

Diptford Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 8th November 2016 at 7.30pm

Questions from the Public

1. The possibility of installing a defibrillator in the Diptford phone box was discussed and concerns were raised over the continuity of training.
2. Charlie Eyston outlined his discussions with Spacemake to progress the housing development, which Cllr Foster would follow up

District Cllr Steer reported that the consultation on Our Plan had ended: it concentrated on the four towns in the South Hams, and Totnes had raised objections to the proposals. Discussions continued on the creation of a Local Authority Controlled Company, and it was suggested the SHDC first put its own house in order.

County Cllr Vint highlighted questions he had raised with regard to the DCC highways contract, the Devolution prospectus for Devon & Somerset, and rollout of Broadband. He reminded residents receiving speeds below 2 Mbps to apply for £500 vouchers before the 30.11.16, and it was suggested that applicants also register on the BT Openreach site. The Clerk would ask Cllr Vint to attend the December Meeting.

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllr Foster (Chairman), Crocker, Franklin, Hill, Lethbridge & Peach; DCC Cllr Steer; 1 member of public

16.094 Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Baggott

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

16.096 The Minutes of the Meetings held on the 6.9.16, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

16.097 Planning Applications

1. Lawful development certificate for existing occupancy of Wheeldon Orchard, breach of condition B of permission 9/17/1336/86/3 (agricultural occupancy condition) at Wheeldon Orchard, Halwell Ref 1995/16/CLE A Savery **No comment**

Planning Correspondence Noted

2. Enforcement 007980: Excavation works at Diptford Downs Farm, Ditpfrod – case closed
3. Enforcement 008116: Caravan on agricultural land at Mount Zion Mills, Diptford – case closed
4. Removal of wall at Stert Cottage, Diptford. The Clerk had responded that the removal did not relate to permission 0669/12/F for a new house in the garden of Stert Cottage. Stert Cottage was subsequently sold and the new owners removed the wall. The removal of the wall could create a precedent for many of the other historic walls along Totnes Road to be removed.

Planning Decisions Noted

5. Approval of details reserved by condition 5 (joinery details) following grant of planning consent 0277/16/LBC at The Old Rectory, Church Square, Diptford Refs 3017/16/ARC & 3042/16/ARC **Approved**

16.098 Playing Field

Diptford Amenity Trust Acc 02042009 £8594.44; Acc 00196602 £135.44

16.099 P3, footpaths & highways

1. Darren Cole had been advised that the lane from Mill Lane to Diptford Cott needed ploughing, and reports of other locations were requested.
2. SHDC: Street Cleansing Reflection – No street cleaning had been undertaken in the village over the last year. The Clerk would advise that: The lane from Diptford Court down to the river needed ploughing and cleaning; and a dog waste bin was needed at the eastern end of Holsome Lane, possibly using DCC Locality funding.

16.100 Christmas decoration arrangements Cllr Foster had arranged a tree from Mr & Mrs Waterman, who would be thanked for their generosity. It was hoped to erect the tree on the 9 December.

Resolved to purchase additional Christmas decorations up to the value of £200

16.101 Finance**1. Resolved to approve cheques for payment and ratify payments on 11.10.16:**

Cheque	Description	VAT	Gross
0765	S Woodman – Sept pay		172.63
0766	S Woodman – Travel £28.35, Office £33.67		62.02
0767	HMRC - PAYE		129.40
0768	D Jane – grass cuts		90.00
0769	D Jane – Grass cuts & bank		100.00
0770	S Woodman – Oct pay		172.43
0771	S Woodman- Travel £28.35, Office £33.67		62.02
0773	C Partridge - planting		43.94
Receipts			
BGC	Santander – Interest Sept		0.77
BGC	SHDC – Precept (2 nd instalment)		3075.00
BGC	Santander – Interest Oct		0.45

2. The Financial Statement was received

Lloyds Current Account to 21.10.16	4456.30
Less payments & unrepresented cheques	0.00
Plus uncleared receipts	0.00
Total Current Account	4456.30
Santander Account to 1.10.16	1019.72
Total funds	5476.02

