

**MINUTES OF MONTACUTE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON**  
**MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 IN THE BAPTIST CHAPEL HALL**

**16/118/a PRESENT:**

**Members:** Mr V Baker (Chairman), Mrs C Saint (Vice Chairman), Mr D Warry, Mrs J Folkard, Mr M Sampson, and Mr H Marsh

**Others:** Mrs S Moore (Clerk), Mark Keating (Conservative Candidate SCC Elections 2017: Coker Division) and 8 members of the public

**16/118/b APOLOGIES:**

Mrs A Jewell-Harrison, Mrs J Roundell Greene (District Councillor) and Mr M Fysh (County Councillor)

**15/119 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

None declared.

**16/120 RESPONSE TO SPEEDWATCH COMPLAINT:**

A member of the Speedwatch team had sent in a complaint that Cllr Sampson had disrupted the Speedwatch session which resulted in it being cancelled. Cllr Sampson responded by saying at the Parish meeting and the May Parish Council meeting he had arranged to meet the member of the Speedwatch team at St Michaels View to discuss their proposal for a pedestrian crossing. Due to personal reasons this had not taken place so when he recently saw that a Speedwatch session taking place he thought that it would be an ideal opportunity to discuss the matter with him. Cllr Sampson stated that at no time did either member of the Speedwatch team say that he could not speak to them whilst they were conducting Speedwatch and that they had openly discussed the feasibility of the proposal with him. Cllr Sampson said that, as requested, he will not speak to the Speedwatch volunteers again whilst they are conducting Speedwatch and mentioned that the Police aid-memoire however only mentions about not having heated discussions with drivers or passengers and, that the complainant had previously told the Parish Council that he had discussed a crossing with passing adults and children whilst conducting Speedwatch sessions. Cllr Sampson said that he is not aware of what Highway or design expertise the complainant has but he did not consider that he had a negative attitude towards his proposals, only to the effect they would have on this ancient village and the legal requirements of such proposals. Cllr Sampson said that he has many years' experience as a Lead Road Safety and Technical Auditor and was an Advanced Traffic Risk Assessor for Somerset County Council, WS Atkins and Consultants and stated that wherever work is proposed, the first thing to be considered is whether the option is feasible before discussing with, and raising the public's hopes, of any proposal. This is clearly relevant to a pedestrian crossing due to its dimensions (37.4m in length), legal inter-visibility and enforcement requirements, footway widths and driveway surveys etc. Cllr Sampson concluded by saying that should the complainant wish details of the design standards for a crossing or his expertise then he would provide them.

**16/121 ELECTION FOR PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES:**

The Clerk reported that a petition has gone to SSDC for the Parish Council to hold an election for the two vacancies. She said that once she has received the paperwork from SSDC then notices will go up around the village asking interested parties to submit a nomination form to SSDC by 6<sup>th</sup> October. The Clerk said that she would receive notification after that date if there is to be an election. A discussion was held and the question about how much it would cost was raised. The Clerk said that if there is to be an election then the cost would come out of the Parish's precept and would be in the region of £1,000. However, she stated that she would contact the Electoral Office for confirmation on the exact amount.

**16/122 PUBLIC SESSION:**

Cllr Baker mentioned that prior to the public session starting he wanted to mention that a 20mph survey is being sent to all residents. A request has come from SCC to find out whether residents would prefer a 20mph limit or a 20mph zone through the village. The Clerk mentioned that the Parish Council needed to get Cllr Fysh's comments on this as well.

Cllr Baker said that members of the public have three minutes only to raise any matters during the public session only.

The Speedwatch representative responded to Cllr Sampson's response and denied arranging a meeting with him and said that he did not have a discussion with him.

The Speedwatch representative reported that the Chairman of the Community Speedwatch is willing to donate £100 towards Speedwatch signs and a leaflet drop. He also commented on the Highways site meeting and asked whether the Parish Council just accepted the comments made by Highways or were they questioned.

A resident asked if any representatives of the allotment holders committee ever attend parish council meetings. The Clerk said that they attend when they are able to. The resident also mentioned the eco project and said that members of the parish council should go along to the church to discuss green issues. Cllr Baker said that this would be discussed at next month's meeting.

Mr Keating, Chairman of Hazelbury Parish Council and Conservative Candidate for the next SCC elections introduced himself and said that he would be 'standing alongside Marcus Fysh MP' so if the Parish Council had items to report then these should be forwarded to him.

**16/123 PCSO REPORT:**

No report given.

**16/124 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

**16/124/a** Cllr Roundell Greene:

No report given.

