

Diptford Parish Council
Sally Smale, Parish Clerk
07814849131
diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk

Diptford Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall.

Tuesday 11th June 2019

Three members of the public attended the meeting.

During the Open Forum representations were made regarding planning application numbers 1015/19/PDM – Middle Etheridge Barn and 1597/19/FUL – Crabadon Cottage Farm.

Cllr Smerdon gave an update for SHDC and highlighted the climate change declaration that SHDC has made in response to considerable pressure from activist groups and gave examples of ways in which this would affect the work of the council following ratification of the declaration at the Special Council meeting on 25th July. This has been the main focus for the new council since the elections. Cllr Franklin asked for his views regarding the possibility of SHDC following West Devon's proposal to move to 3 weekly collections. Cllr Smerdon stated that he felt this was highly unlikely.

The council considered 5 planning applications – supporting 2, objecting to one and being unable to comment on two due to lack of guidance on new regulations. Please see the council minutes for full details.

<https://diptfordparishcouncil.org/minutes/>

The council noted that it was best practice for councillors to have separate and uniform email accounts for conducting council business and that it was time to revamp the council website. Cllr Parker-Davidson informed council that he was in the process of reviewing other parish council sites for examples of good practice and that he would be in a position to bring forward a recommendation for the July meeting. This would include any costings for a new domain and email accounts.

As part of the audit process for the financial year 2018-2019 the Certificate of Exemption from a limited assurance review was signed by the Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer and the Chairman. This is for smaller authorities where the gross income / expenditure does not exceed £25,000 and saves the council a review fee of £200+VAT. Sections 1 (Annual Governance Statement) and 2 (Accounting Statements 2018/19) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return were also signed.

All audit paperwork is available for view on the parish website and notice board and the dates for the period for the exercise of public rights are Monday 17 June – Friday 26 July 2019.

The council has recently undergone the annual internal audit and the recommendations in the report were noted. It was agreed to support the clerk in achieving these goals over the next few months.

Cllr Hosking noted the correspondence regarding various buddle holes in the parish and confirmed work was in progress. He noted concerns over the dips in the road between Avonwick and Benicknowle Farm and noted that there was a similar problem at Kerswill Cross to Shorter Cross.