954/19/PDM (Laplands Farm)**

**It was noted that the following application was pre-determined and the following concerns expressed:**

**That the barn is home to a barn owl**

**What appears to be consent for general sporadic development in rural areas.**

#### **Planning decisions made by SHDC**

Reference 3926/18/FUL

Proposed construction of below ground surface water pipe.

Lower Coombe bungalow, Lane to Lower Coombe, Diptford, TQ9 7NP

**Conditional approval**

**8.10PM Councillor Foster left the meeting and Cllr Franklin took the Chair.**

#### **02.04.6 P3, footpaths & highways**

- a) The clerk presented information from DCC Highways regarding the road cleaning and ploughing: *The roads that the parish requested ploughing for were passed on to the contractor for inclusion in this year's programme which is still ongoing but I am not certain they will actually complete it all at the time of writing. If for any reason this is the case then it will be carried over to the 2019-20 ploughing programme. Additionally I have requested that the last section of the road between Curtisknowle and Gara Bridge is included as part of the 2019 – 20 pothole recovery programme.*

**Agreed that the clerk reply to DCC expressing DPC approval that Curtisknowle and Gara Bridge are on the programme due to their increasingly hazardous conditions for the public and vehicles.**

**Cllr Franklin requested that the clerk also highlight the need for work between Beneknowle bends and Avonwick where there is a large area of subsidence, suspected to be over the water main, causing vehicles to dip and bounce and can considered to be a danger to the travelling public.**

- b) To receive an update on Larcombe Quarry – no further information.  
**Agreed Cllr Parker-Davidson to pursue**
- c) To discuss school run difficulties – no update. Item to be dropped from the agenda

#### **02.04.7 Planning consultation changes**

There have been other requests for the provision of a screen in the Village Hall and the Village Hall Committee will be meeting with a company to provide a quotation on Thursday 4 April. **This will be a Parish Council meeting item agenda on May 14.**

**02.04.8 Parish Council election and nomination forms**

There has not been an election for many years in Diptford. It was noted that there were 8 vacancies for the council, that DPC had budgeted for an election over the last 4 years should the occasion arise and that nomination forms had to be submitted by 4PM on Wednesday 3 April.

**02.04.9 Accounts**

In his absence Cllr Baggott submitted the following statement:

*As far as the accounts are concerned I would like to record my own and the Councils thanks to Zoe for all the hard work and additional time she has put in to get them completed. I have met with Zoe and had a number of telephone conversations regarding the accounts, and having audited the books and the final accounts I am satisfied they are a true representation of the funds and am happy to ask you to formally sign them off.*

**Proposed by Cllr Franklin, seconded by Cllr Peach and all in favour of accepting the accounts for 2018-2019.**

**Cllr Franklin wished to record DPC thanks to Cllr Baggott for his work over the year.**

**02.04.10 Finance****1. The following cheques were approved for payment**

<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
923	Former Clerk's March expenses – office £16, mileage £18		34
924	New Clerk's March expenses – office £1.26, mileage £6.75		8.01
<b>Receipts</b>			
11.03.19	5p interest in saving account		0.05
22.03.19	SHDC TAP refund		1396

**2. Following discussion regarding progress with the Lengthsman's work time-table the Financial Statement was received and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Lengthsman to review progress.**

Lloyds Current Account to 25.03.19	3881.98
<i>Less</i> payments & unrepresented cheques*	42.01
<i>Plus</i> uncleared receipts £921 VAT refund outstanding from HMRC	0
<b>Total Current Account</b>	<b>3839.97</b>
Lloyds Saving account to 25.03.19	1232.53
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>5072.5</b>

**Earmarked Reserves**

P3 Footpaths	74.29
Winter Emergency Planning	800.00
Community Lengthsman	0
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>874.29</b>

**Total uncommitted funds                                    £4198.21**

**02.04.11 Any Other Business**

Cllr Parker-Davidson raised the issue of recent difficulties experienced by individuals using the assisted bin service. Cllr Steer noted the issues. It was agreed that with the new DCC waste contract starting on 1 May 2019 this problem would hopefully be resolved.

Meeting ended 8.40 p.m.

Date of next Meeting Tuesday 14 May at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.