

Diptford Parish Council News

December 2021

The meeting took place in Diptford Village Hall on Tuesday 14th December.

No members of the public attended the meeting.

The report from Devon County Councillor DT can be found on the parish council website:

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

- Council thanked Cllr Thomas for the generous £500 grant towards the road sweeping initiative
- Cllr Peach 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
- Cllr Peach requested an update on the installation of the camera on Gara Bridge

The report from SHDC Councillor GP can be found on the parish council website:

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

Update on matters from previous meetings:

- **Broadband** – Government vouchers are still available – apply through Moorotec <https://www.moorcomms.co.uk/>
No update from Airband
Cllr Parker-Davidson is researching whether the scheme previously worked on by DPC is still available.
- **Flooding on the road outside Glebe Land** – Cllr Franklin thanked Cllr Parker-Davidson for all his efforts to resolve this issue. Devon Highways 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.

Amenity Trust

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

Highways and Community Lengthsman

- a) Cllr Franklin reported Ash trees leaning dangerously on the roadside (Diptford to Avonwick). The Clerk was instructed to contact the 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 in particular. DPC is waiting to hear from SHDC regarding a date to sweep the village. (The lengthsman will do his work prior to the sweep)

A correction to the details of the Precept demand for 2022-2023 was 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)

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.

Next Meeting

There is still uncertainty regarding meeting protocols for parish councils in the New Year as a result of the COVID restrictions 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

Village Christmas Tree

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