

MINUTES OF MONTACUTE PARISH MEETING
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL 2016 AT 7.00PM
IN THE BAPTIST CHAPEL HALL

PM/16/01 **PRESENT:**

Members: Mr V Baker (Chairman), Mrs S Moore (Clerk) and 40 members of the public

PM/16/02 **OPEN SESSION:**

Cllr Baker welcomed residents to the Parish Meeting and asked that any comments and questions be directed through the Chairman.

Cllr Baker read out the written village organisations reports; these were from Montacute Pantomimers, Montacute Carnival Club, Montacute Youth FC, Montacute W.I. and, the Church. (Copies of the reports are attached to the minutes).

A report was given verbally on the Community Speedwatch. It was stated that there is an increase in traffic through the village and many people are unaware of the traffic warning signs near the Milk House and opposite the Kings Arms indicating that the road narrows. The village Community Speed Watch (CSW) representative thinks it would be better to have painted signs on the road by Stax, in the Borough and outside the Kings Arms. The gentleman said that he had been doing Speedwatch since November and would like some more volunteers. He also commented on the 30mph speed limit coming out of Stoke; pedestrians having their arms knocked by passed traffic in South Street because drivers cannot see the edge of the pavement; the S.I.D. data is relayed in the Parish Council minutes; there is no flashing lights by the school to warn drivers and; he thinks that the 30mph limit sign in Yeovil Road is too close to the house on the corner of Woodhouse Lane.

Peter Bland, Chairman of the CSW, introduced himself and stated that he works closely with and is trained by the police. The CSW was started 10 years ago in Ash and since then speeding has reduced considerably in South Somerset. Mr Bland explained that if a vehicle gets caught speeding the driver is issued with a letter, if the offence is repeated then 3 letters in total are issued followed by a visit from the Beat Manager who works with the Speed Enforcement Unit. The three approved Speedwatch areas in the village are the bus stop in St Michaels View, by the entrance to Montacute House in the Borough and by the entrance to the school in Yeovil Road.

Residents commented on the speed of the traffic:

- Middle Street – children need to be watchful when leaving their house as vehicles go on the pavement close to the front door.
- It was asked whether the road markings could be taken further along the road. Cllr Baker said that Somerset County Council will be making suggestions in with the proposed 20mph scheme when it gets to the consultation period.
- It was suggested having large white lines to stop traffic cutting the corners or speed bumps/pinch points. However, it was mentioned that speed bumps would increase the noise level.

- The dropped curb down from the church in Middle Street was dangerous, people have fallen into the road and larger vehicles mount the pavement at this point.
- There were concerns about the A3088 closure in May and July as there will be an increase in traffic through the village with drivers taking a short cut.

The Triangle Trust report was given. The Trust raises money for the local surgery to purchase equipment and have so far purchase 2 x electric scales, 4 x height measurers, 2 x 24hr blood pressure monitors and have approved a further 6, 1 x trolley chair, 1 x digital camera to detect skin conditions and 1 x vaccine fridge. All funded equipment has a Triangle Trust label on it. Events coming up are the Stoke May Fayre and the Christmas Bazaar.

No further reports given Cllr Baker opened the floor for discussion:

- i. Environmental Issues – a suggestion was made to teach future generations on outside issues and to have either on the recreation ground or outside classes for women’s fitness activities.
- ii. Montacute is an attractive village but for the land behind the bus shelter where the knotweed is. Has there been any notification that it has been eradicated and what is happening regarding the amount of rubbish? Cllr Baker said that the parish council were told the knotweed would take a few years and the parish council are in the process of getting a new lidded rubbish bin.
- iii. Parking is a problem during activities/events being held and that the security barrier should have been installed further back so that the car park could be used. Cllr Baker said that there are different views on this matter and it has deterred the travellers from getting into the recreation ground
- iv. The no cycling sign has disappeared from near the entrance to the village hall since the work has been carried out there.
- v. The associate vicar, Annie Gurney, introduced herself and said that there were only 3 clergy for 7 parishes and she will spend as much time as possible in the community and the schools.

Cllr Baker explained that the parish council were trying to get two of the huts on the recreation ground replaced with one building. He said that the National Trust have agreed in principle for the PC to put a pavilion forward of the line of Cedar trees near the car park. However a number of surveys are required to be carried out before any further progress is made. The proposal needs to be carried out as Montacute FC is unable to use the recreation ground as the existing facilities have no showers. This will be a long term project and will not be ready for 2016.

Cllr Baker also stated that the PC is looking into re-vamping the play area. The PC has already purchased some new swings and will be looking to increase the equipment over the coming years.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for organising the meeting.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.30pm