

PARISH COUNCIL

Message from the Chairman

I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts while I've not been well and your understanding if I have not responded as usual.

Christine Saint

Parish Council Meetings

Following Government legislation, formal procedures and guidelines the parish council can now hold 'virtual Council meetings'. Montacute Parish Council will be holding their first meeting since lockdown using the Zoom app platform on Monday 17th August at 7.15pm. The basic package is free to use and can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/>. If you would like to attend our virtual parish council meeting please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk for the ID link by Friday 14th August. If you do not have access to the internet but would still like to listen in on the meeting please telephone the Parish Clerk on 01935 822455 for the telephone conferencing number so that you can dial in.

If you would like to participate in the public session, please email/phone through the subject/question you wish to raise with the council when you asked for the ID link/telephone number.

If you are accessing the meeting via the **internet**:

- Click on the link given to you in the email
- Download the Zoom app, if not already done so
- Test your speakers and microphone on your device (you will be prompted to do this)
- You will then be put in a 'Waiting Room' until you are invited to join.
- Once connected, you must click on the video camera icon at the bottom left hand side of the screen to enable the video. This is so that councillors can see who is attending the meeting.

If you are accessing the meeting by **telephone**:

- Dial the number given to you by the Clerk.
- Once connected you will be prompted to type in the meeting ID plus #, then #, then the password plus #. You will be placed in a 'Waiting Room' until invited to join.

All microphones will be automatically muted from the start of the meeting. If you wish to participate in the public session your microphone will be unmuted when you are invited to speak.

Council meetings will continue in this form until such time as we are informed that public meetings/gatherings may take place in person.

20/00991/OUT - Outline Planning Application on Land Adjacent to Mason Lane

Thank you to everyone who has responded to this application. The parish council are keeping a close eye on this application and is in correspondence with the planning department and district councillors. There is no news of a decision as of yet as the planning department are waiting for a response from English Heritage. We will keep informed of any progress. However, if you would like to read the comments relating to this application go to:

<https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/services/planning/search-for-a-planning-application/> and type in the application number 20/00991/OUT under 'Keywords'.

Play Area

The Government have now announced that outdoor play areas can officially reopen on 4th July. We expect more official advice/guidance on use of play areas and, if and when received, we will let you know. At the moment the official announcement states that "Anyone using playgrounds should take particular care to wash their hands after use and avoid touching their face. Children should be supervised carefully to maintain good hygiene and should not use playgrounds if they have any signs or symptoms of coronavirus.

However with this in mind, and as we are expecting some of the new equipment to be installed around 7th July, the play area will remain **CLOSED** until work has been completed. We are also hoping to get the existing equipment cleaned and re-painted during this time.

Part of the work being undertaken is for the old tyre swing base to be removed and the area laid to grass. The Parish Council will be selling the tile matting, each tile is roughly 1m², to anyone who would like them for stable flooring etc. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Support for our Organisations and Venues

The Parish Council are subscribing to a grant funding information service to not only aid the parish council but all the organisations in the village. We will be proactively working for you to search for funding opportunities for the village throughout the year as part of our community support.

VE Day Celebrations

Even though restrictions have been eased, we are still not in the position to meet in great numbers and hold large public events. However, the VE Day celebrations will not be forgotten but we may need to consider that the event may not take place until next year. A lot of work has already gone into organising the different aspects of the celebration weekend so it will be held when regulations permit.



From Monday 8 June, the following materials will be accepted at all 16 sites:

- **NEW:** Plastic pots, tubs and trays (recycled in UK)
- **NEW:** Small household electrical items (recycled in UK)
- **NEW:** Paint (water-based recycled in UK; other paint landfilled in Somerset)
- **NEW:** Man-made wood - chipboard, MDF, etc (recycled in UK)
- **NEW:** Natural wood - untreated timber, tree trunks, etc. (recycled in UK)
- Rubbish – material you would usually put in your black rubbish bin, excess black bags not taken by kerbside collections (landfilled in Somerset)
- Bulky items, such as furniture and mattresses (landfilled in Somerset)
- Garden waste (composted in Somerset)
- Large household electrical items – white goods, TVs etc (recycled in UK)
- Small household electrical items – irons, toasters etc (recycled in UK)
- Hazardous household chemicals, such as solvents, garden chemicals, paint thinners and antifreeze (treated and disposed of in UK)
- Cooking oil, in disposable containers of up to five litres (recycled in UK)
- Engine oil, in disposable containers of up to five litres (recycled in UK)
- Metals (recycled in UK)

Opening Times

Crewkerne: Monday 9am – 6pm; Saturday & Sunday 9am – 4pm; Tuesday – Friday Closed.

Somerton: Wednesday – Friday 9am – 6pm; Saturday & Sunday 9am – 4pm; Monday & Tuesday Closed

Yeovil: Monday – Friday 9am – 6pm; Saturday & Sunday 9am – 4pm

Access restrictions

The odds and even number plate access system has now come to an end. However, we will continue to highlight the likelihood of long waiting times due to social distancing measures, and the remaining restrictions on access include:

- A maximum of two people per household will be permitted.
- Gloves must be worn while outside your vehicle.
- Strict social distancing must be adhered to.

- Trailers and 3.5 tonne vans only between 4pm and 6pm on weekdays. Vans under 3.5 tonnes at all open times. Permits system in operation.

All the sites will continue on their standard summer opening hours. We will keep you updated ahead of further moves back to business as usual, including the point at which commercial waste can be accepted at sites.

Collection service update

Our recycling, rubbish and clinical waste collections have continued more or less undisrupted throughout the COVID-19 crisis, and all suspended services - including garden waste – resumed last month. Everyone involved has been working hard to get performance back to where it should be, but there are some ongoing issues with collections and collection day information. Although affecting a small proportion of people, we appreciate that this is causing frustration for some. Extra staff are being used to address the problems and we expect performance to be where it should be by the middle of the month. A long-planned transfer to a new contractor took place in the early days of the crisis. The current issues are largely down to challenges around integration of IT systems and reviewing of collection routes, coming on top of the disruption and increased levels of waste that COVID-19 has brought. Many more people than usual have been getting in contact so please bear with us if our response times are longer than they would usually be



Key Contact Numbers:

Somerset Support Helpline - 0300 790 6275. Transport to medical appointments, emotional support, advice, and financial hardship.

SSDC Wellbeing Hub - 01935 462462 between 8am and 4pm seven days a week. Business grants, free food boxes advice and support.

It is so important that all of us continue to obey the social distancing rules and stay alert. It will save lives. Guidelines are changing all the time about what we can and cannot do outside, and so you can find the most up-to-date information at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

Keep looking out for one another. Remember to be kind and we will get through it somehow - together. Keep washing those hands and practicing social distancing!



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.

The Parish Council's day-to-day business will carry on as usual where possible. If you have any issues/questions, please contact the Parish Clerk on the contact details below.

Contact details: Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk
24 High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PS
Email: clerk_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk
Telephone: 01935 822455
Website: www.montacuteparishcouncil.com