

**1 member of the public attended towards the end of the meeting**

**Cllr Foster wished everyone a Happy New Year.**

**County Councillor Report**

Cllr Thomas had sent his apologies but there was an update regarding the camera on **Gara Bridge:**

A CCTV specialist was employed to determine a suitable location in order to survey the bridge. Cluttering" of the highway had been avoided by replacing the existing highway signs post, and replacing it with the CCTV mast. The highway signs will now be located on the new CCTV mast.

The bridge has recently had repairs carried out under a road closure and it was decided to start installing the CCTV equipment using the same road closure to reduce the amount of disruption to the area. The ARC cabinet has been moved to a more suitable location to try and reduce the likelihood of damage caused by flooding etc.

The next stage is for Western Power Distribution to install an electricity supply so that installation can be completed.

He also reported that that the Newton Abbot trial **20mph zones** project had failed, as the residents of Newton Abbot had voted against it happening in their town. This might mean that communities can pursue 20mph zones where needed – more information to follow.

**South Hams District Councillor Report**

**Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant**

In December, the government announced a one-off grant payment for hospitality and leisure businesses including restaurants and pubs. It is worth up to £6,000 and is designed to help those who have struggled in what should have been the most profitable time of the year. We are administering the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant; the Council has now directly contacted local businesses by email, which, based on previous grant applications, might be eligible for this financial help.

The Council is urging local hospitality and leisure businesses that meet the criteria to check their email and junk mail folders and follow the instructions to claim the government grant. The Council is also urging businesses to contact them via their website - <https://southhams.gov.uk/businesscovid19> - if they think their business is eligible.

**Christmas Tree Collection - Misinformation**

We have been made aware that all local papers between Christmas and New Year have published the information regarding the recycling of Christmas Trees.

This information wasn't provided by the authority and our website has been clear since the suspension of the garden waste service that reluctantly, we would not be able to provide a Christmas tree collection this year.

The journalist responsible had copied information from the Recycle Devon website, which was information from last year. The editor has apologised profusely and has put a message on the websites correcting the information and directing residents to the recycling centres.

Residents can take their trees to the recycling centres at Totnes or Ivybridge, or there are various commercial garden waste contractors who will collect them for a fee. If you do use such a contractor please ensure they are properly licensed. Rattery and South Brent residents can take their trees to the Marsh composting site at Brent on Sunday mornings. Please cut the branches from the stem as they will be used differently.

**Clerk Vacancy**

Interviews will take place on Monday 17th January. If no appointment is made DPC will seek to recruit a temporary locum clerk pending a permanent appointment and the vacancy would be advertised in the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Gazette.

### **Highways and Community Lengthsman**

Council thanked the Lengthsman who went out on Christmas day clearing ditches and drains in anticipation of the forecasted inclement weather.

The water running off the Glebeland continues to be a problem and is being monitored and further investigated by DCC

The dangerous trees overhanging the road at Avonwick have been reported – the work is complicated by overhanging cables.

### **Rev. Sayle was invited to speak:**

Diptford Parochial Church Council would welcome the opportunity to work with the Parish Council to support the community. DPC welcomed this and it was agreed all would consider opportunities for joint working going forward.

There are no burial spaces left in the Church Yard unless there is room in existing family plots. The Church Yard will be closed and there will be an official notification in due course. There is a strict process to follow.

### **Diptford Parish Council Precept**

The impact of the new tax base figures provided by SHDC on the precept demand agreed at the November meeting was considered and it was agreed to revise the demand to £14,100 retaining a 3.10% increase giving a Band D parish rate of £51.75 = an increase of £1.56 (in comparison to 2021/22)

The meeting closed at 8PM

### **Date of Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022. 7pm, Village Hall**