

Diptford Parish Council Meeting

Diptford Village Hall

Tuesday 19 July 2011 at 7.30pm

Diptford Primary School & Federation – Report by George Lacon (Chair of Governors) and Amelia Eyston (Community Governor). It had been agreed that the Totnes Village Schools Federation would run from the 31 October, comprising 6 primary schools: Berry Pomeroy, Broadhempston, Diptford, Harbertonford, Landscope and Stoke Gabriel. The Federation was unanimously approved, with a good mix of schools, up to 370 pupils, and a stronger budget. Devon County Council support will be limited to HR, finance and legal services only. The Diptford Governing Body will become the Diptford School Committee, with representatives from each school committee forming the Federation School Governors, which would provide strategic control. On retirement, headteachers would be replaced by ‘heads of teaching and learning’, rather than having a management role. Councillors supported the Federation, but noted that the Parish Council had not been consulted about the changes.

Questions from the Public

1. Complaints had been received about activity at Stert Quarry Farm, including the removal of branches along the approach lanes. Owners Richard Smith and Cath Farrer and written to the Parish Council, advising that they currently lived in Buckfastleigh and were farming the land. However, a search on the internet had revealed that the owners were offering on-site caravan accommodation for volunteers working on the land. Cllr Steer and the Clerk would ask SHDC to investigate the matter.
2. Complaints had been received of overgrown hedges along the Moreleigh to Gara Bridge lane. Cllr Steer had advised Highways, and the Clerk would ask DCC to issue guidance to landowners fronting the lane on roadside hedge and tree management.

Police Report No crimes were reported in June. Parishioners were warned against bogus cold callers.

Report from County Cllr Black The new Place Scrutiny Committee had been formed, with the aims of ensuring DCC worked effectively despite the cuts, and the improved briefing of members. Its responsibilities included civil parking enforcement, street lighting, maintaining rural post offices, the rail task group, grants to the arts, and the Waste Core Strategy.

Totnes on the Move had received full funding; local school rolls had increased; and Cllr Black had attended the Local Government Association meeting, in which it was noted that the Localism Bill gave the Secretary of State 149 additional powers.

Report from District Cllr Steer Locality funding of £1000 was still available for the Parish. A planning application was being submitted for two wind turbines at Luscombe Cross, Harbertonford, which would be visible from much of the Parish.

Present Cllrs Foster (Chairman), Crocker, Franklin, Hill & Peach; District Cllr Steer; County Cllr Black; 3 members of public.

MINUTES

11.074 Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Savery

11.075 To note declarations of interest in items on the Agenda None

11.076 The Minutes of the held on the 21.6.11, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

11.077 Planning Applications

1. Listed Building Consent for replacement slates (mix of natural and asbestos) on rear half of roof with natural slates at Moorcott, Diptford Ref 17/1533/11/LB Mr M Sugden **No objection**
2. Conversion of barn to residential dwelling at Thorn Farm, Diptford Ref 17/1582/11/F Mr J Sawyer **No objection**
3. Resubmission of 17_23/0721/11/F for retrospective permission for wildlife pond at Daisyhills, Diptford Ref 17_23/1656/11/F Mr DA Langley **Object: Possible flooding risk to neighbouring properties. Concern over the engineering construction of the pond and lack of structural engineer’s report**
4. Pre-application consultation: House & garage at Daisyhills, Diptford Ref 17/2482/10/Premin **Object. The development would be obtrusive on the skyline, with a detrimental effect on the landscape. The house would be out of character and disproportionate in relation to local housing.**

