

June 2021

The Parish Council held its Annual Parish Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 where Christine Saint was re-elected as Chairman and Ann Gihon as Vice Chairman. We also co-opted on a new councillor and we warmly welcome Bernard Bevan-Davies onto the council.

### **Chair's Report**

*'I think that I must start this report by saying that this has been the most challenging year for everyone due to the COVID Pandemic but hopefully due to the population gradually receiving their vaccinations we are gradually returning to some form of normality. The Parish Council has met over the last year via Zoom which has not always been easy due to poor connections at times, but we have managed to carry on. The Council has achieved quite a lot in the past year:*

- 1. Three new pieces of play equipment were installed on the recreation ground which was made possible with the help of funding received from SSDC.*
- 2. There has been a lot of work carried out on the allotments due mainly to the commitment of Councillor Gihon and a team of willing helpers. Due to all the allotments being taken this means that any expenses on the allotments are now covered by the rents paid.*
- 3. After much work and discussion, we have now submitted a planning application to SSDC for a new building on the recreation ground which will include a small kitchen and toilets all being accessible to the disabled.*
- 4. The speed of traffic in the village has always been a concern and now that we have achieved a 20-mph speed limit through most of the village we must continue with this and lobby to get it continued along St Michaels View. We have a speed indicator device on order and hope shortly to get a Speedwatch team running again.*
- 5. The magazine committee kindly donated money for planters for the allotments and for either end of the village. The planters were made by Councillor Littlefield and help to enhance the look of the village.*

*We continue to have our lengthsman Darren who comes to the village every fortnight and he always carries out his usual duties of clearing drains etc and any additional task asked of him. I would like to record the councils thanks to Becky Maddison who does a weekly check on the defibrillator. Finally thank you to Sarah Moore our Clerk for her work, to Ann Gihon my Vice Chair for her support, and to all other members of the PC.*

### **Covid-19 Guidelines Update**

From 17 May we can:

- **Indoors** - meet in pubs and restaurants in groups of 6; meet in house or garden (two households or 6 people); stay overnight in each other's houses; cinemas, theatres and community venues fully open for all activities; indoor sport allowed; professional performances allowed subject to 50% capacity; church services can take place (rule of 6 in seating).  
No communal singing allowed yet. Having a window open indoors when you are meeting others is strongly advised.
- **Outdoors** - up to 30 can meet in a group and; entertainment allowed.
- **Events** - weddings and wakes - up to 30; funerals, no limit.

Getting around:

- **Travel** – we can travel to any part of England (group of 6 rule)
- **UK holidays** – unlimited and now allowed in any type of accommodation.
- **International travel** – a limited amount allowed for those countries on the “green list” provided they are accepting UK tourists. Testing is required with evidence of vaccination for many countries – all this will add a substantial cost to your holiday. Amber and red countries **NOT** recommended by scientists or government and will always involve quarantine and greater risk.

- **Masks** – still required in all shops, public places and on transport. The Government is urging us all to take things slowly and responsibly.

#### Step 4:

At present it looks as though final restrictions may be postponed from the 21 June date whilst the Indian variant is being evaluated. For more information go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

#### Free COVID-19 test packs available for all

The UK's successful vaccination programme together with the lockdown and social distancing measures are beginning to show real results. As of 19<sup>th</sup> April, over £36m vaccinations had been given giving a good level of protection. Deaths and infection rates are substantially on a downward trend and providing we all continue to be sensible and follow guidance, it is hoped this trend will continue.

The Government is encouraging all of us to pick up two free lateral flow test packs each week even if we don't have symptoms. Testing on a regular basis (which we can do at home and which gives us the result there and then) will help to identify people who are carrying the virus without symptoms (this can be 1 in 3 of us). By self-isolating if positive, we will help to reduce the spread even more, speeding up the return to normal life. You can pick up the tests for free from local pharmacies.

#### Business grants available

New Government grants are available for non-essential retail and the hospitality, leisure and personal care sector to help businesses whilst they move back to normal working. Please see the District Council website for more information on how to claim: deadline 30<sup>th</sup> June. <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/life-events/coronavirus-support/coronavirus-business-support/>



#### Recycle More

'Recycle More' from Somerset Waste Partnership is coming to South Somerset at the end of June 2021. Look out for your 'Get ready for Recycle More' leaflet coming through your door which will include a 'what goes where?' guide to recycling with the new service and an individual collection day calendar for recycling and rubbish collections for the coming year.

#### What is changing?

The key changes are:

- More materials will be collected weekly from the kerbside in addition to the current recyclable items:
  - plastic pots, tubs and trays
  - food and drink cartons (Tetra Pak etc)
  - small electrical items such as kettles or toasters
  - small household batteries
- Non-recyclable waste will be collected every three weeks instead of two.
- Collection days will change for roughly a third of households.
- A new recycling container – a Bright Blue Bag will be delivered to all homes.

