

It was unfortunate that we were unable to hold the annual lighting of the Christmas tree in December due to storm Darragh. However, we were still able to hold the raffle thanks to Louise Hann who kindly offer to run this from the Post Office. We raised a total of £60. Thank you to everyone to took part. The Parish Council would also like to thank Vincent and Chris Baker for putting up the Christmas tree and Suzi Clarke for allowing us to use her electric for the lights.

On a separate note, we would like to express a couple of other thank yous. These are to Becky Maddison for carrying out all the checks on the defibrillator in the Borough, and to Bernard Bevan Davies for charging the batteries to the speed indicator device (SID).

The village now has two defibrillators; one is located in the old red telephone box in the Borough, postcode TA15 6XB. The other one is located on the side of the pavilion in the recreation ground, postcode TA15 6UJ.

Should you need to gain access to the defibrillator in an emergency, dial 999 quoting the postcode of where the defibrillator is. The emergency services will then give you a code to open the cabinet.

The full defibrillator user guide is on the parish council website www.montacuteparishcouncil.com which you can download.

The annual allotment holders meeting will be taking place at the pavilion on Saturday, 22nd February at 10am. The usual letters will be sent out to all allotment holders in due course.

Whilst on the subject of the allotments, it has been brought to our attention that someone has cut several branches off the trees at the entrance to the allotment site. This was not authorised by the parish council, so if anyone knows anything about this or who did it, please could you let us know.

If you would like to book the pavilion and grounds for an event, party or classes, please go to the parish council website www.montacuteparishcouncil.com. You can check the availability on the calendar in the 'How to Book' section under Pavilion and Grounds. The terms and conditions, tariff and online booking form can also be found here.

Parish Councils have been informed by Somerset Council that as part of their devolution of services they will be charging landowners for the emptying of litter and dog bins that are not on Highway land after April 2025 and these charges will be per bin, per collection. The Parish Council have been informed of what the provisional costs will be which could mean an additional cost to the parish of around £2,000 + VAT per year.

At the parish council meeting in January, councillors approved the budget and precept for 2025/26. Councillors have spent a considerable amount of time discussing the ramifications of the rising and additional costs to services that the Parish Council now have to cover, and it was agreed to increase the precept to £51,253. These means that the parish's proportion of the Council Tax on a Band D rate property will be £192.44 per annum.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

If you are witness to any incident, it is important for you to report it directly to the police by telephoning the numbers listed below. Any reports given will be dealt with in confidence and your details will not be divulged. Also, you will receive an incident/crime number. Unfortunately, the Parish Council cannot report incidents to the police on your behalf as it would be considered as hearsay (third-party reporting).

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.

Parish Council meetings are held in the **Pavilion** on the third Wednesday of every month with the exception of August and December. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 19th February 2025 at 7pm.** Parish Council meetings are open to the press and public, so residents are welcome to come along and listen to what we have to say. There is also a short public session at the beginning of every Ordinary Parish Council meeting.

Contact details: Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk

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