

ARTICLE FOR MAGAZINE
July 2022

Unfortunately, we omitted to mention last month three of our councillors who decided not to go through with the nomination process at the Elections in May. We would like to thank Roy Littlefield, Bernard Bevan-Davies and Maxine Wilson for their dedication and hard work whilst on the council; all three were very proactive on the council. Roy, especially for his work on the new pavilion project and carrying out various odd jobs around the village, Bernard for charging the batteries for the SID, and Maxine for keeping everyone up to date on Facebook and for spearheading the Litter Pick sessions.

What a wonderful month of entertainment we've had in the village – it is just what we have needed! Congratulations to the Village Hall Committee for the enjoyable BBQ evening for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and also to the Carnival Committee for a very successful carnival. It was wonderful to see everyone coming together and enjoying themselves.

The Parish Council are still looking for new councillors. We have five vacancies on the parish council and would welcome anyone who is passionate about our community. If you want to help to make a difference and have a say in the way the village is run, then this is for you. The Parish Council supports the whole community, listen to what you have to say and effect change. We are especially looking for a representative from either St Michaels View, Lower Hyde Road, Hyde Road or Station Road.

We meet once a month on the third Monday of the month in the village hall with the exception of August and December. A councillor's role can include developing strategies and plans for the area, helping with problems and ideas, representing the community, working with the village's organisations, decision making and talking to the community about their needs. We make sure a number of services are taken care of in the village such as land maintenance, managing the allotments and open spaces, consulting on planning applications, maintaining the play area, liaising with the village's organisations and giving grants.

If you are over 18 and live in the village or within 3 miles of the village and, want to make sure the village is managed by its residents and not a larger faceless government body then contact the **Parish Clerk** on clerk_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk. If you want to see what we do, please come along to a Parish Council meeting and meet the council.

We mentioned in the May edition of the magazine that the Parish Council were looking at getting a Platinum Jubilee commemorative bench to go in the Borough. We would like to thank the National Trust who gave their permission and full support with this project. The idea was to get the bench in situ for the Queen's Jubilee, but unfortunately the delivery has been delayed due to the amount of interest and the suppliers have given us a delivery lead time of August.

Concerns were raised at last month's Parish Council meeting about speeding vehicles and irresponsible drivers. There has been some damage to several parked cars in Bishopston because vehicles are approaching the entrance to Bishopston way too fast and misjudging how narrow the road becomes. We have been asked to look at some form of traffic calming system, so with this in mind, the Parish Council are forming a Transport Strategy Group to look into this and all aspects of Highway/Transport issues. We would like you, the residents, to be involved in this Group which will be made up of councillors and residents so if this is something that you would be interested in helping with, please contact the Parish Clerk.

On 3 February 2022, the Government announced a package of support to help households with rising energy bills. This included a £150 non-repayable Council Tax Rebate payment for all households that are liable for Council Tax in Bands A-D in England. This payment is not a reduction in your Council Tax bill.

For those people who pay their Council Tax by direct debit, this 'rebate' should have already been paid directly into your bank account. However, for those who have not yet received their payment South Somerset District Council will be in touch shortly. South Somerset District

Council will be sending out letters to householders who don't pay their Council Tax by direct debit inviting them to apply for the £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate online.

It is important to note that government guidance related to this scheme is updated regularly and may change over time. Central Government is proposing that all payments are made by 30 September 2022.

When you receive your letter, it will direct you to an online link where you will be asked to input your Council Tax Reference number, bank details so SSDC can pay you, and your unique access code which is given in the letter. You can be ready to apply as soon as you receive your letter by having your Council Tax reference number ready. This reference number can be found at the top of your Council Tax Bill. If you have received your letter and need support to access the online services, you will find how to get this on the reverse of the letter.

If the Council Tax direct debit is paid by a 3rd Party on the householder's behalf, the householder will need to apply using the same process as for those who do not pay by direct debit.

Please be aware, South Somerset District Council will not charge you for this scheme, so please be vigilant if anybody contacts you asking for bank details or requests a fee to claim this payment on your behalf. The council may ask for your bank details, but this will be as part of an official application process, SSDC will not cold call you.

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 18th July 2022 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 Ordinary Parish Council meeting.

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