

## IMPORTANT NOTICE – YOU MIGHT NEED TO ACT NOW!

Communication from The Environment Agency regarding abstracting water:

The document is available to download from the DPC website:

<https://diptfordparishcouncil.org/important-notice/> and can be viewed on the Parish noticeboard.

### Summary

*If you abstract or impound water and were exempt from requiring a licence under the Water Resources Act 1991, the law has changed and you may now need to apply for an abstraction licence.*

*You need a licence if you want to take more than 20 cubic metres of water per day from a surface or groundwater source. This has been the case since January 2018 and the 2 year transitional period ends 31st December 2019. If you have not applied for a licence it is important that you do so before the deadline.*

*It is an offence to abstract without a licence and The Environment Agency may take enforcement action against you if you don't apply and continue to abstract after 31st December.*

### Community website.

A presentation was delivered from the company WesternWeb introducing the web services they could deliver:

- They have designed and host 36 local government websites in Devon and Cornwall alongside other work for private companies and individuals
- All their sites are custom built to respond to individual customer requirements but have a similar style based on what works well
- Their websites consist of 2 designs to ensure best fit for all devices
- They can register .gov domains through approved Internet Service Providers but there are restrictions regarding format and some content – no business use but certain advertising permitted and Parish Hall booking software could be included.
- A search on the day showed that the domains diptfordparish.org and diptfordcommunity.org are currently available
- For the design of a basic page similar to other parish councils the cost would be in the region of £300 - £400 (this would increase with added content eg. Parish Hall bookings.)
- The annual hosting fee would be £80 +VAT with an hourly rate of £30 per hour for any future work.

Cllr Foster thanked Chris and Barry for their excellent presentation and Cllr Parker-Davidson for researching the various options and organising for WesternWeb to attend the meeting.

It was agreed that a working group would take this forward.

### Update from Cllr Pannell, SHDC

- A huge amount of Builders waste was tipped in Dean Prior near Buckfastleigh on Thursday 11 July, blocking two public rights of way. The costs of removing and disposing of the waste is likely to be more than £5,000. The council has the power to fine fly tippers, or prosecute. Residents are urged to keep an eye out for vehicles carrying large loads or acting suspiciously, and note down registration numbers if possible, but without putting themselves at risk. Householders have a responsibility to check whether people removing waste for them are properly licensed.
- DCC Investment plans – Ivybridge supermarket, Kingsbridge hotel, Dartmouth health and wellbeing centre. Investment in solar farm – outside Devon to increase grid capacity.
- The Council will be consulting with all of the Town and Parish Councils within the District, regarding the withdrawal of the Council Tax Support Grant from Town and Parish Councils with effect from 1April 2020 by 50% per annum over the next two years

### Diptford Playing Field

Cllr Hill announced the sale of the Mower and equipment for £2,000 and Cllr Foster thanked him for his efforts.

### Highways and Community Lengthsman

The proposed work on Gara Bridge was discussed in depth with various concerns expressed regarding whether it would be successful and what other options might be considered. **It was agreed that councillors would continue to monitor the situation.** Responses from DCC to various issues raised by The Parish Council were noted.

### The following items were resolved:

- Cllr Lethbridge would join Cllrs Foster and Peach as DPC representative to the Eleemosynary Trust

- The Clerk would respond to The Devon & Somerset Fire Service Safer Together Consultation on behalf of the council and state the council were against any station closures
- The clerk would advise South Dartmoor Community Energy about the newly formed Diptford Sustainability Group.
- That now the village has good mobile signal the council had no objections to the removal of the phone box which has not been used in the last year.

### **Tidy Up Diptford**

The proposal from a parishioner regarding initiatives to “Tidy up Diptford” was discussed and it was agreed that, whilst councillors were happy to actively and continually encourage individuals to take pride in the appearance of their own homes and surroundings, they were not in a position to take responsibility for insurance and chapter 8 training that were basic requirements for any work being done by third parties.

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

- The depression in the road between Diptford and Avonwich has been examined and a query has been sent to South West Water regarding historical work there.
- Cllr Hosking expressed concerns that the proposed work at Gara Bridge could potentially have a detrimental effect on local businesses and that he would support consideration of alternative options.
- A request was made to the clerk for minutes to be sent to him
- Cllr Hosking supports Diptford Councillors contacting individuals regarding hedgerow maintenance and reminded Council that there were information resources on the DCC website that the clerk could send to the households concerned.
- In response to a question regarding funding opportunities from DCC for the proposed cinematic screen and equipment in the Parish Hall, Cllr Hosking agreed there was a sum available and advised on the application process. It was noted by Cllr Panell that the current SHDC grants do not enable capital projects.
- Cllr Hosking noted concern at the volume of traffic on the Ridge Road.

### **Planning Applications**

Five applications were reviewed and the council supported one, had no comment on two, supported one with a condition regarding vehicular access and stated no objection for the fifth. See minutes for full details.

Next meeting is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30PM following on from The Amenity Trust meeting which starts at 7 PM.