

Diptford Parish Council Meeting

Diptford Village Hall

Tuesday 19 July 2011 at 7.30pm

Diptford Primary School & Federation – Report by George Lacon (Chair of Governors) and Amelia Eyston (Community Governor). It had been agreed that the Totnes Village Schools Federation would run from the 31 October, comprising 6 primary schools: Berry Pomeroy, Broadhempston, Diptford, Harbertonford, Landscope and Stoke Gabriel. The Federation was unanimously approved, with a good mix of schools, up to 370 pupils, and a stronger budget. Devon County Council support will be limited to HR, finance and legal services only. The Diptford Governing Body will become the Diptford School Committee, with representatives from each school committee forming the Federation School Governors, which would provide strategic control. On retirement, headteachers would be replaced by ‘heads of teaching and learning’, rather than having a management role. Councillors supported the Federation, but noted that the Parish Council had not been consulted about the changes.

Questions from the Public

1. Complaints had been received about activity at Stert Quarry Farm, including the removal of branches along the approach lanes. Owners Richard Smith and Cath Farrer and written to the Parish Council, advising that they currently lived in Buckfastleigh and were farming the land. However, a search on the internet had revealed that the owners were offering on-site caravan accommodation for volunteers working on the land. Cllr Steer and the Clerk would ask SHDC to investigate the matter.
2. Complaints had been received of overgrown hedges along the Moreleigh to Gara Bridge lane. Cllr Steer had advised Highways, and the Clerk would ask DCC to issue guidance to landowners fronting the lane on roadside hedge and tree management.

Police Report No crimes were reported in June. Parishioners were warned against bogus cold callers.

Report from County Cllr Black The new Place Scrutiny Committee had been formed, with the aims of ensuring DCC worked effectively despite the cuts, and the improved briefing of members. Its responsibilities included civil parking enforcement, street lighting, maintaining rural post offices, the rail task group, grants to the arts, and the Waste Core Strategy.

Totnes on the Move had received full funding; local school rolls had increased; and Cllr Black had attended the Local Government Association meeting, in which it was noted that the Localism Bill gave the Secretary of State 149 additional powers.

Report from District Cllr Steer Locality funding of £1000 was still available for the Parish. A planning application was being submitted for two wind turbines at Luscombe Cross, Harbertonford, which would be visible from much of the Parish.

Present Cllrs Foster (Chairman), Crocker, Franklin, Hill & Peach; District Cllr Steer; County Cllr Black; 3 members of public.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

11.074 Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Savery

11.075 To note declarations of interest in items on the Agenda None

11.076 The Minutes of the held on the 21.6.11, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

11.077 Planning Applications

1. Listed Building Consent for replacement slates (mix of natural and asbestos) on rear half of roof with natural slates at Moorcott, Diptford Ref 17/1533/11/LB Mr M Sugden **No objection**
2. Conversion of barn to residential dwelling at Thorn Farm, Diptford Ref 17/1582/11/F Mr J Sawyer **No objection**
3. Resubmission of 17_23/0721/11/F for retrospective permission for wildlife pond at Daisyhills, Diptford Ref 17_23/1656/11/F Mr DA Langley **Object: Possible flooding risk to neighbouring properties. Concern over the engineering construction of the pond and lack of structural engineer’s report**
4. Pre-application consultation: House & garage at Daisyhills, Diptford Ref 17/2482/10/Premin **Object. The development would be obtrusive on the skyline, with a detrimental effect on the landscape. The house would be out of character and disproportionate in relation to local housing.**

11.078 P3 & Footpaths – None

11.079 Diptford Playing Field – £250 match funding had been received from Barclays Bank and would be transferred to the Playing Field Group.

11.080 Finance**1. Cheques passed for payment:**

Cheque	Description	VAT	Gross
0492	S Woodman – June pay		141.41
0493	S Woodman expenses: Office £37.13, travel £39.15	0.58	76.28

2. The Financial Statement was received:

Lloyds Current Account to 31.5.11	1981.39
Less payments & unrepresented cheques	1413.75
Plus uncleared receipts	0.00
Total Lloyds Current Account	567.64
Alliance & Leics Acc to 6.5.11	3508.36
Total funds	4076.00

Earmarked Reserves

P3 Footpaths	449.25
Amenity Trust	0.00
Parish Plan	193.43
Total Reserves	592.68
Total uncommitted funds	£3483.32

Finance Correspondence

3. Crimestoppers – No funding would be granted

11.081 Correspondence received

1. DCC Highways & Traffic Management: HGVs using satellite navigation in rural areas – Following the Parish Council's request, DCC had responded that a blue 'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign would not be provided to avoid the proliferation of signs and because it did not represent good value for money. DCC would continue to work with hauliers through their Freight Quality Partnership Meetings and would also liaise with mapping companies supplying information to navigation manufacturers. Details of hauliers causing concern should be supplied to DCC.

The Clerk would respond that Diptford already had an 'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign at the Diptford end of Mill Lane and it merely needed relocating to Diptford Square, where it would be more effective. It was noted that lorry drivers frequently used less expensive car satellite navigation equipment, which would not provide information on accessibility for HGVs.

11.082 Reports on Meetings Attended Cllr Peach had attended the Super Cluster Meeting, which discussed the possible federation of Parish Councils. Funding amounting to £1.10 per parishioner would be made available for parish projects.

11.083 Correspondence available at the Meeting – Noted

1. South Hams Connect, Summer 2011
2. Clerks & Councils Direct, July 2011
3. S Devon & Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership – Working to make South Hams, Teignbridge & West Devon an even safer place to be
4. DALC Newsletter, May/June 2011
5. Trade publications

Meeting ended 9.20pm

Next scheduled Meeting 13 September 2011