

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meetings

Parish council meetings started again in August via the virtual format using Zoom. It was strange not meeting everyone face to face in the village hall, but it has given us the opportunity to discuss matters and formally approve the decisions taken during the lockdown period.

Our next parish council meeting using the Zoom app platform on Monday 19th October at 7.00pm. The basic package is free to use and can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/>. If you would like to attend our virtual parish council meeting please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk for the ID link by Friday 16th October. If you do not have access to the internet but would still like to listen in on the meeting please telephone the Parish Clerk on 01935 822455 for the telephone conferencing number so that you can dial in.

If you would like to participate in the public session, please email/phone through the subject/question you wish to raise with the council when you asked for the ID link/telephone number.

If you are accessing the meeting via the **internet**:

- Click on the link or copy the link into your browser given to you in the email
- Download the Zoom app, if not already done so
- Test your speakers and microphone on your device (you will be prompted to do this)
- You will then be put in a 'Waiting Room' until you are invited to join.
- Once connected, you must click on the video camera icon at the bottom left hand side of the screen to enable the video. This is so that councillors can see who is attending the meeting.

If you are accessing the meeting by **telephone**:

- Dial the number given to you by the Clerk.
- Once connected you will be prompted to type in the meeting ID plus #, then #, then the password plus #. You will be placed in a 'Waiting Room' until invited to join.

All microphones will be automatically muted from the start of the meeting. If you wish to participate in the public session your microphone will be unmuted when you are invited to speak.

Council meetings will continue in this form until such time as we are informed that public meetings/gatherings may take place in person.



Would you be interest in joining the Parish Council and helping us to support and protect our village facilities and activities? We meet once on the third Monday evening monthly. We have 3 vacancies at present. If you would like to know more about it all, please contact Sarah Moore, our Parish Clerk on 822455 for an informal chat.

PUBLIC NOTICE PARISH OF MONTACUTE

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 87 of the Local Government Act 1972 that three vacancies have occurred on the Montacute Parish Council. Unless a request for an election to be held is submitted in writing to the Proper Officer of the South Somerset District Council, at the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2HT by no later than 12th October 2020 by ten electors for the Parish of Montacute, the Parish Council will proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Play Area

Good News! The play area is now open, and all the new equipment has been installed.

A few years ago, the parish council decided to refurbish the play area as one of our major projects. As play equipment is so expensive it was decided to ring-fence a proportion of the precept each year until we were able to buy some new play equipment and bring this project to fruition. The first step in the process was to consult with the National Trust on what pieces could go into the play area and they were very supportive of our proposal.

We applied to South Somerset District Council for s.106 funding and were delighted when they awarded us £5,610 towards the capital purchase and a further £3,240 towards future maintenance of the equipment in December last year.

The parish council had a total of £13,649 ring-fenced from the precept and donations so along with the s.106 award we only had to use £2,703 from general reserves. This has been money well spent and in these few short weeks we have seen a greater number of children using the play area and thoroughly enjoying themselves and having fun. We have also received some wonderful comments from residents which is welcome news indeed. Thank you.

Just a reminder, please remember the 2-metre social distancing rules and to bring sanitisers! Children should be supervised carefully to maintain good hygiene and should not use play area if they have any signs or symptoms of coronavirus. There is a poster on the gate to the play area advising on the maximum number of children allowed on equipment to keep the 2-metre rule.

New Pavilion

More Good News! We have now received approval from the National Trust for our plans for the revised location of the new pavilion. This means that we can now apply for planning permission.

The new pavilion will be closer to the car park and will face onto the recreation ground. We hope that once the pavilion has been built it will enable residents to make more use of the recreation ground and will become the hub of village events.

Community Speedwatch

As mentioned in the last edition of the magazine, we are still experiencing speeding traffic through the village and the parish council, along with many residents would like our village to be much safer. We need to continue collating speed data and the Community Speed Watch is one of the ways we can do this. We need YOUR HELP! If anyone is willing to take over as the village's CSW Co-ordinator or just join the team, please contact either the parish clerk or chairman.

The parish council have been looking at purchasing a Speed Indicator Device and are waiting for approval of the site locations from Somerset County Council. These devices collate traffic speed over a 10-day period and are known to help reduce speed.

Village Planters

It was suggested at our last meeting to have some planters next to the hamstone markers in Yeovil Road and St Michaels View. These will then be filled with seasonal plants to brighten up the entrances to the village. If any of the village organisations or businesses would like to sponsor a planting season then please contact Christine Saint on chairpersonmpc@outlook.com.

Christmas

We still don't know what will be happening at Christmas so we cannot make plans for the usual Christmas get together after the lighting of the Christmas tree. We will however still be having our Christmas tree in the Borough to bring some festive happiness to the village.

Recycling More

Somerset Waste Partnership have now agreed the revised roll-out timetable for the Recycle More collection service. This will roll out across the county in phases and South Somerset is in Phase 2 which will commence in June/July 2021. All residents will be sent full information nearer the time. Recycle More means that you will be able to recycle every week

- the current recyclable materials plus.
- household and food plastic pots, tubs and trays
- Tetra Paks and other beverage cartons
- small electrical items
- small household batteries

For more information go to <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more>

Who Can I Meet and Where?

On the 22nd September, the Government announced new measures on who we can meet and where and some of these restrictions will be set out in the law.

The 'Rule of 6'

Indoors - When meeting with people you don't live with you can socialise in groups of up to 6. This is the legal limit. If your household (and/or support bubble) is larger than 6 people, you can gather together.

Outdoors – When meeting with people you don't live with (or who you have not formed a support bubble with) you can socialise in groups of up to 6. If your household (and/or support bubble) is larger than 6 people, this is your largest permitted group and you cannot meet as a group with any additional people.

Children are counted in the group of 6.

Grandparents can look after their grandchildren as long as it meets the 'Rule of 6' (although whole families may not be able to meet up at once).

The 'Rule of 6' does not apply to funerals. The legal limit is 30 people at a funeral ceremony. Funeral providers will limit capacity based on how many people they can safely accommodate with social distancing in place. Wakes must only take place in groups of no more than six unless everyone is from the same household or support bubble.

Weddings ceremonies and receptions must only take place in Covid-19 Secure venues or in public outdoor spaces and are restricted to 15 people. Receptions must be sit down meals.

There are some exemptions to this rule for COVID-19 Secure community facilities where more than one group of 6 can meet indoors, providing the separate groups are distanced. Certain activities involving children are also exempt.

The new restrictions on social interaction have been put in place to try to slow/reduce the impact of a second wave of COVID-19 before the winter by limiting the number of people we socially meet at any one time. It is critical that you follow all of these guidelines to keep both yourself and others safe. The virus is airborne. Guidelines are changing all the time about what we can and cannot do, and so you can find the most up-to-date information at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/>

Keep looking out for one another. Remember to be kind and we will get through it somehow - together. Keep washing those hands, wear face coverings and practicing social distancing! Stay Safe. Remember - Hands, Face, Space!



Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour

For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: www.police.uk. If you are a witness to or the victim of a crime, then it is imperative that you report it to the police immediately whether it is during the day or at night. When reporting an incident please telephone either 101 for non-emergencies or 999 for emergencies only.

The Parish Council's day-to-day business will carry on as usual where possible. If you have any issues/questions, please contact the Parish Clerk on the contact details below.

Contact details: Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk
24 High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PS
Email: clerk_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk
Telephone: 01935 822455
Website: www.montacuteparishcouncil.com