

Diptford Parish Council Meeting

Diptford Parish Hall, Tuesday 21 April 2009 at 7.30pm

Police Report Since the March meeting, there had been one burglary from a caravan and 3 incident logs relating to a suspicious male asking about scrap metal and a Polish art seller. The Police would be working with the school with regards to Road Safety and education, and would be monitoring the speed of cars passing the playing field.

Report from District Councillor Steer The Open Spaces Committee had over £1m funding for play areas in the District, but it was noted that Diptford received no allocation; most of the £1000 Locality Fund for community groups was still unallocated and the clerk would advertise its availability in the Parish Magazine; a small amount of SHDC funds in Icelandic Bank was being repaid, with 80% of the funds due to be returned by 2011.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Foster (Chairman), Baggott, Chapell, Franklin, Savery & Stow; 3 members of public; District Cllr Steer

09.038 To accept apologies for absence - None

09.039 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda were noted in respect of Item 09.047.2 from Cllr Chapell – Prejudicial (land ownership)

09.040 The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th March 2009, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

09.041 Councillor Vacancy: Resolved to co-opt Matt Gopal

09.042 Resolved to commission a Housing Needs Survey. The forms should be hand delivered and collected. The survey would be completely confidential as the forms would be sealed in an envelope and collated by the Community Council of Devon, who would provide the Parish Council with only a statistical analysis

09.043 P3 & Footpaths – Drainage and regrading work had been completed along Cleeve Lane. Rights of way had been compromised by ploughing and cropping, and letters had been sent to the offending farmers, with possible enforcement action if the paths were not reinstated.

09.044 Diptford Playing Field – A clean-up day would be held on Friday 24th April. A half pipe skate ramp was proposed, and a grant of £5000 had been requested from Grassroots, with an application for £3000 to be submitted to South Hams District Council. Letters of support would be provided from the District Councillor and Parish Council in support of the SHDC grant application. The Clerk would investigate the VAT status of the Trust and the possibility of amalgamating the public liability and equipment insurances.

09.045 Finance

1. Cheques passed for payment:

Cheque	Description	VAT	Gross
0380	S Woodman – March pay (incl £5.39 back pay)		135.99
0381	S Woodman expenses: Internet/phone/computer £25, travel £17.20, HMRC (PAYE) £99.64		141.84
0382	Diptford Village Hall Hire (incl £12 for Inter Parish Quiz)		90.00
	Total		367.83

Receipts

BGC	Alliance & Leics - Interest		0.30
BGC	HMRC – VAT refund		47.95

2. The Financial Statement was received

Lloyds Current Account to 27.2.09	285.39
Less payments & unrepresented cheques	387.83
Plus uncleared receipts	0.00
Total	-82.44
Plus Alliance & Leics Acc to 4.4.09	3500.31
Plus uncleared receipts	0.30
Total	3500.61

Earmarked Reserves

P3 Footpaths	619.50
Playing Field	920.00
Parish Plan	193.43
Total	1732.93

Total Uncommitted funds

£1850.12

Finance Correspondence

3. SLCC – Final pay settlement from 1.4.08 of 2.75%, an increase of 0.3% over the 2.45% interim settlement.
4. Audit Commission – The Annual audit must be submitted by 22.6.09

09.046 Correspondence received

1. Boundary Committee: Consultation on further draft proposals for Devon. Two draft proposals: 1. A Devon unitary authority, with no changes to Plymouth & Torbay; 2. An Exeter & Exmouth unitary authority, and a unitary authority covering the remainder of the county, with no changes to Plymouth & Torbay.

Resolved to respond that the proposals would result in fewer Councillors and an unacceptable reduction in local representation. An Exeter/Exmouth unitary authority would result in the remaining rural areas being financially disadvantaged. The current arrangement was preferable, with shared responsibilities between District Councils.

2. South Hams tree planting year 2009 – SHDC was providing £4000 for tree planting and tree Wardens had been asked to approach Parish Councils, landowners & farms to find suitable sites. The Clerk would ask the tree warden what response had been received and would include an item in the Parish Magazine
3. SHDC: National litter campaign – No sites in the Parish needed a ‘clean-up’
4. Esmee Fairbairn Foundation: Grants up to £1000 to community organisations – The Playing Field Group would be advised
5. BT Community Connections Award Scheme: Laptops & free broadband to community & charitable organisations – The Computer Club would be advised
6. Police – Proposal to set up a regular Police Surgery in Diptford to discuss any problems, crime prevention or neighbourhood issues. The owner of the Rising Sun had agreed that the surgeries could be held outside her house and it was agreed that the surgeries should be held from 8.30am, so that school parents could attend.
7. Monitoring Officer’s advice to members: Applying policy when making decisions - A balance should be struck between applying policy and reflecting unusual local conditions. An exception to the policy should be reasonable and clearly explained.

09.047 Planning Applications received

1. Extension of existing drive, re-instatement of original entrance and associated works at Murtwell Farm Cottage, Diptford Ref 17/0488/09/F Mr J Hummerstone **No objection**
2. Retrospective application for car and commercial repairs – Use of building A for office & storage of parts and building B for repairs. Use of yard for storage and sale of vehicles at Larcombe Quarry, Larcombe Lane, Diptford Ref 17/0369/09/F Mr A Broadway – Additional information on vehicle movements to and from the site submitted by the applicant **Query the figures and request an independent traffic count. The additional information does not differentiate between the sizes of vehicles. No figures are provided for the projected vehicle movements.**

The observations on planning applications considered at the Diptford Parish Council Meeting held on 17.03.09 were ratified

3. Resubmission of 17/1573/08/F for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling at Sunrise, Holsome Lane, Diptford Ref 17/0382/09/F D&A Biglin **No objection. Query extent of land ownership on North and East boundaries**
4. **Outstanding planning issues:** No response had been received from the Enforcement Officer with regard to Little Curtisknowle Barn and Springfield Farm. Enforcement action would be taken against breaches to the planning permission at Creber Farm. A site meeting with an Environment Agency officer was held at Holsome Park and final landscaping drawings were awaited.

09.048 Reports on Meetings Attended Cllrs Chapell and Foster attended the Parish Cluster meeting, which discussed the Local Development Framework; housing allocations; sustainable communities; the effectiveness of planning enforcement; the Local Government Review; shared management team and services with West Devon and Teignbridge District Councils; the SHDC budget, which remained at 2008/9 levels; the introduction of a mechanical street sweeper and diesel/electric refuse lorries; and the Comprehensive Area Assessment, which assessed service performance.

09.049 Correspondence available at the Meeting – Noted

1. SHDC – Agenda & Minutes
2. Devon Partnership NHS Trust: Have your say – Become a member
3. South Devon AONB: Coast & Countryside events 2009
4. Senior Council for Devon Newsletter, Issue 2
5. South Hams CVS: Voluntary Vine, March-May 2009
6. DCC – Devontalk, Spring 2009
7. Trade publications