

ARTICLE FOR MAGAZINE March 2022

Local Elections

As you may be aware the Local Town and Parish Council elections will take place on 5th May to coincide with the Somerset Unitary Authority elections. If you are passionate about your community and would like to take an active part in the day-to-day running of your village, please contact our Parish Clerk for a nomination form to become a parish councillor.

A parish councillor is a voluntary position and to qualified to be elected and to be a councillor a person must be a British, Commonwealth, Irish or European Union citizen and on the relevant day (that is, the day of nomination or election) they are 18 or over. In addition, the person must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. they are and will continue to be on the electoral register for the parish, or
2. during the whole of the twelve months before the day of their nomination they have owned or tenanted land or other premises in the parish, or
3. during the whole of the twelve months before the day of their nomination their principal or only place of work has been in the parish, or
4. during the whole of the twelve months before the day of their nomination they have resided in the parish or within 3 miles (4.8 kilometres) of the boundary of the parish.

Except for qualification (1), these qualifications then continue for the full term of office, until the next ordinary elections. Certain people are disqualified from standing, and these include paid officers (including the Clerks) of the council, bankrupts and those subject to recent sentences of imprisonment.

Emergency Plan

Over the past couple months, the Parish Clerk has been compiling an Emergency Plan for the Council. These sets out what potential risks could affect the village and residents such as a pandemic, flooding, loss of power etc. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to help their neighbours especially the vulnerable members of the community, whether it is just a point of contact, carrying out deliveries or providing transport – the possibilities to assist are endless. If this is something that you would be willing to help with, please contact either Christine Saint, Chair of the Council or Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Parish Council invite you to join us for a village tea party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Saturday, 4th June. If you can help on the day or bake a cake, please contact Christine Saint or Ann Gihon. More information to follow in next month's magazine.

Pavilion Project

Unfortunately, there is not much of an update on the progression of the Pavilion project. We have met with the National Trust who are willing to provide a landscaping scheme to comply with the planning Condition. This will be done once the Arboricultural Method Statement has been received. These will then be submitted to SSDC Planning Department before any work can commence. We are still waiting for some of the requotes and once we have these, we can see how much funding we will need to apply for.

Fingerpost

You will see that the fingerpost is in the process of being installed. Concerns have been raised regarding the height of the post and this has been mentioned to Somerset Forge and is in dealt with.

SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE

New Business Support Schemes and Grant Funding Launched Across Somerset – Don't Miss Your Chance to Apply

Businesses across Somerset are now able to access fully funded business support made available through the 'Unlocking Somerset Prosperity' programme. Funding has been awarded through the UK Government's Community Renewal Fund and the programme and activities will drive forward business recovery and growth in Somerset. South Somerset District Council are working in partnership with Somerset County Council, Mendip District Council, Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council to support this scheme. The application window for these grants is limited, so we encourage all business who believe they are eligible to apply as soon as possible. More information, including how to apply, can be found at: www.somerset.gov.uk/business-and-economy/community-renewal-fund-2021-2022/

The Unlocking Somerset Prosperity scheme offers support programmes to benefit businesses across Somerset. An overview is available below:

1. Pre-start, Re-start and Start Up Support Package – available soon

Support is available to individuals that are thinking of starting a business, or have recently started a business, in Somerset and need guidance on the next steps. This programme will provide a combination of flexible digital, direct learning and 1-2-1 advice to help your business to grow.

2. Local Network and Cluster Support – applications now open

Business groups (including Social Enterprises), networks and clusters working in Somerset or those looking to set up new groups can apply for grant funding. The grants are to aid recovery from Covid-19 and support the strengthening or creation of business groups, networks and clusters. The scheme is targeted in particular at those most affected by the economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, for example, younger people and the over-50s. More information and the online application form is available at <https://somersetcc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/sccpublic/>.

3. Business Growth Support Programme – applications now open

Businesses are invited to apply for grants to access specialist and expert business support services that boost the pace and scale of development, transformation, innovation, decarbonisation, and employment growth.

The Business Growth Support Programme aims to provide support for up to 30 businesses with a focus on priority sectors including Clean Growth, Aerospace, Digital and Agri-Tech and their supply chains. Grants will be awarded to businesses to allow them to access specialist and expert business support service providers to meet their own specific needs and have a transformative impact on the business. Further information, including eligibility details and the online application form, can be found <https://somersetcc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/sccpublic/>.

4. High-Growth Business Catalyst Support – applications now open

This support is available to ten business with high growth potential. The scheme builds on the previous Somerset Catalyst programme and provides bespoke support linked to individual 'step change' business issues. The programme will blend 1-2-1 coaching, digital workshops, peer group guidance, business review panels and access to market-leading industry experts. Visit the Somerset Catalyst website to find out more and complete the online application form: <https://somersetcatalyst.co.uk/>

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 in the Village Hall and the next meeting will be on **Monday, 21st March 2021 at 7pm**. 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.

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