

Diptford Parish Council Virtual Meeting

Tuesday 8th December 2020 7.00 pm

MINUTES

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Paul Gaunce from Garrafibre was in attendance to update on the fibre broadband project. Main points:

- Residents need to pledge to government that, once fibre has been installed, they will sign up for a minimum 1 year contract with one of the recommended companies.
- Each pledge earns £1,500 for a domestic address and £3,500 for a business (Residents do not pay this - it is funded by government)
- It is estimated that the total pledges need to realise approx. £500,000 for the project to go ahead
- Fibre broadband to the house will then be installed to each residence **TOTALLY FREE OF CHARGE**
- Paul has worked through the process for his home parish and is confident that, although there is a lot of work, it can happen
- Diptford does need majority of residents to sign up and it is promising that £15,500 has already been pledged

See the website for further information and FAQ

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

2020/106 There were no apologies for absence

Report from RH (DCC)

See App. 1

- SF Questioned why permanent signs had been erected when work is scheduled so soon on the depression on the road from Avonwick to Diptford. **RH to investigate**
- CP congratulated DCC on the quality of resurfacing work approaching Gara Bridge
- SF requested road ploughing again - pointing out that it is false economy as roads are being damaged due to the build up of debris – example of road from Diptford valley up to the village
- DPC noted the letter by a resident to DCC regarding dangerous potholes that have caused substantial damage to cars and potential danger to road users. **RH said that he had sent a response to the resident.**

RH left

Report from GP (SHDC)

See App. 2

PG left

There was a brief discussion regarding the use of the new noticeboard and it was agreed that this would be an agenda item for the January meeting. SF also requested that the Countryfile Tree Planting project be on the January agenda.

2020/107 There were no declarations of interest and dispensations in items on the Agenda.

2020/108 It was determined that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1(2), no items should be taken with the public excluded.

2020/109 The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th November, as previously circulated, were confirmed and will be signed by the Chair

The clerk gave a brief update on the progress with the website: Training is now complete and the clerk feels the website is very user-friendly. Photos of councillors are still outstanding and a policy is needed for community group use. There is still a bit of editing to be done.

CP will send some more photos.

Councillors have now received the login details for their new email accounts.

2020/110 Diptford Playing Field

a) The Financial statement for Diptford Amenity Trust was received:

Current account £3,855.31

Savings account £ 41.30

b) **The payment of 85.00 for grass cutting was agreed**

c) SH reported that the tennis courts were still locked and that work had begun on removing the moss from the surface of the courts. It is hoped this will be completed in the next couple of weeks. There is concern that frequent cleaning of the surface will accelerate deterioration of the surface and increase the cost of resurfacing at a future date.

d) **JF to chase for the quote to work on the damaged tree in the playing field and when the clerk receives the invoice the work will be commissioned. This will be paid from The Amenity Trust accounts.**

2020/111 Highways and Community Lengthsman

a) Community Lengthsman continues to maintain the area

b) Road ploughing and sweeping

Four quotations were requested and 2 received (one of which was withdrawn at a later date)

The quote received:

The cost for the Road Sweeper for a full day hire (8hrs on site) will be - £380.00

Tipping, if not supplied by yourself, will cost a further £85.00 per load

Skid Steer Hire, including Bucket & Brush attachments will be £450.00 per day

All prices include Delivery and Operator

All prices plus VAT.

It was agreed that, prior to the January meeting, all councillors would compile a prioritised list of roads with an estimated distance. TC and JF would estimate the time this would take and the estimated cost would be considered at the January meeting.

2020/112 Virtual meeting policy

It was agreed by all to adopt the virtual meeting policy (circulated previously).

2020/113 BT Openreach scheme which would give everyone on Gara Bridge exchange a fibre WiFi connection free within a year

It was agreed by all that DPC would support this project and councillors extended their thanks to Paul Gaunce for taking this forward.

CP to deliver information leaflets in Curtisknowle and Gara Bridge area

LL to email her contacts

2020/114 Finance

1. The following payments were approved:

S Smale	2020/25	Clerk's Pay	382.11
HMRC	2020/25	Clerk's tax	2.00
S Smale	2020/26	Clerk's Expenses (Mileage)	6.75
Viking Direct	2020/27	Clerk's Stationery / equipment	53.07
VAT	2020/27	VAT	10.61
Westernweb	2020/28	Other Exp	555.00
VAT	2020/28	VAT	111.00
S Smale	2020/26	Clerk's Office (Phone / heating /)	16.00

S Smale	2020/29	Zoom subscription	14.39
J Widdicombe	2020/30	Lengsthman	192.00

2. The Financial Statement was received:

Current Account End Nov 2020	£8008.28
MINUS Unpresented cheques	0
PLUS Uncleared receipts	0
Current Account	£8008.28
Savings Accounts	£6358.32
TOTAL FUNDS	£14,366.60

184.00	P3 - Footpath maintenance
800.00	Winter Emergency Planning
2,343.33	Community lengthsman project
1,750.00	Amenity trust
1,280.99	Contingency
6,358.32	Total

Total uncommitted funds £ 8008.28

3. It was agreed to consider grant funding for 2021-2022 as part of the budget setting
4. It was agreed that BB would work with the clerk to finalise the budget proposal and the impact on the precept demand for agreement at the January meeting.
5. The clerk's salary increase to SCP 11 on completion of the CiLCA qualification (anticipated Jan / Feb 2021) and in April for the year 2021-22 this increase again to SCP 12 pending a satisfactory appraisal was approved.

2020/115 The following correspondence was received:

- 1) Totnes Climate Fair 2021
- 2) DCC – Avian Influenza
- 3) School Newsletters – the new format was complimented

Council thanked the Crocker, Foster and Lethbridge families for erecting and decorating the village Christmas tree.

JF wished everyone a happy Christmas and the meeting closed at 8.56pm