

Diptford Annual Parish Meeting

Diptford Village Hall

Tuesday 3rd May 2016 at 7pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Foster (Chairman), Crocker, Hill, Lethbridge, Parker Davidson & Peach; SHDC Cllrs Steer; DCC Cllr Vint; 6 members of public

16.AP1 Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Baggott & Franklin, G French, A Callcut, D Palfreman, B Sugden, C Partridge, G Hyde, SHDC Cllr Smerdon, P & H Smerdon, Revd Sayle

16.AP2 Introduction by Chairman Cllr John Foster

16.AP3 The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 16th May 2015, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

16.AP4 Police Report None. The Clerk would express disappointment to the police that this opportunity to meet the public was missed.

16.AP5 Reports from District & County Councillors

DCC Cllr Vint reported on the budget cuts affecting DCC, which were being met by delegating services, such as highway maintenance, to Parish Councils. Rural Broadband was in chaos, with BT pulling out of the scheme and the promised 95% coverage not achieved. Key libraries had been saved, run by Trusts, but mobile libraries had been lost and bus services had been cut. The devolution prospectus would submit a joint funding bid for local development, although any government funding would have strings attached, possibly requiring an elected mayor and rationalising the current 3 tier system.

SHDC Cllr Steer reported that budget cuts had resulted in T18 streamlining, with staff cuts. New planning and enforcement officers had been appointed, although the website still needed attention. Cllr Steer continued to be Chair of the Planning Committee, which had experienced an increase in Ivybridge housing applications and a reduction in renewable energy applications. A recent decision by the Inspectorate to reduce affordable housing provision to 10% undermined SHDC policy. Cllr Steer would investigate the status of the site opposite Wheat Park.

16.AP6 Reports from local groups

The Computer Club had been running for 9 years, with sessions from 10-12 on Wednesdays for a charge of £2, including refreshments. Away from the club, the volunteers provide help via skype, email or phone. Devon Community Foundation funding had been made available to purchase new equipment, and superfast broadband was available for all to use.

Diptford PCC forms part of the Three Rivers Mission Community under the new Priest-in-Charge Revd David Sayle. Regular activities include the church choir, PIPS (for pre-schoolers), SMASH (after school club) and Bible Study Group. The condition of the church path and heating system is causing concern, and funding is limited. The PCC are looking at making the building more accessible and usable to the community, including becoming a Dementia Friendly Church

Neighbourhood Watch Recently there has been an increase in rural crime, especially thefts of 4x4 vehicles, power tools, quads and sheep hurdles. In addition there are major scams in emails – if in any doubt, do not open, just delete, and never give any personal details in a phone call or email. If you have any local crime concerns, contact local coordinator Geoffrey Hyde on 01364 73165

Diptford WI Membership has remained at 39. Over the year, Friends of Diptford WI had raised over £1000 for the homeless in Totnes through the Advent Fair in November, Soup & Pud lunch in February and a jumble sale in Totnes. Devon Active Villages would be funding exercise classes in the Village Hall, starting in May/June, and it is hoped school mums will join in. Diptford Divas

strutted on stage at the Guildhall, undeterred by the fire alarm, and the WI has celebrated the Queen's Birthday and WI centenary.

Diptford Short Mat Bowls Club has been going for 15 years, with a busy diary of fixtures, although it was demoted to Division Three of the South Hams Leage for 2016/17. Membership has been buoyant, although new players would be welcome. Donations are made to Devon Air Ambulance.

Diptford Parish Hall continues to provide for a wide variety of clubs, societies, private hirers and the primary school. Hire charges increased for the first time since 2010 and new terms of hire will be introduced shortly. Over the year, the cooker, dishwasher, urn and microwave oven needed replacement; the heaters cleaned and cages secured; and the kitchen cupboards tidied. The Annual Parish Quiz is as enjoyable as ever, and this year will be held on the 22 October to raise funds for the Christmas Eve celebrations around the tree. The Parish Hall Committee would welcome your support.

Diptford Playing Field Group members helped out at the Gymkhana and the children's running races at the Diptford Fete and Horticultural Shows. Over 40 took part in the Parish Boundary Walk in September, arranged by James Hill, with tea in the Church provided by the WI. The Parish Council/Amenity Trust have covered the cost of grass cutting over the year, although a community-run scheme is being investigated. The Spring Clean concentrated on the tennis court and skate area, and clearing an access through the fallen tree. Forward plans include the repair of the activity frame and shelter, and sourcing funds for an activity frame for older children.

Circle in the Square tubs have been planted with small shrubs, with bedding plants to be added at the end of May. An additional tub will be bought.

Diptford Primary School has been placed in the top 5 schools in Devon and top 1% in the country based on the SATs results. The school roll remains high, at 82, with a thriving pre-school, which now has a waiting list. Activities include a celebration of the 150th anniversary, school trips, outdoor learning activities, World Book Day and Sport Relief. The school was now an Academy, within a Multi-Academy Trust of 5 other schools. The wonderful school lunches were popular with children and staff, Forest School activities were held in the grounds and the school field had been upgraded, so that it was level with easy access to the village hall.

The Pre-school received grant funding and planning permission to build a new classroom for Early Years, with building starting soon. More learning environments would be provided outside and the pond area upgraded.

16.AP7 Questions and issues raised by Parishioners

- A report from the Diptford Community Fund would be requested for the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting, and its profile would be raised in the magazine.
- In response to a question about the effect of local authority cuts, it was noted there was little change locally and the provision of a community lengthsman had reduced the effect of cuts on highway maintenance.

Meeting ended 8.15pm