

## Diptford Parish Council Virtual Meeting

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 7.15 pm (Following The Amenity Trust AGM)

### MINUTES

**Present** Cllrs Foster (JF) (Chair), Franklin, (SF), Baggott (BB), Crocker (TC), Hill (SH), Lethbridge (LL), Parker-Davidson (SPD), Peach (CP), Hosking (DCC), Smerdon (SHDC), Pannell (SHDC) and Sally Smale (Clerk)

**1 member of public was in attendance**

**2020/95 There were no apologies for absence**

#### **Report Cllr Pannell (SHDC)**

##### **See appendix 1.**

Council fed back various concerns regarding the waste collection services of 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 not been a collection email him or Cllr Smerdon with address and postcode of the property affected.

**Cllr Smerdon arrived at 7.24**

**Cllr Pannell left at 7.35**

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

**Cllr Smerdon left and Cllr Hosking arrived at 7.37**

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

##### **See appendix 2**

- 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

**Cllr Hosking left at 7.52pm**

#### **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 that it would be minuted and a note put in the newsletter

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

**BB** 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. **Clerk to request guidance from DALC.**

**2020/96 There were no declarations of interest and dispensations in items on the Agenda.**

**2020/97** It was determined that no items should be taken with the public excluded in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1(2)

**2020/98** The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> October, as previously circulated, were considered and it was agreed that the clerk would delete the final note regarding a planning breach because it was a confidential matter that could not be brought to the meeting. The revised minutes were confirmed and will be signed by the Chair.

- Progress with new website. – The new website is now running and the clerk and SPD will receive training over the next week.

**2020/99** **Diptford Playing Field**

a) Update regarding the Tennis lessons

- BB expressed concern that DPC were running a commercial activity and it was agreed that this was not the case as it was an individual choosing to use the courts to benefit the local community and that DPC was not benefitting financially.

- A report that the surface of the courts were dangerous has been received. The courts are closed now under COVID rules.

**It was agreed that SH will purchase a padlock , erect a sign, and close the courts until the surface has been cleaned.**

**SH will discuss cleaning with K Jane.**

b) JF 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.

**2020/99** **Highways and Community Lengthsman**

a) The lengthsman has recently done some work in the area of Benicknowle

b) 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.

**2020/100** **Increasing problem of dog fouling in the Parish**

It was agreed that this was a growing anti-social problem and that reminders would be put in the newsletter asking people to clean up after the dogs and, in particular, not leave the plastic bags hanging from trees and fences.

**2020/101** **BT Openreach scheme which would give everyone on Gara Bridge exchange a fibre WiFi connection free within a year**

SH explained that this project had been delayed and he would bring it to a future meeting for agreement on funding when he knew the costs.

**2020/102** **The following planning decisions made by SHDC were noted:**

a) 1707/20/ARC Diptford Cleave Farm Moreleigh Totnes TQ9 7JS Mr Will Johnson Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 4, 5 and 6 of planning consent 17/2350/11/LB

**DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved**

b) 2475/20/ARC Diptford Follets Farm Dipford Gara Bridge Totnes Miss Naomi Mcadam Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 4 and 6 of planning consent 0276/20/FUL

**DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved**

c) 2699/20/FUL Diptford Barn At Laplands Farm Crabadon Cross To Laplands Farm Diptford TQ9 7JY Mr C Worth PROPOSAL : Replacement dwellings following class Q approval (0954/19/PDM) including garaging and landscaping

**DECISION: Conditional Approval**

**2020/103 Finance****1. The following payments were approved:**

Clerk's Pay	382.11
Clerk's tax	2.00
Clerk's Expenses (Mileage)	13.50
Clerk's Office (Phone / heating /)	16.00
J Widdicombe (Lengthsman)	218+36 VAT

**2. It was agreed that the request for funding from Libraries Unlimited for the Mobile Library would be considered at the next meeting alongside other grants**

**3. The Financial Statement was received:**

Current Account End Oct 2020	£8,486.42	184.00	P3 - Footpath maintenance
MINUS Unpresented cheques	0	800.00	Winter Emergency Planning
PLUS Uncleared receipts	0	2,523.33	Community lengthsman project
Current Account	£8,486.42	1,750.00	Amenity trust
Savings Accounts	6,538.26	1,280.93	Contingency
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>£15,024.68</b>	<b>6,538.26</b>	<b>Total</b>

**Total uncommitted funds £ 8,486.42**

**2020/104 It was agreed that DPC meetings in 2021 would continue to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.**

**2020/105 The following correspondence received was noted:****Cllr Hosking**

LED Street lighting - All of Devon County Council's 79,000 streetlights will be converted to LED lights within the next two years – reducing carbon emissions by 75%.

Coronavirus hardship funding

**JF thanked everyone for attending and the meeting finished at 8.49pm.**

**Next meeting Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December**