

**Diptford Parish Council**  
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**The Annual Parish Meeting** took place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7PM in the Parish Hall.

Cllrs Foster, Franklin, Peach, Parker-Davidson, Crocker attended the meeting. Also present were Sally Smale (Clerk) and 1 Member of the public. This was the first meeting of the new council and the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Foster, took the Chair and congratulated everyone on their success in the recent un-contested election. Councillors did express regret that, on this occasion, there were no new members.

Cllr Foster was elected as Chair of the new council and Cllr Franklin Vice-Chair. All present completed the Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

The following members were appointed to serve on the following Committees and outside bodies and hold specific responsibilities:

<b>Committee/Outside body</b>	<b>Member</b>
Village Hall Committee	<i>Cllr Hill</i>
P3 liaison	<i>Cllr Parker-Davidson</i>
GDPR liaison	<i>Cllr Parker-Davidson</i>
Diptford Community Fund	<i>Cllrs Baggott &amp; Lethbridge</i>
Community Lengthsman liaison	<i>Cllrs Hill and Parker-Davidson</i>
Playing Field Group	<i>Cllrs Foster &amp; Lethbridge</i>
Health and Dementia Friendly Parish	<i>Cllr Peach</i>
Eleemosynary	<i>Cllrs Foster, Peach and Cllr Parker-Davidson (to check whether there would be a conflict of interest with his role on another committee. If so another councillor to be appointed at the June meeting)</i>

The following policies and Council documents were re-adopted:

Statement of internal control, Standing orders, Code of conduct, Financial regulations, Assets register, Risk Schedule.

The meeting finished at 8PM and councillors moved straight into **the monthly Parish Council meeting.**

#### **Diptford Amenity Trust.**

Four companies have been approached to provide a quotation for grass-cutting of the playing field and it was agreed to accept the only quotation received to date. The mower is still available for purchase.

The next Amenity Trust meeting will be on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Four planning applications were considered. Councillors supported two of the applications and objected to two. Two planning decisions Made By SHDC were noted.

Cllr Smerdon provided a **South Hams District Council update**, briefing councillors on changes following the recent elections. He welcomed Cllr Pannell and expressed regret at the loss of Cllr Steer who has worked so hard for the communities in his constituency during his term as SHDC. Cllrs Smerdon and

Pannell will agree a rota for attendance at meetings, including the Annual Parish meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May. The Parish Council requested grant funding for the purchase of the projector for the Parish Hall. There was a short discussion regarding potential funding sources and Cllr Smerdon will send details to the clerk.

Cllr Hosking provided a **Devon County Council update** reminding council of potential grant funding opportunities through DCC before moving on to a lengthy debate regarding the recent damage to, and closure of, Gara Bridge.

Cllr Hosking confirmed that, thanks to photographic evidence, the vehicle and firm responsible for the damage had been identified and that police were working on prosecution proceedings. He noted the comment from Cllr Peach that cut stone had been used on a listed bridge for the repair work. It was noted that the proposed survey work was dependent on re-opening of the bridge. Future options were discussed:

- Chicane and bollards
- CCTV surveillance.

It was agreed that CCTV appeared to be a good idea but practice has shown it to be ineffectual and that the preferred option was for the chicane and bollards. DPC will feed this view back to the Design Team.

Cllr Hosking confirmed the road markings at Curtisknowle were to be refreshed and noted the following concerns raised by DPC:

- The subsidence between Benecknowle and Avonwick
- Concern at the volume and speed of traffic using Ridge Road (Moreleigh to Diptford)
- Concerns at the knock-on effect the lack of traffic management in Totnes is having on neighbouring villages and the countryside.

**The Annual Parish Meeting** on 28<sup>th</sup> May will start at 7PM in the Village Hall with tea and coffee being served on arrival. The guest speaker is from Devon Air Ambulance. All are welcome to attend.

The Parish Council noted a response from Adam Lewis of Jameson Homes regarding the **Wheat Park development**:

*“ ... I can confirm that the offsite infrastructure works have now been completed. Due to the current slow down in the housing market, progress on our current development at Spreyton has been slower than we had anticipated at the beginning of the year and this is having a knock on effect with respect to our envisaged start date at Diptford which for the time being is now on hold. As soon as the situation changes and we have a firm start date we will of course let you know.”*

#### **Date of next meetings**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Parish Council Meeting