#### When will things change?

These changes will be introduced across South Somerset over the course of around two weeks (depending on where you live) starting on Monday, 28th June. Stickers will also be stuck on boxes to show what items need to go where.

### **What won't change?**

- Garden wastes and clinical waste collections and their collection days will stay the same.
- Assisted collections (when crews help people with their recycling and rubbish) will continue on the new collection days.

Recycle More will work best if everyone makes full use of their weekly recycling collections. Please ensure you have all the containers you need. Everyone can have green and black recycling boxes and food waste bins. You can order new or replacement boxes or bins **FREE** using the My Waste Services menu at [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk).

**Remember: nothing changes until you get your Bright Blue Bag**

### **Solar Power Offer**

Are you interested in green energy and reducing your bills? Do you want to install solar panels, storage batteries or an electric car charging point? Are you confused about feed-in tariffs and break-even points? Or have you already obtained a quote and want to check if you can get a cheaper price from another supplier?

The Solar Streets initiative, run by The Green Group and IDDEA, is installing solar panels in a number of Somerset towns at a discounted price. The initiative is endorsed by SSDC and villages around Ham Hill have joined together to offer this opportunity to residents and businesses. You should always get more than one quote for work, but please consider Solar Streets alongside other providers as a possible solution to your sustainable energy needs. If you would like to know more, please contact Prue Biddle on 881350 or [nortonpcbiddle@outlook.com](mailto:nortonpcbiddle@outlook.com) or visit the Solar Streets website at <https://solarstreets.co.uk/>.

### **Speedwatch**

A big thank you to those residents who attended the Community Speedwatch Team meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. There were a few people who have expressed an interest but were unable to attend the meeting, so another meeting has been arranged for Wednesday, **9<sup>th</sup> June at 7.15pm** in the village hall. We are hoping to have our PCSO and a member of the Mudford CSW in attendance to give people further information.

### **Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour**

**For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: [www.police.uk](http://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**

The Government has not extended the Regulations which allow Councils to hold meetings remotely which means that the Parish Council will now have to hold face-to-face meetings. However, the Parish Council have decided not to hold any meetings until the Government Covid guidelines have been eased further. As at the start of lockdown in March 2020, the Parish Council will once again operate under delegated powers.

*Contact details: Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk*  
*24 High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PS*  
*Email: [clerk\\_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerk_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk)*  
*Telephone: 01935 822455*  
*Website: [www.montacuteparishcouncil.com](http://www.montacuteparishcouncil.com)*



**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 2 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.**

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## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **PARISH OF MONTACUTE**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 87 of the Local Government Act 1972 that two 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 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 by ten electors for the Parish of Montacute, the Parish Council will proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Mrs S Moore  
Parish Clerk

## **Montacute Village Litter Pick**

It all started with a request to the Parish Council to purchase some litter pickers so residents could collect rubbish whilst out walking. However, the Parish Council decided to take this one step further and organise a litter picking event with the possibility of setting up a village group to carry out regular litter picks in the future.

With the date set for the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, all we needed were the tools and the volunteers for the job. So, to help us with our quest, SSDC kindly lent the Parish Council all the litter pickers, rubbish bags and necessary PPE and agreed to collect the rubbish bags afterwards for disposal. Our Parish Councillor, Maxine Wilson, advertised the event on social media and what a wonderful response we had!

We all met at the garage at 10am on the 15<sup>th</sup> wondering whether we would have time to complete the litter pick before the heavens opened. Unfortunately, this was not the case, but everyone persevered and met at the village hall for a well-deserved hot drink at the end of the session.

A huge thank you to everyone who gave up their Saturday morning, it is wonderful to see our community coming together to make our village a lovely place to be.

### **Our Litter Picking Team**



## **ST MARGARET'S HOSPICE EVENTS**

**Glorious Somerset Gardens 2021** – More than a dozen stunning gardens are opening to visitors this summer in aid of our hospice. The campaign will begin from 17th May until the end of July, where we will also be showing off our very own beautiful Yeovil garden to members of the public on 25th July. Our green-fingered supporters have taken lockdown in their stride and have spent months preparing their gardens and ensuring they are Covid secure for the summer. Full details of locations, opening dates and admission prices can be found here: <https://www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/glorious-gardens>. Be sure to show your support and visit the gardens this summer – you will not be disappointed!

**Great Somerset G&T Party** – We are inviting people across Somerset to host their very own Great Somerset G&T Party to support our patients and their families. Whether you are a gin-lover or tee-total you can host a party with friends, families, colleagues or neighbours in the comfort of your garden or host a virtual party to allow more people to attend – but please remember follow the Government guidance at all times and please drink responsibly. And the great thing is, you can hold your party whenever is convenient for you. Visit our website <https://www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/great-gt-party> for more details and to request a **FREE** fundraising pack.