

Diptford Parish Council Meeting

Diptford Parish Hall, Tuesday 15 July 2008 at 7.30pm

Questions from the Public – Questions were raised with regard to the planning application at Holsome Park (Item 08.042.1), including the safety of the proposed access; the failure of the Planning Authority and Environment Agency to monitor the effect on wildlife since 1994, when builders' material was dumped and the culvert installed; and the absence of measures in the application to restore the environment to its previous AONB standard.

Police Report was read by the Chairman, which detailed 6 crimes within the parish over the previous month, including theft of motorcycles and damage to a diesel tank. In view of the spate of diesel thefts and theft of metal, parishioners were asked to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police.

County Cllr Date confirmed availability of grant funding during the 2008/9 financial year, including the £10,000 Locality Budget and £25,000 from the sale of Exeter Airport. He itemised meetings he attended and supported the Boundary Committee proposal for a Devon unitary authority.

District Cllr Steer commented, with regard to the Devon unitary authority, that the rural aspect of Devon would be lost and, with a population of 735,000 over 2,500 sq miles, it would constitute the largest unitary authority in the country. He considered that councillors would be representing too large a population and queried the representative nature of Community Boards. Decisions had already been made and there were no options to choose from. SHDC was holding a series of meetings on the Boundary Review and the Clerk would email details.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Foster (Chairman), Baggott, Stow, Hill, Foster & Franklin; District Cllr Steer, County Cllr Date & 1 member of the public

08.038 Robert Baggott was co-opted and completed the Declaration of Acceptance

08.039 Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Savery and Walton

08.040 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda were received from Cllr Franklin: Item 08.042.1 – Personal (watercourse adjacent to property)

08.041 The Minutes of the Meetings held on the 17th June 2008, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

08.042 Planning Applications received

1. Retrospective application for engineering works to culvert stream and make safe access between OS6433 and 6119 at Field southwest of Craxon at SX736561, Holsome Park, Diptford Ref 17/1163/08/F Mr GT Lethbridge **Further to the Parish Council's objections to the original planning application, the retrospective application will create a detrimental effect on the environment and landscape, which requires investigation by the Environment Agency and all interested parties; suitable alternative access is already available; and it is understood that non-inert material has already been dumped on the site, contrary to the previous planning approval, and proposals are needed to remove all non-inert material, including those below the surface.** The Clerk would confirm to Daniel Sutherland the Parish Council's support of his objections.

Planning Decisions – Noted

2. Retrospective application for change of use of existing agricultural buildings to use as indoor motorcycle training facility with associated workshop; change of use of upper floor of barn to kitchen/dining room/kitchen store/changing area/ablutions/drying area; creation of access track through fields and use of existing outdoor tracks for motorcycle training at Wheeldon Farm Barns, Wheeldon Farm, Halwell Ref 17/2163/07/CU **Conditional permission, S106 Agreement.** It was noted that the S106 Agreement would not stop unregulated bikes from using the green lanes.

3. Appeal: Conversion of barn to single dwelling at Barn north of Horner Farm, Diptford Ref APP/K1128/A/07/2061553 **Dismissed**

08.043 Amenity Trust – Cllr Foster reiterated the financial measures to be introduced under Minute 08.033 and confirmed that an interest-bearing account would be set up. Once the new arrangements were in place, the Parish Council Playing Field Reserves would be transferred to the Trust. The tennis nets needed replacement and the Trust would apply for Devon County funding.

Two working parties to complete the steps to the bench had been rained off; wire netting would be used to reinforce the bank, which would be reseeded; more wood chips would be spread beneath the climbing frame; and tennis coaching was due to start in mid August.

08.044 P3 & Footpaths – The warden would complete the summer inspection shortly and the first cut had been completed by contractors. The Boundary Walk would take place at the end of September.

08.045 Finance

1. Cheques passed for payment:

| Cheque | Description | VAT | Gross |
|--------|--|-----|---------------|
| 0347 | DAPC - Training | | 50.00 |
| 0348 | S Woodman expenses: Internet/phone/computer £25, travel £25.20, stamps £6.48 | | 56.68 |
| 0349 | S Woodman – June pay | | 128.16 |
| 0350 | HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE | | 96.12 |
| | Total | | 330.96 |

2. The Financial Statement was received

| Financial Statement | | Earmarked Reserves | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Lloyds Current Account to 19.6.08 | 4470.44 | P3 Footpaths | 519.15 |
| Less payments & unrepresented cheques | 373.16 | Playing Field | 1000.00 |
| Plus uncleared receipts | 0.00 | Parish Plan | 193.43 |
| Total | 4097.28 | Total | 1712.58 |
| | | Total Uncommitted funds | £2384.70 |

Finance Correspondence

3. Resolved to adopt the Financial Regulations

4. Resolved to adopt the 2008/9 Revised Budget (Appendix 08.045.4) Cllr Hill confirmed that hall hire would continue at £6 per session. The Christmas lights would be checked by an electrician and an item would be placed on the September agenda concerning the purchase of additional lights. The Clerk would publish in the magazine the availability of Devon County funding and would suggest to the Preschool & Playgroup that they apply. The 2009/10 Budget and Precept would be determined at the December meeting.

08.046 Correspondence received

- Boundary Committee Draft proposal for unitary local government in Devon: A Devon unitary authority comprising the existing county of Devon, with no changes to Plymouth and Torbay. Responses were requested by the 26th September and the matter would be discussed at the September meeting.
- Closure of BT public Telephone Boxes: information had been requested by SHDC & ISC Minitelcom Ltd – The Clerk would respond that the Parish Council had received assurances in the past that the phone boxes at Gara Bridge and outside the school would not be removed and requested to be advised if this was no longer the case.

08.047 Reports on Meetings Attended

Cllrs Baggott, Savery and Stow attended the New Councillor training, which had been very useful.

08.048 Correspondence available at the Meeting – Noted

- SHDC – Agenda & Minutes, Magazine
- Devon Countryside Access Forum, Annual Report 2007/8
- DAPC Newsletter, Jul/Aug 08
- CCD – Rural Community Buildings Research 2007/8
- DCC – Devontalk, Summer 2008
- South Devon & Dartmoor Community Safety Newsletter, Summer 2008 Edition 1
- The Senior Council for Devon Newsletter, June 2008-07-04
- DPFA: The Way Forward – Development & Action Plan 2008-2013 Summary

Meeting ended 9.35pm

Date of next meeting 16.9.08 (a meeting may be held on 19.8.08 if planning observations are required)