

### **Open Forum**

Two members of the public attended the meeting.

The case was presented for planning application 3480/19/FUL. The last application was withdrawn and this is a new application. To summarise - the aim is to take down the barn, put up a new building and generally improve the appearance of the site. Council sought clarification regarding the direction the property was facing and reminded the applicant that approval was not guaranteed for Class Q applications and that a similar plan had recently been turned down.

The second attendee drew attention to the increasing land-use and traffic in the parish which is in a designated AONB and the detrimental effect this is having on the scenery and wildlife. The increase in the volume, weight and frequency of traffic is of particular concern and causing damage to the hedge banks and putting increasing pressure on local farmers and, in particular, organic farmers. In the opinion of the member of public this is particularly aggravated by development on land at Holsome. He requested that the background notes he had sent to the clerk earlier in the day be circulated to Council and the Clerk confirmed that this had already been done.

### **Highways and Community Lengthsman**

It was agreed that The Lengthsman would be asked to clear the Buddle Holes on Mill Lane. Cllr Peach reported that he had received notification from DCC that the scheduled work to the road between Curtisknowle and Gara Bridge had been postponed due to the budget and was now scheduled for April. Cllr Parker-Davidson has reported the situation regarding the grit bins as raised at the November meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Peach would write to the owners of the overgrown hedges near Gara Bridge and that the Clerk would report that the warning sign for the dip in the road at Benicknowle is too far from the actual hazard to be effective.

### **Budget**

There was a brief discussion regarding the 2020 budget and it was agreed to increase the precept by 2% and for the clerk to present a final budget at the January meeting reflecting this decision.

### **Christmas**

Cllr Foster has arranged for the Christmas tree to be erected on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December and it was agreed that Cllr Crocker would source new lights up to the value of £100.

### **Meetings 2020**

Diptford Parish Council will continue to hold meetings on the second Tuesday of the month unless altered for leave etc in 2020.

### **Planning**

Council recorded concern at potential traffic issues and subsequent environmental damage with one application and supported 2 applications.

Council discussed the issues raised in the Open Forum regarding development in the Craxon / Holsome area. It was acknowledged that there had been restrictions tied in with the planning application but it was agreed that no breaches had occurred to date. Councillors re-iterated that the Council is always vigilant at considering environmental issues when reviewing planning applications and that progress on this development would be monitored as with all developments in the parish.

