

Diptford Parish Council Meeting

Diptford Village Hall

Tuesday 17 September 2013 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs Foster (Chairman), Crocker, Franklin, Gopal, Hill & Peach; SHDC Cllr Steer; Dr Sarah Wollaston MP; 55 members of public

Presentation by AEE Renewables on the proposed solar farm at Coombeshead

Tom Jones (Planning Manager) and Niels Kroner (Executive Chairman) explained that the site had been selected on the basis of power line capacity and a willing landowner. Revised plans had been prepared following feedback from the previous consultation, in which the site had been reduced by 15%, panels had been moved back 20m from the lane, and hedging would be planted to minimise visual intrusion. The proposal would be subject to a landscape and ecological management plan, and the land would be used for sheep grazing. After 25 years, the panels would be removed, and the farm would be more financially viable. Although not a planning requirement, a Community Benefit Fund would be set up, administered by the Devon Community Foundation.

In response to questions from the public: There would be no noise on the site, and a planning condition could enforce this requirement; Wooden posts and deer fencing would surround the site; No security lighting would be provided; Evergreen under-storey planting would provide screening during the winter.

James Cross, Trustee, Devon Community Foundation, explained how it would administer an estimated £81,406 endowment from AEE Renewables towards projects to fight fuel poverty in Diptford Parish. With match funding, the total funds, in perpetuity, would be £122,108, which would provide annual grant funding of £4-6,000pa. The Foundation would be independent of the Parish Council, with a dedicated fund manager and Trustees to allocate the grants. The Parish would determine the criteria for the grant funding.

After the Parish Council left, the Public Meeting continued and was chaired by Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, with questions from the public. An exit survey revealed 82% opposition to the proposal.

The Parish Council, without prejudice, would welcome any funding on the basis that the funds were managed locally for the benefit of Diptford Parish and its parishioners.

Police Report One crime of note was reported in July, relating to arson (damage to chicken shed). Tips were given on keeping homes and out buildings safe.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

13.087 Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Baggott

13.088 Declarations of interest and Dispensations in items on the Agenda were noted from Cllr Hill: Item 13.093.4 (Personal) & Cllr Foster: Item 13.094.8 (Prejudicial)

13.089 The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20.8.13, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

13.090 Planning

Planning Decisions - Noted

1. Householder application for kitchen extension at 8 Church Park Close, Diptford Ref 17/1454/13/F

Conditional permission

Planning Correspondence

2. SHDC: Enforcement complaints – The Clerk would request an update on the status of investigations and advise that enforcement action at Gara Bridge weir had been excluded from the Diptford list. The Parish Council would continue the regular review of enforcement issues.

3. Newton & Noss Parish Council: Planning concerns – The Parish Council supported the concerns raised and the Clerk would complain that local views were not taken into account, decision-making was affected by the cost of defending an appeal, and enforcement actions should be more effective.

Cllr Foster left the meeting, and Cllr Franklin took the Chair

13.091 P3, footpaths & highways – Planings were awaited for FP1. Cllr Franklin intended to resign as P3 representative at the end of the financial year, and the vacancy would be advertised in the magazine.

13.092 Diptford Square walled garden – No further response had been received from Wood Bros, and DCC had been advised of the dispute. The Clerk would submit an insurance claim.

13.093 Finance

1. Cheques passed for payment:

Cheque	Description	VAT	Gross
0599	S Woodman – August pay		151.98
0600	S Woodman expenses: Office £25.00, travel £41.85		66.85
0601	Nick Kendell – Wasp treatment		25.00
0602	HMRC - PAYE		114.60

2. The Financial Statement was received

Lloyds Current Account to 30.8.13	4653.26
Less payments & unrepresented cheques	358.43
Plus uncleared receipts	0.00
Total Current Account	4294.83
Santander Account to 31.3.13	12.39
Total funds	4307.22

Earmarked Reserves

P3 Footpaths	574.29
Winter Emergency Planning	800.00
Total Reserves	1374.29

Total uncommitted funds £2932.93

The Clerk would claim all expenses retrospectively.

Finance Correspondence

3. Grant Thornton 2012/13 Audit – Annual return completed in accordance with proper practices

4. Resolved to grant the Computer Club £141 towards phone line rental (chq 603)

13.094 Correspondence received

1. SHDC Council Tax Reduction Scheme – Consultation to 7.10.13. Details were included in the magazine

2. Local Government Boundary Commission: Electoral review of South Hams – Consultation to 11.11.13. The only link between Parish and District Councils was through the District Councillor attending the Parish Council meeting, and this should be maintained.

3. South Brent Parish Council: Beating the Inner (Diptford) Bounds 21st September. The Diptford Parish walk was taking place on the 22nd September. Natalie Hunt was undertaking a marathon for South Brent & District Caring on the 5th October, passing through Diptford at 1.45pm, and the WI *would be asked if it would consider arranging* celebrations for the event.

4. SHDC: Survey of Cluster Meetings – Cllr Peach would complete the survey. Super Cluster Meeting, Ivybridge Monday 11 November

5. SHDC: Flood Forum, Follaton House 4-8pm 17.9.13 - Noted

6. TAP Funding 2013/14, Northern (Totnes) Cluster Area £20,245.50 – Applications by 10.1.14, to be submitted by combined Parishes for their mutual benefit

7. SHDC: Revocation of Masterplans & Development Briefs Supplementary Planning Document - Noted

8. Motorcross noise at Farleigh – the event organisers had been instructed to redirect the tannoys to minimise noise disturbance

13.094 Reports on Meetings Attended None

13.095 Correspondence available at the Meeting Noted

1. Healthwatch Voices, Issue 1

2. South Hams Society Bulletin, July 2013

3. Community Council of Devon: Helping communities help themselves

4. Clerks & councils Direct, Summer 2013

Meeting ended 9.15pm

Date of next Meeting 8.10.13