Earmarked Reserves

P3 Footpaths	74.29
Winter Emergency Planning	800.00
Total Reserves	874.29

Total uncommitted funds £4601.73

3. Grant Thornton: External Auditor certificate and opinion:

- Box 9 of Section 2 of the Annual Return – Local councils were required to account for fixed assets at purchase cost, or if not known, insurance cost. The Council should restate the 2016 figures on the next year's Annual Return and write 'restated' beneath the £ sign on the 2016 column
- The Internal Auditor's Report incorrectly answered 'Not Covered' to objective K. The correct response was 'Yes' as the Council was the sole managing trustee.
- Separate minute references must clearly demonstrate that the Annual Governance Statement was considered, approved and signed before the Accounting statements.

4. SHDC: Council Tax Support Grant allocations 2017-2020 – The settlement would reduce by 9.85% pa, from £126 to £93

5. Santander banking arrangements – No change

6. Resolved to grant Citizens Advice S Hams £100 in January 2017**16.102 Correspondence received**

1. Devon Community Resilience Forum, 9.11.16 Kennford – No one would attend

2. DALC Consultation: 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement – it was proposed to cap authorities at 2% or up to £5 (whichever was the higher)

3. SHDC: Converting Dog Control Order to Public Space Protection Orders - Noted

4. SHDC: TAP Applications – £1500 would be requested to promote recreation at Diptford Playing Field through enhanced grounds maintenance

5. BT payphone kiosk removal – The Gara Bridge phone should be retained as there was no mobile reception in the locality, accidents occurred on the bridge, and it was an important facility for local fisherman. The Diptford phone box should be retained as a wifi hotspot.

6. Devon Highways: Town & Parish Council Conference, Buckfastleigh Town Hall 16 November 9.30-2.30 – Cllr Parker-Davidson would be asked to attend

7. SHDC: Town & Parish Council Event, Follaton House 30.11.16 6.30pm – Cllrs Foster & Peach would attend

16.103 Reports on Meetings Attended

1. Cllr Peach attended meetings on Community Health Services

2. The Clerk attended the South Hams Town & Parish Clerks Update Briefing, which discussed:

- Implementation of T18. To cut costs, call volumes would be reduced by increasing e-communication
- The Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC), with most of the staff being transferred from Sept-April, with 25 remaining at SHDC/WDDC. Profits would be generated by providing services to other organisations
- Planning applications had increased by 12% over the previous year. Planning staffing had now stabilised, with no fixed teams in order to respond to demand.
- The Locality Officer displayed planning notices to reduce the burden on planners

- Where planning officer recommendations were contrary to Parish Council recommendations, the application must be signed off by both the Ward Councillor and Chairman of Planning
- A 'Neutral' recommendation was preferred to 'No objection', and the officer report was available online
- Extensions of time for consultation were acceptable within the statutory time limit
- Parish Councils should not object to retrospective applications on the basis that they were submitted retrospectively, but should consider only the planning merits of the application
- A Planning Officer was offered to come out to discuss planning issues with groups of Parishes
- The backlog of enforcement cases should be cleared by the end of 2016
- Locality Officers would carry out initial enforcement investigations
- Neighbourhood Development Plans where the examination had been completed, would have the same weight as Local Plans in the consideration of planning applications
- TAP funding of £75k would be available. Proposals in relation to previous statutory responsibilities (eg Community Lengthsman) or defibrillators would not be successful. Applications should be made stronger by including more details, including costs. Funds would be provided retrospectively, although there was some flexibility
- Rather than requesting new litter bins, existing bins should be relocated

16.104 Correspondence available at the Meeting Noted

1. DALC Annual Report 2015/16
2. Clerks & Councils Direct, Sept 2016
3. Healthwatch Voices, Autumn 2016

Meeting ended 9.30pm

Date of next Meeting 6.12.16