

ARTICLE FOR MAGAZINE August 2019

NEW COUNCILLORS

We would like to welcome Janine Kelly and Rob Folkard onto the Parish Council who were both co-opted on at our June meeting. We wish them well and all look forward to working with them.

This is the first time in a number of years that the Parish Council have the full quota of parish councillors!

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Parish Meeting on the 1st July; it was a very informative meeting. We had reports from the W.I., the Village Hall, the Carnival Committee and the Pantomimers. Items that were discussed were:

- The VE Day 75 Celebrations: it was suggested that the village could have a street party in the Borough and it was agreed that a working party needed to be set up to organise the day. It was also suggested that the village organisations needed to be involved with the event.
- Village Tidy Up: It was agreed that the parish council's idea of tidying up the village was an excellent idea especially having sponsored planters throughout the village. It was suggested that a litter pick was carried out and to ask residents to volunteer.
- Questions asked/issues raised: The 20mph speed limit, the proposed pavilion project, various highway issues and waste/recycling.

NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

We are pleased to announce that the Parish Council have a new website. Please take time to have a look; the web address is www.montacuteparishcouncil.com.

What is available on this new website?

- Who your councillors are and what their areas of responsibilities are,
- Parish Council meeting dates, time and location,
- Who to contact,
- Parish Council agenda, minutes, policies and financial information,
- Local government information – district and county councillors,
- Village Directory - useful information, contacts and web links,
- Clubs, Societies and Groups – we need to list our village organisations please contact our Parish Clerk to advertise your club or group. If you have your own website, then a web link can be put in under this section to redirect the viewer to your own website and,
- Planning application tracking

There are some areas still under construction and will be available shortly.

If you wish to advertise an upcoming event and want to source a wider audience, then let us know – just contact the Parish Clerk. If you have a poster or flyer this can be added as well. If any local businesses wish to be listed, please contact us. We will not advertise your business but will give a brief description of what you do and list your contact information/web links.

RECREATION GROUND

Pavilion Project Update

Since our last update, the SSDC Tree Officer raised concerns about siting the new pavilion on the existing footprint of the largest hut in the recreation ground due to the fact that it would be under one of the magnificent Cedar trees and may cause damage to the roots along with the potential problem of the branches dropping. Various possibilities were discussed, and the

Planning Officer suggested moving the pavilion along the hedge line near the car park. Members of the Parish Council met with representatives from the National Trust along with District Councillors, the Planning Officer and the parish council's appointed architect to discuss this change. The National Trust have agreed in principle to this, but it now needs to be agreed at a higher level, so we await to hear their verdict.

The National Trust have agreed to extend the Parish Council's lease on the recreation ground and the Heads of Terms have been signed and submitted.

Play Area

The National Trust has approved the installation of some new play equipment. The Parish Council wish to install a cone climber on the site of the old tyre swing and for toddlers, three small wig wams.

In our original playground plan we also looked at a basket swing. This could be something for the future and would need the National Trust's approval. In the meantime, we are applying to District Council for funding under Section 106 and are hopeful that they will be able to help.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

After many years of campaigning we have a 20mph speed limit through most of the village but there are many of you in the village who think that this is not working and more needs to be done. Also, there are some who think that the new speed limit should have included St. Michaels View and by the allotments. In order for the Parish Council to get anything done we need to provide the necessary data which proves that more intervention is needed.

What can we do? We have been advised by the Police and Somerset County Council that it is essential to have a Community Speedwatch and possibly Speed Indicator Devices. The Parish Council is obtaining quotes for a 'S.I.D.' and we have appealed for assistance from villagers in the last two magazines to come forward to set up the Community Speedwatch again. We are very grateful to the three residents who have come forward but in order to make this a successful team we do need more volunteers than the task does not become too onerous to those who have volunteered, and a rota can be set up.

If you feel passionate about this and are willing to help, please do contact either the Parish Clerk or speak to one of our Councillors.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Parish Council meetings are held on the third Monday of every month in the Village Hall except for 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.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on the 16th September 2019 at 7.15pm.

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