

Diptford Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 14th December 2021

Diptford Village Hall

MINUTES

Present Cllrs Foster (JF) (Chair), Franklin, (SF), Lethbridge (LL), Parker-Davidson (SPD), Peach (CP), Thomas (DT) (DCC), Pannell (GP) (SHDC) and Sally Smale (Clerk)

No members of the public were in attendance.

2021 95 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Baggott, Crocker and Hill

Report from Devon County Councillor DT

See appendix 1 <https://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org/meetings.php>

- DPC thanked DT for the generous £500 grant towards the road sweeping initiative
- CP requested that DCC work towards the permanent provision of vaccination centres in communities for the foreseeable future and the anticipated on-going need for vaccinations
- CP requested update on the installation of the camera on Gara Bridge

Report from SHDC Councillor GP

See appendix 2 <https://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org/meetings.php>

DT left the meeting at 7.20pm

2021 96 There were no declarations of interest and dispensations in items on the Agenda.

2021 97 The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th November, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair

Update:

- **Broadband** – Government vouchers are still available – apply through Moortec
<https://www.moorcomms.co.uk/>
No update from Airband
SPD researching whether the scheme previously worked on by DPC is still available.
- **Flooding on the road outside Glebe Land** – SF thanked SPD for all his efforts to resolve this issue. DCC have cleared the drain under the road which has resulted in no water now running on the road and Glebeland is being monitored for any further build-up of water.

2021 98 Diptford Playing Field

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

Current account: £1,105.31

Savings account: £ 46.30

b) The payment of £85.00 to K Jane for grass-cutting was approved

b) It was resolved to appoint Ralph Mortimer to the role of Casual Worker for The Council. The clerk will organise a contract of services.

2021 99 Highways and Community Lengthsman

a) SF reported Ash trees leaning dangerously on the roadside (Diptford to Avonwick). **Clerk instructed to contact 2 landowners and remind them of their responsibilities should the trees fall causing an accident / damage.**

b) **Road cleaning update:** The 2 day's sweeping has been a success and made a real difference in Curtisknowle. DPC is waiting to hear from SHDC regarding a date to sweep the village. (The lengthsman will do his work prior to the sweep)

GP left the meeting at 7.40pm

2021 100 Email

The proposal to transfer to the new webmail service offered by WesternWeb was considered and it was agreed that DPC would continue with the current arrangement in the light of difficulties experienced to date with adoption of new services. Clerk advised that Councillors should be using discreet accounts for Council business.

2021 101 Finance

1. The following payments were approved:

S Smale	Clerk's Pay	279.94	
S Smale	Clerk's Office (Phone / heating /)	16.00	
S Smale	Clerk's Expenses (Mileage)	13.50	
J Widdicombe	Lengthsman	80.00 plus VAT	16.00

2. The Financial Statement was received:

Current Account 4 th December 2021	8,788.25	184	P3 - Footpath maintenance
MINUS Unpresented: Clerk's Pay 279.94 Clerk's Office 16.00 Clerk's (Mileage) 13.50 Lengthsman 80.00 VAT 16.00	405.44	800	Winter Emergency Planning
PLUS Uncleared receipts	0	4,493	Community lengthsman project
Current Account	8382.81	2,196	Amenity trust
Savings Accounts	9988.25	1,865	Contingency
TOTAL FUNDS	18,371.06	9,538	Total

Total uncommitted funds £ 8,833.06

3. The correction to the details of the Precept demand for 2022-2023 were noted:

The Band D parish rate will be approx: £51.72 (2022 – 2023 calculator sheet yet to be released)

This will be an increase of approx. £1.53 or 3.05% (in comparison to 2021/22)

2021 102 Delegation of Powers to the Proper Officer of the Council

It was agreed that (in the event that a national lockdown be announced and no law has been passed to hold legal virtual meetings) the following powers would be delegated to the clerk:

- the power to make essential decisions required for the running of the council that cannot be deferred (such as salary payments, payments of invoices, closure of any public buildings following government guidance etc) in email or telephone consultation with councillors wherever possible.
- the power to make decisions which are not critical but are time dependent (such as planning responses, consultation responses etc). These decisions will be made in email or telephone consultation with the council and the decision made by the clerk will represent the

majority view (of those who have responded within 3 working days). Where there is no clear majority, the clerk will not make a decision.

It was agreed that any emails sent by the clerk needing a prompt reply would be clearly marked (in the subject line) “REPLY REQUESTED”

Next Meeting:

There is still uncertainty regarding meeting protocols for parish councils in the New Year and so a decision regarding where and how the meeting will take place will be made nearer the time. Meanwhile the date is:

Tuesday 11th January 2022. 7pm, Village Hall

The Crocker, Lethbridge and Foster families were thanked in advance for the planned erection of the village Christmas tree.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm