

# Diptford Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 13 March 2018 at 7.30 pm

## Questions from the Public

Three members of the public attended. Two members of the public presented their plans for N'Owleigh, the first planning application under consideration.

## Update from District and County Councillors

Apologies were received from District Councillor Steer and County Councillor Richard Hosking. Cllr Hosking provided a written report which is available from the Clerk. Cllrs agreed to check that Diptford Primary School is on the secondary DCC gritting route.

## DRAFT MINUTES

**Present:** Cllr Foster (Chair), Franklin (Vice Chair), Hill, Peach, Lethbridge & Zoe Oldman, (Clerk).

**13.03.1 Apologies for absence** SHDC Cllr Steer, DCC Cllr Hosking, Cllr Parker-Davidson.

**13.03.2 To note declarations of interest and Dispensations in items on the Agenda** There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

**13.03.3 The minutes of the meeting held on the 6 February 2018, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

### 13.03.4 Diptford Playing Field

Diptford Amenity Trust.                      Current account £135.44                      Savings account £5,599.12

Mike Cox provided a report on activity in the past six months.

- The area has been cleaned and maintained.
- Steps to the WI bench have been replaced.
- Basketball net has been replaced
- Toddler swing has been replaced
- The activity frame has been rejuvenated with 15 new legs and posts

The Playing Field Group have supported the fete, horticultural show and gymkhana.

Going forward the Playing Field Group would like to repair the shelter roof at a cost of £600-£1000. They are submitting an application to the Community Fund. TAP funding may also be available if it increases access or use of the Playing Field.

Cllrs discussed storage for the ride on mower. It was agreed that this would probably need planning permission. It was agreed that a building was needed but further work needs to take place on what sort of structure is most appropriate. It will be discussed again at the April Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk will look into insurance and training for grass cutting volunteers and report back.

It was agreed that some TAP funding will be used to make the access to the Playing Field more accessible. This may be by installing plastic grids on the grass.

### 13.03.5 Planning Applications

i. 4264/17/FUL

N'owleigh, Near Thorn Farm, Diptford, TQ9 7NF

Construction of new agricultural barn for storage and processing of crops harvested at the site, with a rest room/farm office area and covered outdoor work and greenhouse area.

#### Object

Three letters of objection and two letters of support have been received. Cllrs had the following concerns that:

- The barn is too big and too high for its purpose.
- The access roads are very narrow and there is only limited access.
- It is one of the most remote parts of the parish.
- It is not the right location for a business, even if a small one.
- Even a small business will increase traffic in this isolated area.

The standing orders were suspended to allow Councillors to seek clarification from the applicants in Open Forum. They clarified the purpose of the barn and the aims of their new business. Cllrs were interested to hear about their proposals and supported their aspirations. However, they felt that such a large building in a remote, rural area was unsustainable. Standing orders were resumed.

The decision was to Object on the grounds of sustainability, narrow access roads, the size of the building and the remote, rural location.

Cllrs thanked the applicants for attending the Parish Council meeting and discussing their plans.

ii. 0428/18/FUL

Agricultural Field opposite Wheat Park, Diptford

Proposed residential development comprising the erection of 12no. dwellings (4 affordable dwellings and 8 open market dwellings) together with access, car parking and associated landscaping and drainage works.

**Support**

Cllrs strongly supported the new development and the opportunity to have four affordable new homes in Diptford. They felt that the application was a big improvement on the previous planning application, which had been approved and that a lot of thought had gone into a nice looking plan. There were no local objections.

iii. 0513/18/FUL

Murtwell House, Diptford, Totnes, TQ9 7NQ

Converting triple garage into cooking teaching room and enlarging car parking area.

**Object**

Cllrs were concerned that this is an unsuitable location for a business. Access to Murtwell is terrible and any new business would increase traffic. The roads are narrow and in poor condition.

The decision was to Object on the grounds of the poor access and unsuitable location.

The application was only received just before the Parish Council meeting and not advertised so it will be ratified at the next meeting after the consultation period.

It was agreed to discuss current enforcement action at the next meeting.

**13.03.6 P3, footpaths & highways**

There was a discussion about mud on the road following an increase in complaints in the parish. Farmers are travelling further with bigger machinery. The Clerk will write to DEFRA to see if there is any guidance on the action the Parish Council can take.

The local Highways Officer is currently identifying priorities. It was agreed that the worst road in the parish is Curtisknowle to Gara Bridge.

The potential Parish Paths project at Larcombe Quarry will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Clerk has written to the school regarding school run difficulties and will seek a reply.

**13.03.7 Defibrillator**

Cllr Peach has identified a possible location for the defibrillator in Curtisnowle but needs to get approval for the use of electricity from a neighbouring home. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

**13.03.8 Finance**

**1. To approve cheques for payment:**

Cheque	Description	VAT	Gross
0855	Z Oldman – January pay		325.00
0857	Z Oldman – Travel £49.50 Office £16		65.50
0858	Village Hall hire – Parish Council		102
0859	Village Hall hire – Defibrillator training		15
<b>Receipts</b>			
TFR	Community Quiz (defibrillator)		201
BGC	Cllr Smerdon (defibrillator)		200
BGC	Cllr Steer (defibrillator)		400
TFR	Donations (defibrillator)		20

## 2. To receive the Financial Statement

Lloyds Current Account to 06.03.18	2426.82
<i>Less</i> payments & unrepresented cheques	507.50
<i>Plus</i> uncleared receipts	600
Total Current Account	2519.32
Lloyds Saving account to 06.03.18	1031.30
Total funds	3550.62

### Earmarked Reserves

P3 Footpaths	74.29
Winter Emergency Planning	800.00
Community Lengthsman	1000.00
Defibrillator	1006 (+£200 VAT)
Total Reserves	2880.29

**Total uncommitted funds                      £670.33**

Note - £1287 is still outstanding from SHDC to reimburse the money spent through TAP funds and £968.96 from HMRC to reimburse VAT. Cheques and the financial statement were approved.

The Parish Council has a date for the internal audit which is 25 April 2018. The Clerk has started preparing documentation.

The Clerk will arrange payment for the Churchyard Maintenance for financial year 2017/8 at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council has had a long wait for repayment from TAP Funds despite correctly submitting forms and invoices by the 5 February deadline. This is causing difficulties. It was agreed to talk to the local SHDC Cllrs.

### 13.03.09                      Annual Parish Meeting 24 April

The Clerk presented a draft agenda.

The Clerk will write to the Community Fund asking them for an update about where the money has been spent since the inception of the fund and for a written or oral report for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Subject to this inclusion and some formatting changes the agenda was agreed and will be advertised in the Parish News.

### 13.03.10                      Correspondence received & available at the meeting

The CPRE have asked the Parish Council to join their organisation at an annual cost of £36. Cllrs discussed the fact that they support the countryside and Diptford is a rural area. It was decided that the CPRE are a political organisation and the Parish Council shouldn't fund political activity. The Clerk will write to CPRE.

Information on the on-line Council Tax training was circulated and will be placed on the noticeboard.

An advert for Magistrates will be placed on the noticeboard.

### 13.03.11 Reports on meetings attended

No meetings have been attended.

**13.03.12 Any other business**

There was no other business.

*Meeting ended 9.10 p.m*

*Date of next Meeting Tuesday 10 April 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.*