

# Diptford Parish Council News

## May 2020

The Council met remotely for the AGM followed by the ordinary May meeting on Tuesday 12 May 2020, 7.00 pm. No members of the public were present for the AGM but one person arrived for the ordinary meeting.

### **CLlr Foster was elected as Chair and Cllr Franklin Vice-chair.**

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

<b>Committee/Outside body</b>	<b>2019/20 Members</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 &amp; Parker-Davidson</i>
Playing Field Group	<i>Cllrs Foster &amp; Lethbridge</i>
Health	<i>Cllr Peach</i>
Website	<i>Cllr Parker-Davidson</i>
Dementia Friendly Parish	<i>Cllr Parker-Davidson</i>
Eleemosynary	<i>Cllrs Foster, Peach and Lethbridge</i>

Various policies and documents were agreed – see the council website.

### **The meeting ended at 7.26 PM and council moved straight into the May ordinary meeting.**

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

See app. 1

Cllr Smerdon also reported that the carparks at Bigbury and North Sands beach would be opening Friday 15th May - phone only payments at present and that the toilets would open 22nd May. Car parking in towns is to remain free for the present.

More would be opening on a rolling programme.

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

Cllr Hosking has been sending regular updates through to the council over the month. He thanked Rev. Sayle for all his efforts co-ordinating the emergency support volunteer programme in the parish. He re-iterated that there as emergency funding still available and urged anyone who needs support of any kind to contact him. He reminded council that the recycling centre in Ivybridge was now open for essential waste only and warned that long queues were expected in the first few weeks. There is still funding available through his locality grant.

Cllr Hosking has proposed the Primrose Line for a feasibility study into re-opening the line. Comments are welcome. Council agreed that it would probably only be used for recreational purposes and that would be an asset to the parish but that these benefits might not justify too great expenditure on the feasibility study.

Cllr Franklin asked what was happening during the pandemic period with road repairs. Cllr Hosking confirmed that work is progressing as normal as possible.

#### **Public Participation**

A member of the public gave further details of the planning application 1015/20/FUL. The emphasis for the build is energy efficiency, longevity and sustainability. SF congratulated him on the design and access statement.

Cllr Franklin raised 2 issues for members of the public:

- 1) The rooks nesting in the trees in the playing field causing a nuisance and mess. It was agreed that the problem would ease after the nesting season and that while rooks are not granted any specific legal protection the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 protects all birds, their nest and eggs making it an offence to intentionally damage or destroy an active nest or prevent parent birds access to their nests.
- 2) Could the village hall committee give reassurance that prior to opening it would be deep-cleaned? Cllr Hill confirmed that plans were already in place for this to happen – a company still needs to be found and plans

confirmed for continual cleaning pending further government advice. The hall will only open to the school initially and the committee is waiting to hear from the school re a proposed re-opening date.

### **Planning**

Council agreed to support 1 application and discussed a complaint from a parishioner regarding another site. It was agreed that the matter needed to be dealt with by SHDC. Council noted 5 decision made by SHDC and requested that Cllr Pannell look into one of the decisions due to concerns regarding traffic.

### **Internal audit**

The clerk confirmed that this year's internal audit had been very favourable. The report summary reads:  
*I can report that, within the areas checked, it is my opinion that Diptford Parish Council has greatly improved on its standard of documentation over the past year and that it now has effective systems of internal control in place. There are no areas highlighted within this report for Council attention, which is rare indeed. I would like to congratulate the Council and Clerk for taking time to address the recommendations noted within last year's report as this will have helped with general understanding of requirements and also the lowering of any risk to the Council.*

### **Parish Website Update**

Agreement was reached on the following:

Photos and email addresses of councillors will be on the website (NB there will be a mechanism for mail to transfer from the council address to personal accounts)

Representation on other bodies will be posted

There will be further discussion on inclusion of community group information, accounts and supporting reports and documents.

### **COVID-19 update**

It was agreed that Rev. Sayle is doing an excellent job. Diptford Parish Hall have applied for the special grant. There are no confirmed cases of people registered with South Brent Health Centre.