

Diptford Parish Council Meeting

Diptford Village Hall

Tuesday 16 July 2013 at 7.30pm

Cllr Foster opened the meeting by expressing his condolences at the sad death of Raymond Crocker, who had been a longstanding member of the Parish Council and a past Chairman.

Police Report One crime of note was reported in June, relating to theft of a trailer

DCC Cllr Vint reported on overgrown hedgerows and the rollout of superfast broadband. The closure of the road from Avonwick to A38 for repairs would be postponed until September, and Cllr Vint would take up concerns about the effect of underpinning on the river and fish stocks. Up to 1000 new dwellings were proposed for Totnes, which would result in increased traffic, as no improvements to the infrastructure were planned.

SHDC Cllr Steer reported, as Chairman of the Planning Committee, on the Stop Notice at Diptford Downs Farm; the approval of a solar farm at Dartington; and the planning appeal for the proposed wind turbine at Foales Leigh. There were currently seven proposals for solar farms in the District, although some were likely to be withdrawn. Applications for wind turbines were awaiting the outcome of the Foales Leigh appeal. A housing development had been approved at Wembury, with 50% affordable housing. Only 3 residents remained at the Marley Head travellers' site.

Following Councillor complaints about the poor visibility at Shorter Cross, Cllr Steer would again contact the owner about moving the hedge.

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Foster (Chairman), Baggott, Crocker, Franklin, Hill & Peach; DCC Cllr Vint, SHDC Cllr Steer, 2 members of public

13.071 Apologies for absence were noted from Cllr Gopal

13.072 To note declarations of interest and Dispensations in items on the Agenda None

13.073 The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11.6.13, as previously circulated, were confirmed as amended and signed by the Chairman

13.074 Planning

Planning Applications

1. Replace extant householder planning approval 17/1059/10/F & 17/1381/13/LB for conversion of existing garage/workshop to living accommodation at Lower Coombe, Diptford Ref 17/1380/13/F Mr R Burton

No objection

2. Householder application for kitchen extension at 8 Church Park Close, Diptford Ref 17/1454/13/F Miss J Bolton **No objection, providing there is no loss of amenity to the adjoining property**

13.075 Amenity Trust Report – Funds: Acc 00196602 £135.44; Acc 02042009 £6808.63. The Playing Field Group had requested funding arising from the S106 Agreement on the housing development, and the Clerk would ask SHDC for both S106 and New Homes Bonus funding.

13.076 P3, footpaths & highways – The first vegetation cut had been completed. Planings would be laid on FP1 to alleviate the mud, and the neighbours had been asked to cut back the hedge.

Parish Council requests that owners cut back roadside hedges had been partially successful and the Clerk would follow up with a further letter, where necessary.

Concern was expressed that, when the Avonwick road was closed for repairs, additional traffic would travel along the Weblands and Hatchlands lanes, which were unsuitable for additional traffic and in a poor condition, with numerous potholes. Traffic should not be diverted towards Hatchlands or Weblands.

Complaints were received that the tarmac on the recently top dressed lanes was melting in the hot weather. The problem of inadequate filling of potholes could be overcome if no payment was made to contractors where they required further repairs within 6 months.

13.077 Diptford Square walled garden – No response had been received to the Clerk's letter or phone call, and the Clerk would write a further letter advising that, unless compensation was agreed within 14 days, the insurers and education authority would be advised.

13.078 Renewable Energy developments

Applicants AEE Renewables had undertaken a long consultation, but with too short notice. An exit poll from the consultation had shown 90% opposition to the proposed solar farm due to its size; proximity to the AONB; the disproportionate number of solar farms in the area; the cumulative impact of solar farm development along the ridge road; the adverse effect on tourism; loss of agricultural land; and the industrialization of the countryside. Concern was also raised of increased traffic during the construction phase.

If Localism had really been exercised, none of the solar farms would have been permitted. Where SHDC had refused planning permission, the development had subsequently been approved on appeal. Solar panels on the roofs of industrial and farm buildings would be preferable to farmland, and subsidy arrangements should reflect this.

SHDC policy relating to renewable energy developments was unlikely to be adopted until next year. It was not able to require an Environmental Impact Assessment on proposals for renewable energy developments. The impact of renewable energy developments was widespread, and all neighbouring Parish Councils should be consulted, even if the development was not adjacent to the Parish boundary.

The Government was due to issue a new set of planning guidelines within the next few weeks, with a presumption towards a more balanced response to providing energy by looking at alternative options.

The Clerk would write to SHDC, DCC, Sarah Wollaston MP and neighbouring parishes expressing these concerns.

13.079 Finance

1. Cheques passed for payment:

Cheque	Description	VAT	Gross
0594	S Woodman – June pay		150.51
0595	S Woodman expenses: Office £25.00, travel £28.35		53.35

2. The Financial Statement was received

Lloyds Current Account to 28.6.13	5577.56
Less payments & unpresented cheques	716.06
Plus uncleared receipts	0.00
Total Current Account	4861.50
Santander Account to 31.3.13	12.39
Total funds	4873.89

Earmarked Reserves

P3 Footpaths	574.29
Winter Emergency Planning	800.00
Total Reserves	1374.29

Total uncommitted funds £3499.60

13.080 Reports on Meetings Attended

1. Cllr Hill attended the Cluster Meeting, which discussed the New Homes Bonus, which Parish Councils could claim from SHDC; and the Community Payback Scheme, in which those undertaking Community Service could carry out supervised work in the Parish for a charge of £160/day
2. Cllr Peach attended the AONB Forum, whose theme was maps. The map on the SHDC webpage 'Where you live' was particularly informative.

13.081 Correspondence available at the Meeting Noted

1. Clerks & Councils Direct July 2013

Meeting ended 9.15pm

Date of next scheduled Meeting 17.9.13