

No members of the public the meeting.

Cllr Foster welcomed everyone to the meeting

County Councillor Report

Devon County Council's new Strategic Plan has been published. The headings are as follows:

1. Respond to Climate Emergency
2. Be Ambitious For Children/Young People
3. Support Sustainable Economic Recovery
4. Tackle Poverty and Inequality
5. Improve Health and Wellbeing
6. Help Communities to be Safe, Connected and Resilient

A meeting is to be arranged to discuss the 20-mile limit process with the Parish Council.

There are still some monies available of the localities monies. The deadline for applications for this financial year is March 11th

No camera has been installed at Gara Bridge yet – County Councillor to follow up.

It was noted that roads require to be repaired due to the numerous potholes – County Councillor agreed to support this.

South Hams District Councillor Report Levelling Up and County Deal

The Levelling Up White Paper has been published. It sets 12 ambitious goals for Levelling up by 2030, covering areas such as economic growth, digital connectivity, transport and education. The pan-Devon area (including Plymouth and Torbay) has been identified as a pilot area and invited to develop a 'county devolution deal'. This is an opportunity to make the case to Government for things our residents and communities need e.g., affordable housing.

£150 Payment Towards Energy Bills

The Chancellor announced that households in council tax bands A to D will receive a one-off payment of £150 towards the rising cost of energy bills, excluding second homes and empty properties who are not eligible for the payment.

Separately the Energy Bills rebate will provide around 28 million households with an upfront discount on their bills worth £200. Energy suppliers will apply the discount to domestic electricity customers' energy bills from October, with the Government meeting the costs. The discount will then be automatically recovered from people's bills in equal £40 instalments over the next five years.

Council Tax

Proposals for 2022/23 Council Tax will be voted for at the Full Council Budget meeting on 10th February. The proposals include a recommendation to increase the Council Tax by £5 per year for Band D properties – equivalent to 10p a week.

Refuse/Recycling

Performance by contractors is slowly improving. The temporary suspension of the garden waste (Brown Bin) service is due to end on 31 March. It has been firmly expressed that our expectation is that the garden waste service should resume by April at the latest.

Residents will be updated as soon as further information is available.

Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant

A one-off grant payment for hospitality and leisure businesses is worth up to £6,000 and is designed to help those in what should have been the most profitable of the year. The Council has directly contacted local businesses by email who might be eligible for this financial help.

The deadline for grant applications has now been extended from 28th February to 18th March with payments being made by 31st March.

Community Funding News

New schemes added in January include:

1. Up to £5,000 for repair or improvement of community buildings [Screwfix Foundation](#).
2. Up to £10,000 for community groups and artists planning activities focusing on art, creativity and culture in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee.

Funding For Well Being Projects

Voluntary groups in the South Hams are invited to apply for their share of a £50,000 funding pot to support wellbeing projects across the District. South Hams District Council has launched a new grant for local voluntary and community groups which is worth up to £2,500 per group. The monies can be used for any project or scheme that makes a positive difference to the health and wellbeing of local people. Community groups should apply for a grant at [www.southhams.gov.uk/covid-community-fund by 7th March 2022](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/covid-community-fund-by-7th-March-2022).

Role of AONBs Could Be Expanded

Proposals to strengthen England's protected landscapes were announced on 15th January 2022. AONBs have been awarded a 15% increase in their funding. Sadly this does not apply to all National Parks.

Town and Parish Council Guide to Net-Zero

We have been working on pulling together some resources and tips on what Town and Parish Councils can do. The guide isn't intended to be prescriptive but rather to offer some inspiration to Town and Parish Councils who are looking to tackle the Climate Emergency. The guide is web based and is published on our Climate Change Website.

Clerk Vacancy

Ali Kohler has been appointed Clerk from 5th February 2022.

Highways and Community Lengthsman

The water running of the Glebeland continues to be a problem and is being monitored and further investigated. There is to be a survey of the drains to be carried out. ICE signs have been requested.

The dangerous trees at Avonwick are being monitored due to the possible problem with the broadband cables.

The road closure due to cables being installed is due to happen around 4th April and it is hoped that disruption will be kept to a minimum.

The Lengthsman is currently assessing and checking various items and carrying out minor works.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 8th March 2022, 7pm Village Hall

Amenity Trust Meeting

Tuesday 8th March 2022, prior to DPC meeting, Village Hall

Annual Parish Meeting

12th April 2022, 7 pm Village Hall