

Diptford Annual Parish Meeting

Diptford Village Hall

Tuesday 26th May 2015 at 7.30pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Foster (Chairman), Baggott, Crocker, Franklin, Hill, Parker Davidson & Peach; SHDC Cllrs Steer & Smerdon; DCC Cllr Vint; Karen Bohan, Superfast Broadband Project & Paul Coles, BT South West Regional Partnerships Director; 35 members of the public

15.AP1 Apologies for absence were accepted from PCSO Russ Broadhurst

15.AP2 Introduction by Chairman Cllr John Foster

15.AP3 The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 29th April 2014, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

15.AP4 Superfast Broadband in Diptford

Karen Bohan, Superfast Broadband Project & Paul Coles, BT South West Regional Partnerships Director

Phase 1 of Connecting Devon & Somerset aimed to reach at least 90% of premises with 'superfast' (24 Mbps or above), and would run to the end of 2016/17. About 140,000 homes could access 'superfast' to date.

Phase 2 aimed to reach 95% nationally with superfast broadband by the end of 2017. Contracts would be awarded at the end of June 2015, and procurement was through the extension of the Phase 1 arrangement, with open procurement opportunities on Dartmoor & Exmoor. Beyond Phase 2, alternative technologies were being trialled, including a Mobile Infrastructure Project, 4G, and a combination of broadband & mobile services.

Phase 3 would look at the hardest supplies, with the aim of 100% coverage by 2020.

The northern fringe of the Parish would achieve broadband cover by summer 2015, with the village being under evaluation, and the remaining area in scope for Phase 2. By the end of 2016, 50% Diptford premises would receive an enhanced service.

A fibre supply was provided to the cabinet, with a copper supply to homes. The new cabinets would bring the exchange closer to properties, which would increase speeds. Those properties within 1.2k of the cabinet would receive the full benefit.

Questions from the public

1. Funding for improvements to the copper service depended on consumers complaining. The performance of the Gara Bridge exchange would be investigated.
2. An intermittent service often depended on the weather, eg strong winds. BT sometimes failed to reset the service after it had been reduced.
3. A satellite service would achieve up to 25 Mbps, which was slower than the fibre service.

15.AP5 Police Report Over the last six months, only one crime was reported, relating to an aggressive dog. Reports have been received of suspicious behaviour around the village, with field gates being left open and rubbish bins removed. Residents are encouraged to contact the Police on 101, or 999 if an incident is about to happen. PCSO Russ Broadhurst can be contacted on his mobile 07703 886012.

15.AP6 Reports from District & County Councillors

DCC Cllr Vint reported on the proposed boundary changes in Devon which would reduce the number of County Councillors from 62 to 60, resulting in the loss of one Division in the South Hams. Diptford and Avonwick would move to the Yealmpton Division.

SHDC Cllr Steer reported on the Ward changes, with two District Councillors covering a large area from Gara Bridge to Hexworthy. Funding cuts had resulted in staff losses, particularly in the planning service, although the aim was to maintain services. Cllr Steer had been re-appointed Chair of the Planning Committee, and the enforcement service should improve, with new staffing; major building sites were coming forward, although the low proportion of affordable housing needed investigation; and the Sherford development would start soon, with 6,500 new homes.

SHDC Cllr Smerdon introduced himself and reported on the progress of the Community Road Warden Scheme

15.AP7 Reports from local groups

Neighbourhood Watch Rural crime was on the increase, including attempted sheep rustling. In addition, there were unreported crimes, such as phone scams and bogus callers. It was important for the community to keep its eyes open, lock gates (a deterrent to burglars), and contact Neighbourhood Watch using the details on the Diptford website.

Diptford Short Mat Bowls Club was thriving, with many local bowling events, such as weekend tournaments for charity. Meetings were held on Wednesday evenings and new members were welcome. Following the purchase of the electric bowls machine and mat, using TAP funding, the Club has purchased another mat and 4 yellow jacks.

Diptford WI membership stood at 37, with an average of 24 attending the meetings. The Friends of Diptford WI had achieved a huge amount of fundraising over the year for the Totnes Memory Café, with special thanks to Janine & John Fox for their Diptford Proms, and the caterers at the Totnes & Diptford Shows and Advent Fair. The WI had also been involved in the Duck Race, Big Band evening, WI Quiz, Baton Event and numerous coffee mornings. The speakers had covered topics including the Alexander Technique, the lifestyle of honey bees, antiques and auriculars, the prison service and plight of the homeless in Totnes.

Diptford Parish Hall continues with its regular clubs and organisations, together with private functions. Maintenance has concentrated on the large kitchen, where the oven has been repaired, the flooring replaced and the extractor overhauled – although the problem of condensation in the Main Hall persists and is continually under review, including regular use of the dehumidifier and re-assessment of the heating system. The shed now has a new roof and flooring, and the de-cluttering of the basement continues.

The Committee hosted the Parish Quiz, with next year's quiz being held on the 5th December.

The Computer Club had now been running for 8 years on Wednesdays from 10am-midday at a cost of £2 (including refreshments). Helpers were available on a one-to-one basis, and desk tops are available, although most bring their own laptops. The Club was also a social meeting place, and new members were welcome.

15.AP8 Questions and issues raised by Parishioners

Local support was needed for a possible resubmitted planning application for a mobile mast in North Huish, which would improve mobile coverage in the Parish.

Meeting ended 9.20pm