

## Annual Diptford Parish Meeting Diptford Village Hall, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at 7.30pm

### UNAPPROVED MINUTES

**Present:** Cllrs Foster (Chairman), Franklin, Hill & Randall; District Cllr Steer; Philip Mitchell, Kier Energy Innovations; 20 members of the public

**11AP1 Apologies for absence** were accepted from Cllr Baggott & Sutherland, Rev Ough & Emma Kennerley

**11AP2 The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010**, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

**11AP3 Renewable Energy Schemes: Wind turbines & solar energy – Presentation by Philip Mitchell, Kier Energy Innovations & Beco Solar** Beco is based in Totnes and originally supplied lighthouses and buoys.

Buildings use up nearly half of the UK's generated electricity and account for 30% of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions. Photovoltaics (PV) provide the most useful form of micro renewable energy to counter CO<sup>2</sup> and are 'carbon free' after 4 years. Electricity prices are likely to increase by 5% pa and the introduction of Feed-In Tariffs has made PVs more attractive, with a return on investment of 7-8% and a pay-back time of less than 10 years. Any excess power is exported into the grid.

PV Systems, which include the panels and an inverter, can be fitted to all types of buildings, with integrated panels on new buildings. Domestic systems range from 1.5Kilowatt peak (kWp) to 5 kWp and PV panels have a life of 40-50 years. They must be south facing and not shaded, although a more easterly orientation may be possible on shallower pitches. Panels are generally allowed under Permitted Development, although planning permission may be required in Conservation Areas and AONBs

**11AP4 Report from District Councillor Steer** The new Chief Executive Richard Sheer had taken office. Savings had been achieved through shared services with West Devon DC, although it was important for SHDC to keep its own identity. The Diptford site allocation in the Local Development Framework had received a mixed response and a planning application was now awaited. The school was excellent and, hopefully, the additional housing in Avonwick would help make up the shortfall in pupil numbers. Finally, Cllr Steer thanked the Parish for its support over the last four years.

#### **11AP5 Reports from local groups**

- **Diptford Pre-School** reported that it had been running for 5 years, with 2 dedicated play leaders and a supportive committee. The Toddler Group was now running once a month although, if numbers increased, weekly sessions would resume. The focus of the Pre-School over the year had been to encourage children to use and learn about the outside environment, with Forest School activities run by Andy Jones and a new fire pit in the garden. A stronger relationship with the school was being fostered with the aim of forming a Foundation Partnership in September.
- **Diptford CofE Primary School** emphasised the strong relationship with the community and recent events included an Open Day highlighting a permanent display of the history of the school since its foundation in the 1850s. A run around the village raised £240 for the South Hams RDA, together with fundraising for Diptford Shelterbox and Plymouth Marine aquarium. Regular after school clubs include Taekwondo, netball, gospel singing, recorders, handball, kurling and tag rugby, and after school care has been introduced from 3.20-5.30pm. In May, the school received a 'Good' report from Ofsted. However, with 68 children, budgets are tight and the size of the school roll is vital.
- **Parish Paths Partnership** The annual DCC grant was £50, which reflected the good condition of the Parish paths and local government cutbacks. Paul McFadden has been appointed the new Warden and unclassified county road (green lanes) were now subject to his inspection, although there was no funding for maintenance. Along Footpath 2 (Holsome Lane to Holsome Farm Lane), walkers were reminded to follow the signed diverted path and keep dogs under close control, especially when there are stock in the fields.
- **Diptford Horse Show Committee** The 2010 Horse had been a great success and £1800 was donated to charity. The Show was held at Avonwick, thanks to Cllr Steer, his brother Francis and Marigold Seager Berry, and parishioners were thanked for their help in running the show. The 2011 Show would be held on Sunday 29 May.
- **Bloom in Diptford** The three main sites are by the Diptford signs at Diptford Court, Holsome Lane and Rectory Corner. All are planted with native species, although some bedding plants will be introduced to

provide a splash of colour. Donations of plants would be welcome and help is needed to maintain the sites and the tubs in the square, some of which have been sponsored.

Cracks to the circle in the square will be repaired, with 5 circles having been adopted and 3 circles available for adoption. The two original tubs have decayed and need replacement, together with some supporting bricks.

**Diptford Gardening Club** meets March – November every third Sunday at 2.30pm and has about 36 participants. Activities include talks, garden visits and plant swaps. Seven village gardens will open on Sunday 19 June 1.30-5.30pm in aid of St Luke's Hospice, with parking at Cross Farm, cream teas in the Village Hall and a plant stall on the Quay.

- **Diptford Womens Institute** Activities over the year have included: speakers on beekeeping, green funerals, rickshaws, fuel from cooking oil and dousing; an Education Programme including dance, Tai Chi, 10 pin bowling and a Triathlon; fundraising for Operation Sunshine and Centrepont; providing teas at the polling station, Totnes and Diptford Shows; competing in the WI Quiz and Skittles Tournaments; working with the school in the Kurling club and helping plant hundreds of crocuses; visiting theatres and enjoying meals out. Membership is currently up to 30.
- **Diptford Short Mat Bowls Club** A thriving club of about 20 members, which meets every Wednesday in the Village Hall. It has maintained its second division position for the second year in the South Hams Short Mat League and won the South Brent John Warman Memorial Trophy. Through inter-club and in-club activities, it has raised money for charities, such as Devon Air Ambulance. New members welcome.
- **Tree Warden** Beverley Sugden had received only one enquiry over the last year. She would include details in the magazine on schemes, such as the Big Tree Plant and other local events.
- **The Playing Field Group** had spent the year: clearing moss from the tennis courts; helping out at the Diptford Horse Show; providing running races at the Diptford Horticultural Show; holding the Fun Day in July, with a tennis tournament, rounder and barbeque; tennis coaching for 20 children aged 5 to 11; the Parish Boundary Walk, which was attended by 60 parishioners and raised about £100; and the monthly family football. Three skate ramps had been added, thanks to £11,000 funding from SHDC, DCC and the Big Lottery Fund, and were already proving very popular.  
Over the next year, the wood chippings around the climbing frame would be replenished; the Fun Day would be held on the 30 April, to coincide with the arrival of the Chernobyl Children; and tennis coaching was programmed for August. New members would be welcome. Thanks were extended to Mike Cox for his hard work organising and fundraising for the skate park.
- **Diptford Amenity Trust** had received funds on behalf of the Playing Field Group from the Diptford Show and the Horse Show. All the Parish Councillors were the Trustees, with the Parish Council owning the land.

**11AP6 Chairman Cllr Foster** introduced the Devon Active Villages programme, which was administered by Tone Leisure with funding from Sport England and DCC. The project would identify what each local community wanted; provide funding and support to 'kick start' activities; and support people within their community to sustain these activities and opportunities. Flyers were distributed to local clubs.

#### **11AP7 Questions and issues raised by Parishioners**

- Arrangements for celebrating the Royal Wedding. The school was holding a street party in the playground on Thursday 28 April.
- Arrangements for celebrating the Royal Jubilee in 2012. A street party was proposed and a number of volunteers offered to set up a steering group. Support would be requested through the Magazine.
- It was requested that the Diptford Quiz Team be represented at the next Annual Parish Meeting, as it was in need of support.

Thanks were extended to Chairman Cllr Foster and the Clerk for their hard work and commitment over the last year.

*Meeting ended 9.05pm*