

## **Diptford Parish Council News** **February 2020**

One member of the public attended the meeting.

**Ian Franklin (Trustee, Totnes Caring)** talked briefly about their work. Totnes Caring was formed 32 years ago with the aim of helping the elderly and infirm stay in their own homes. It covers the area covered by the 2 doctor's surgeries in Totnes with over 200 volunteers looking after 800 people. Help includes getting people around for appointments etc., the daily lunch club, assisting at hospital discharges, form filling and befriending at home reading to people, walking dogs etc. They have a dementia support group, Memory Café, 2 art groups, physio group and computer group. They also work with Totnes Cinema to show old films occasionally. Volunteers are always welcome.

**PCSO Russ Broadbent** attended the meeting to update the council on the abandoned vehicle in the village. It is not parked illegally or causing an obstruction on the highway and it is fully insured and has a current MOT. Therefore neither the Council or the police can do anything with it. The police have tried to contact the owner who is not available. However, the tax and MOT will expire soon and at that stage SHDC can put a 7 day removal notice on the vehicle.

PCSO Broadbent also reported that there had been a few incidences of dogs killing sheep over the year but there was nothing else to report.

### **Report from Cllr Hosking (DCC)**

Cllr Hosking reported that DCC budget had been increased for the year 2020-2021 by £43.1 million to just over £541 million. There will be an extra £23.7 million for adult care and health, £11.5 million more for children's services and £2.7 million for highways including £1 million to help deal with drainage issues on the road network. The spending rise will partly be funded by a £1.7million increase in the Local Government financial settlement for 2020/21 and by a proposed 3.99 per cent rise in council tax. The proposed 2020/21 Band D Council Tax figure will increase by £55 from last year, or £1.06 a week.

Of the 3.99 per cent rise, two per cent is ring fenced to help fund adult social care.

LED lighting will be rolled out and this will make a significant saving over time.

Cllr Franklin referred to the recent communication regarding drainage maintenance responsibilities and questioned how this would be policed. Cllr Hosking will be meeting with a Solicitor to discuss the issue. This will be on the agenda for the March meeting.

The meeting with Highways has not taken place yet.

Reminder that the Gara Bridge work is still outstanding.

### **Report from Cllr Pannell (SHDC)**

An increase in council tax in 2020-21 of £5, equating to a Band D council tax of £170.42 (approx. 3.02%)

Consultation ends this month on development proposals for Kingsbridge and Ivybridge (Aldi)

Climate change -Fund of £400,000 for projects to reduce carbon emissions –open to community projects.

Arms length Housing Company has been agreed in the form of a Community Benefit Society

### **Highways and Community Lengthsman**

The response from Cllr Hosking re LED lighting was noted: *I have contacted the Cabinet Member for Highways and the answer to your question is that a new contract is required to effect the continued roll out of LED Street Lighting. This is going to Cabinet in May or June this year. I am advised that a schedule will be issued after that date.*

### **Planning**

Six applications were considered – 2 needed no response, 2 were supported and 1 was supported with a condition and 1 was objected to.

Council requested that Cllr Pannell look into one of the decisions made by SHDC.

### **Website**

Following discussion regarding the scope and management of a community website it was agreed that Cllr Parker-Davidson would follow-up the creation of a new DPC website and that Cllr Hill would contact The Diptford Sustainability Group with a view to someone in the community taking on the creation and management of a community site.

Next meeting            Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7PM in the Village Hall

The Amenity Trust AGM will take place on Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7PM