

October 2021

Fingerpost

The Parish Council would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to everyone who has donated towards the refurbishment of the fingerpost. We have received £635 so far and have been promised a few more pledges.

Recreation Ground

The National Trust have leased the recreation ground to the Parish Council since 1938 and we have just signed a new 20-year lease which will enable residents to continue using this area for its sports and recreational activities.

As you all know, we had to demolish the three old huts in the grounds as they were beyond economic repair and were becoming a health and safety issue. The Parish Council want to encourage residents to use the recreation ground and have, for quite some time, wanted to build a new pavilion in the grounds to give residents the proper facilities they need. We have been in close consultation with the National Trust and SSDC Planning Department regarding the style, size and position of the pavilion, and also to overcome any issues that may affect the avenue of Cedar trees. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to provide you with an update recently as everything has been on hold during the pandemic. We are still waiting for a planning decision to be made but things are starting to move forward, and we have just agreed to a pre-commencement condition on the planning application regarding landscaping.

Grant to St Catherine's Church

At our September meeting, the Parish Council was pleased to approve a grant of £900 to St Catherine's Church towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

Parish Council Noticeboard

A big Thank You to Roy Littlefield for refurbishing the Parish Council noticeboard. It is looking very smart now with the new pin boarding inside and a coat of varnish.

Parking at the Entrance of Wash Lane/Bishopston

Please could residents in Bishopston be mindful of how they park especially near the entrance to Wash Lane. We know parking is a problem everywhere in the village, but the Parish Council have received some complaints that the visibility is practically non-existent when exiting Wash Lane and we do not want anyone to have an accident. Not only is this road access to the back of some of the houses in Bishopston, but it is also the only access to the village hall and with everything getting back to normal vehicle activity is increasing.

Christmas Tree

We know, you may think it's a bit early to talk about Christmas, but we will soon be ordering the village's Christmas tree and would like you to add a date to your diary. The switch on of the Christmas Tree Lights will be on Friday, 10th December at 6.30pm. Further information will be posted in the magazine nearer the time.

How to Report Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping is an unsightly problem which could cause serious issues to wildlife, farm animals, pedestrians and vehicles. Fly-tipping could be anything from white goods, mattresses, furniture, building materials, or even household rubbish which has been dumped instead of being disposed of properly. If you see or witness any fly-tipping, please report it to the District Council either by phoning 01935 462462 or by reporting on SSDC's website –

<https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/services/environmental-health/nuisances/report-fly-tipping/>

Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline

A single phone number continues to be available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. 0300 790 6275, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm.

Vaccination programme roll-out

Somerset continues to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing over 94.5% of the adult population having had one dose of vaccine and 84.6% having had both doses. Work continues to encourage further take up particularly amongst younger adults and a real focus on ensuring the second vaccine to this group.

Even though Covid cases have risen, all scientific evidence shows that if you have had two vaccination jabs, you are significantly protected against serious illness and death. Please get yourself protected if you can. It's really worth it. For more information go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

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.

Unitary Authority

Following the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset work has now commenced to refine the transition and implementation programme. The four District Councils and Somerset County Council are working closely with MHCLG to implement the decision. A recent request from Government to look at a maximum of circa 85 Councillors on the new Council has also meant that a review of Divisional/Ward boundaries is now being undertaken. In addition, the impact of a May 2022 Unitary election on Town and Parish Councils who are not due to elect until 2023 is also under consideration with the views of these Councils being sought on the options available. It is expected that statutory orders will be laid before Parliament in the late Autumn and a vesting date of the new authority as April 2023.

Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 18th October at 7pm in the village hall.

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