

**ARTICLE FOR MAGAZINE
May 2019**

COUNCILLORS RETIRING

Councillors were sad to hear that Vincent Baker, Anita Jewell-Harrison and Harold Marsh have decided to retire from the Parish Council. We would like to thank all of them for all the hard work they have done and dedication to the parish over the years. Their support will be truly missed, and councillors wish them all the best and good luck for everything in the future.

PUBLIC NOTICE

in accordance with

SECTION 87 of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Following the close of the nomination period for the Local Elections, the number of valid nominations received were less than the number of vacancies to be filled. and the majority of existing parish council members and two new members will be invited to accept the office of parish councillor at our Annual Parish Council meeting on Monday 13th May.

There are still two vacancies to be filled on the Parish Council so if you are interested in helping us to support and protect our village facilities and activities come and join us. We meet once a month, normally on the third Wednesday, in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. If you would like more information please contact Sarah Moore, the Parish Clerk on 822455 for an informal chat or come along to our meeting on 13th May.

ALLOTMENTS

There are still a few plots left on our allotment site. If you are interested in growing your own fruits and vegetables please contact the Parish Clerk on 822455 or email clerk_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk. Our allotments come in a variety of sizes so please don't feel you have to take on a large plot, if you are new to allotment gardening you can have a small ¼ plot.

DOGS

Dog owners please be aware that there are sheep and lambs in the National Trust Park and other land around the village. Please make sure that you keep your dogs on leads wherever there is livestock.

BONFIRES

As the weather is getting warmer, a lot of us are out tidying our gardens and we dispose of the garden waste with a bonfire. Although there is no law against having a bonfire it is only courteous to consider your neighbours. Please check whether your neighbours' windows are open or whether there is washing on the line and, consider what time of day you decide to have your bonfire. Also, please make sure your bonfire is not too big and do not burn rubber or plastics as all of these factors are considered a nuisance and you could be reported.

20MPH SPEED LIMIT

Residents will see that the parish council has paid Somerset County Council to install the 20mph speed limit signs throughout the village. Although the signs have been there for the past few months it may take time for motorists to adjust to this new limit. The Parish Council assumed that the painted road roundels were in with the total cost of the signage but have subsequently found out that if we want them then each roundel will cost the parish £80 and we would have to get approval from the Conservation Officer at SSDC. However, as a goodwill gesture Somerset County Council will paint the roundels on the road at the start of the speed limit area in Yeovil Road and Bishopston.

Also, there have been some concerns from residents over the enforcement of the new limit so the Parish Council have asked the new PCSO to find out whether a mobile police unit can carry out some speed checks.

CRIME & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A couple of sheds have been broken into at the allotments. Fortunately, nothing was stolen but there was some damage.

It is around this time of year and during the summer especially when the weather is warm, we tend to have our windows and doors open. There are some unscrupulous people around so please be vigilant and don't give criminals any opportunity!

There are a variety of telephone scams going around at the moment with opportunists trying to get personal and banking information from you. **DO NOT** give your bank details out over the telephone even if the caller seems genuine. Many institutions such as banks or HMRC will not ask for any bank account details over the telephone! If you are unsure, contact the relevant organisation later in the day to find out whether they have tried to contact you.

We have a new PCSO in the village. His name is Matt Whelan – do please say hello if you see him out and about around the village,

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

Parish Council meetings are held on the third Monday of every month with the exception of August and December. 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 meeting.

As there is the need to have the Annual Parish Council meeting within a certain timescale after the Local Elections on the 2nd May the next meeting will be held a week early on the 13th May 2019 at 7pm in the Village Hall. The Ordinary Parish Council meeting will be held immediately after the Annual Parish Council meeting.

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