

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Parish Council invite you to join us in the Borough to celebrate the lighting of the Christmas tree on the 6th December, at 6.30pm. This will be followed by a lantern parade and refreshments at the Baptist Chapel.

Come along and see Father Christmas, take part in the raffle for a chance to win a wonderful Christmas Hamper, and join in the fun by entering our competition for the 'Best Dressed Nativity Costume'. Judging will take place at the Baptist Chapel.



Have Your Say!

The Boundary Commission is conducting an electoral review, and this review will recommend new electoral arrangements for Somerset Council. From this review, the Boundary Commission will propose:

- the total number of councillors elected to the council in the future,
- the number of divisions,
- the number of councillors representing each division,
- division boundaries, and
- the names of divisions.

The Boundary Commission is recommending that 96 councillors should be elected to Somerset Council which is 14 fewer than the current number. In drawing up new electoral divisions, they must balance three legal criteria, namely:

- to deliver electoral equality where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the county,

- that the pattern of divisions should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities,
- that the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

This public consultation welcomes views from individuals and organisations. The consultation is open now and will close on 20th January 2025. The new electoral arrangements will come into effect at the local elections in 2027.

If you wish to comment on this consultation the link is:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset>

Recreation Ground

The Parish Council would like to thank one of our younger members of the community who has been volunteering their time collecting litter around the recreation ground. They have been doing a fantastic job making sure the grounds and play area is clean and tidy!

However, it is sad to see that a number of dog owners have been dumping full dog poo bags in the hedges surrounding the grounds. Not only is this endangering wildlife, but it is also unhygienic and does not set a good example, especially when our youth are doing their best to keep the area looking good for others. There are a number of bins in the recreation ground or bags can be taken home and disposed of with the general waste.

Booking the Pavilion/Recreation Ground

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.

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, 15th January 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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