

Diptford Parish Council
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The Boundary Review dominated the October Parish Council Meeting. Councillors felt that the proposed single Devon Unitary Authority would remove a tier of government, creating a big gap between the County Council and Parish Councils. Although it was intended to bridge that gap by Community Boards, the structure of those Boards had yet to be agreed. In addition, they were firmly opposed to the proposed separate Exeter/Exmouth Unitary Authority, which would remove the heart from the County.

The Police report detailed two crimes in the Parish over the last month, both relating to the theft of power tools. Of concern was the increase in thefts of domestic and vehicle fuel and, with the rise in the value of scrap metal, the theft of copper, lead and even catalytic converters.

County Councillor Date emailed a report that DCC intended to install parking meters in Totnes Fore St and High St – apparently, it will improve the turnover of traffic, which will benefit the traders. District Councillor Steer commented on the Boundary Review and advertised the AONB walk he was leading on the 30th September, which would be following paths recently improved under the Life into Landscape scheme.

No objections were raised to the proposed erection of a conservatory at Laurel Cottage, Diptford and Councillors supported the reconstruction of the bungalow destroyed by fire at Abbey Moor, Moreleigh.

Amanda Chapell has been co-opted to fill the Parish Councillor vacancy. She has lived at Lower Larcombe with her husband and two teenagers for the last two years and has a variety of work experiences, ranging from garden design to higher education. She believes that individuals should get involved in their communities, particularly in a small village like Diptford.

The poor weather put paid to many of the summer working party sessions planned by the Playing Field Group – but in September, there were plans to finish off the steps, retain the bank, paint the slide, extend the ‘dung’ wall (what is that!), carry out work to the tennis courts and replace woodchips below the bench and climbing frame. The Group was hoping to submit a grant application for a BMX and skateboarding ramp – but need potential users to come forward to support the application.

Finally, it is that time of the year again to fill in your Register of Electors form. The qualifying date is 15th October and failure to register can result in a fine of up to £1000. By registering, you need not be flooded with junk mail – there is a box on the form which excludes your name from the ‘Edited Register’ (the one available to commercial firms). If you have not received your form, call SHDC on 01803 861434.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30 on Tuesday 21st October. You are welcome to attend.