

Diptford Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 21 October 2014 at 7.30pm

DCC Cllr Vint had submitted a report emphasising the need to obtain DCC support and funding if the Parish Council took on highways maintenance responsibilities

SHDC Cllr Steer reported on: The appointment of Sophie Hosking as Executive Director; the T18 programme, which was now focussing on planning jobs; and current renewable energy planning applications

Questions from the public A progress report was requested on the housing development opposite Wheat Park, and the Clerk would write to the developers, requesting an update and expressing disappointment that the development had not already started, particularly in the light of the desperate local need and community support for the scheme.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Foster (Chairman), Crocker, Franklin, Peach & Wood; SHDC Cllr Steer

14.103 Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Gopal & DCC Cllr Vint

14.104 Pecuniary declarations of interest in items on the Agenda were noted from Cllr Foster (Item 14.106.2) & Cllr Crocker (Item 14.106.1)

14.105 The Minutes of the Meetings held on the 16.9.14, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

14.106 Planning Applications

Cllr Crocker left the Meeting during the item

1. Installation of ground-mounted solar arrays (total site area 94,000m²), estimated output 5megawatts and associated infrastructure, cable route and Distribution Network Operator substation at Land at SX769 596, Lower Blakemore Farm, Totnes Ref 23/2373/14/F New Energy for the World GmbH

Strongly object. Cumulative visual impact of solar farms; impact on users of the public right of way; negative impact on adjacent listed farmhouse; inappropriate use of good quality farmland.

Planning Applications considered at the Meeting held on the 16.9.14 were ratified

Cllr Foster left the Meeting during the item

2. Demolition of agricultural shed and replacement with larger agricultural shed at Lower Farleigh Farm, Moreleigh Ref 17/2300/14/F Mr J Foster **Support**

Planning Decisions - Noted

3. Householder application for single-storey rear extension and alteration to first-floor window at 4 Wheat Park, Diptford Ref 17/1701/14/F **Conditional permission**

14.107 P3, footpaths & highways – The bridleway had reopened; Beating of the Bounds had been well attended; the hedge at Brushford had been cut back; Cllr Peach would respond to the Highways ‘Tough Choices’ consultation; the Clerk would ask for the grit bins to be replenished, and for any free grit for the Snow Warden service; and Cllr Crocker would follow up complaints about vegetation on the churchyard and Glebeland walls adjacent to the highway.

14.108 Playing Field – Acc 02042009 £7512.22; Acc 00196602 £135.44. Cllr Foster & Mike Cox would be removing the half pipe skate ramp; DCC had completed its last grass cut, and the Clerk would investigate quotations received for next financial year.

Resolved to arrange one-off grass cuts until the 1.4.15, if required

14.109 Finance

1. Cheques passed for payment:

Cheque	Description	VAT	Gross
0656	S Woodman – Sept pay		156.60
0657	S Woodman expenses: Office £31.36, travel £28.35		59.71

2. The Financial Statement was received

Lloyds Current Account to 29.8.14	4121.74
<i>Less</i> payments & unrepresented cheques	327.35
<i>Plus</i> uncleared receipts	2830.00
Total Current Account	6624.39
Santander Account to 31.3.13	12.39
Total funds	6636.78

Earmarked Reserves

P3 Footpaths	234.29
Winter Emergency Planning	800.00
Total Reserves	1034.29

Total uncommitted funds £5602.49

Finance Correspondence

3. SHDC: Council Tax Support to Diptford PC would reduce to £140 in 2015/16, a decrease of 10%

4. Precept 2015/16 – Councillor bids were requested before the budget was prepared in December

5. Resolved to submit a TAP application, in conjunction with Halwell & Morleigh and North Huish Parish Councils, for £4500 towards shared Community highway services.

The Clerk would submit the application

6. Next Steps at South Brent Old School Centre – Diptford PC would not join in their TAP funding bid

14.110 Correspondence received

1. DCC Cllr Vint: Rural Fibre broadband questionnaire – Await BT's response

2. DCC: Direction of travel for Devon's libraries – Proposals to reduce the cost of libraries, including co-locating with other services and trialling new technologies

3. DCC: Proposals for budget savings for 2015/16 in Waste Management, including extending the principle of charging residents for the deposit of further DIY waste types. Consultation to 19.11.14, and details would be included in the magazine. Councillors considered it would result in increased fly tipping.

4. SHDC: Youth Services in the South Hams, meeting 27.11.14. Details would be included in the magazine.

14.111 Backhill Field, Diptford purchase for community use – No progress. Cllr Foster would request a response.

14.112 Christmas decoration arrangements Cllr Foster was sourcing the tree; Cllr Franklin would arrange the power supply; and Cllr Crocker would arrange its installation, which was planned for the beginning of December.

14.113 Reports on Meetings Attended

1. Highways Conference 29.9.14 was attended by the Clerk. To meet a 60% reduction in funding in real terms from 2009/10 to 2016/17, DCC Highways was planning reductions to the highway network and local/voluntary funding. Priority would be focussed on the main (A&B) roads, but 50% of roads were unclassified and 2/3 of those needed work.

2. Harberton Parish Council Meeting was attended by Cllr Foster, which discussed the planning application 23/2373/14/F for a solar farm at Lower Blakemore Farm

14.114 Correspondence available at the Meeting – None

Meeting ended 9.10pm

Date of next Meeting 18.11.14