

Diptford Parish Council News

November 2020

The council held the AGM of The Amenity Trust followed by the usual Parish Meeting in November

1 member of public was in attendance

Report Cllr Pannell (SHDC)

See appendix 1 on the council website for a detailed report

DPC fed back various concerns regarding the waste collection services over the last few weeks:

- Workers emptying bins into others and leaving waste on the road
- Lack of collections and confusion regarding collection days
- Bins being left by the workers en masse for households to collect
- Problems with assisted collections

Cllr Pannell reassured council that SHDC senior managers were well aware of the issues across the whole of South Hams and high level talks with the company are taking place.

Advice if a collection is missed:

Wait a day and then report online or by phone. If, after 4 -5 days, there has still no been a collection email him or Cllr Smerdon with address and postcode of the property affected.

Cllr Smerdon reminded council that many council staff were now deployed dealing with COVID issues.

Report Cllr Hosking (DCC)

See appendix 2 on the council website for a detailed report

- Confirmed that the planned grass verges as part of the proposed work at Gara Bridge will be too high for vehicles to drive on.
- Apologised that the budget that would have paid for ploughing out roads has been frozen. Accepted concern at repeated flooding that would occur and that DPC had been requesting road cleaning for 4 years and agreed to consider if there were any other alternatives.
- Confirmed that the dip in the road between Avonwick and Diptford was on the work plan and noted that it was deteriorating
- Confirmed that the plans for Gara bridge would be released for consultation once DCC has heard from the Environmental Agency
- Noted the damage to SPD's car by a speeding contractor and advised he write to DCC

Open Forum

SF had been asked to raise the issue of loud fireworks being let off in the centre of the village with no notice to neighbours. DPC agreed it showed a lack of consideration and urges the community to consider neighbours when planning activities that might cause a disturbance.

The Christmas tree was discussed and Cllr Foster confirmed a tree would go up if it could be done safely within COVID guidelines.

Cllr Baggot commented that the member of public attending the meeting had chosen to remain anonymous and questioned the legality of this when it couldn't happen in a face-on meeting. The clerk will request guidance from DALC.

New website.

The new website is now running and the clerk and Cllr Parker0Davidson will receive training over the next week.

Diptford Playing Field

A report that the surface of the courts were dangerous had been received. The courts are closed now under COVID rules and it was agreed that Cllr Hill will purchase a padlock, erect a sign, and close the courts until the surface has been cleaned.

Cllr Foster reported that the professional arborist had confirmed that the damaged tree was not dangerous but that there were dead branches at the top of the tree. The quote to cut this was £450 for 2 men and a chipper for the day. It was agreed that once the clerk receives an official quote the work would be commissioned.

Highways

It was agreed that, in the light of the response from DCC regarding road cleaning, the clerk would request quotes from private companies for consideration.

Increasing problem of dog fouling in the Parish

It was agreed that this was a growing anti-social problem. Councillors urge dog owners to clean up after their dogs and, in particular, not leave the plastic bags hanging from trees and fences.

It was agreed that DPC meetings in 2021 would continue to be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Next meeting Tuesday 8th December 2020.