**16/124/b** Cllr Fysh:

Mr Keating said that there will be a report at the October meeting and that due to Cllr Fysh's commitments standing apologies will be in place. Mr Keating asked the Clerk to email the 20mph survey to him and also the minutes and agenda.

**16/125 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The Minutes of the July Parish Council meeting were signed and approved.

Proposed: Cllr Saint                      Seconded: Cllr Warry                      Agreed unanimously

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting were signed and approved.

Proposed: Cllr Saint                      Seconded: Cllr Marsh                      Agreed unanimously

**16/126 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

**16/126/a** Sporting Facilities

The Clerk said that she had requested quotes for the drawings/plans for the planning application and that she had only received one response so far. This will be discussed at the October meeting. The Clerk gave a progress report so far. Action Clerk

**16/126/b** Play Area

The Clerk said that she had met with the representative from Caloo who will produce a design for the play area. He has also confirmed that it would be possible for a basketball goal to be situated on the concrete between the huts. The Clerk said that she still needed to arrange meetings with other play area representatives. Cllr Saint mentioned that some time ago the National Trust had agreed to let the Parish Council have some logs for a 'stepping stone trail' and said she would talk to Cllr Jewell-Harrison about this. Action Clerk & Cllr Saint

### **16/126/c 20mph Speed Limit**

This item had been partially discussed under *Minute ref: 16/122 & 16/124/b*.

The Clerk read out the email from SCC regarding the proposal of a 20mph zone. The Clerk said that she and Cllrs Baker, Saint and Sampson had met to discuss the survey. A discussion was held and Cllr Sampson explained the difference between a 20mph limit and a 20mph zone; a limit would require repeater signs approximately 200mm in diameter throughout the village and that here would be around 6 or 7 in each direction which can be placed on existing posts. A zone is self-enforcing with speed calming methods and there would be signs at each end of the zone limit with a variety of calming methods throughout the zone. Each method is explained on the survey.

Cllr Baker said that on the map SCC had previously sent the 20mph limit started at Station Road. However the limit/zone would need to start from the beginning of St Michaels View. A discussion was held and it was agreed to contact Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council as the limit area may need to take into account Stanchester Academy. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Sampson commented that Hollow Lane would need to be taken into account because of the primary school access as well.

Cllr Warry asked how much calming there would be and where would it be placed. The Clerk said that this had not yet been confirmed; the survey was only to gauge opinions.

Mr Keating suggested organising a Saturday meeting so that Cllr Fysh could attend.

*(Mr Keating left the meeting)*

The Clerk said that surveys would be ready for distribution by the 7<sup>th</sup> October and it was agreed that the councillors would deliver them.

Cllr Baker:	Mason Lane, St Michaels View, Station Road and Windmill
Cllr Folkard:	Hyde Road, Lower Hyde Road, Smiths Row and Bishopston
Cllr Sampson:	Middle Street and Wash Lane
Cllr Marsh:	The Borough, South Street and the Old Estate Yard
Cllr Saint:	Park View, Townsend and Pig Lane
Cllr Warry:	Keepers Cottage, Batemore, Yeovil Road and Back Lane

The Clerk said that SCC had given the information regarding the black boxes to a resident but she had not yet received it despite requesting it. Cllr Saint said that this is sending the wrong message to residents.

### **16/126/d Village Hall**

The village hall was discussed at the extraordinary meeting last month.

The Clerk said that she had received a Freedom of Information request from the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee. Cllrs Saint and Sampson commented on the amount of extra work this is for the Clerk and asked the Clerk to keep a timesheet so that the cost to the parish can be calculated.

Cllr Baker commented on how much work the Clerk does and that it is very much appreciated.

### **16/127 HIGHWAYS:**

#### **i. Working Party Site Meeting Report**

The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Baker met with the Assistant Highways Service Manager on 12<sup>th</sup> August and walked around the village looking at all the issues on the report. The Clerk read out the actions that Highways had agreed to do. Unfortunately the amount of work carried out is restricted by budget. The Clerk said that the Parish Council must get support from the police for the 'H' bar markings to be reinstated.

Cllr Warry asked about the fence/gate damage at the bottom of Station Road and the A3088 and the Clerk confirmed that this is Rights of Way and not Highways.

Cllr Marsh mentioned that it is dangerous when vehicles park on the hatch markings on the sharp bend near the post office.

The Clerk mentioned that there is re-lining work being carried out on the A303 so there may be an increase in traffic through the village in the evenings.

Cllr Saint asked what was happening regarding the dropped kerb in Middle Street. The Clerk said that a written report needs to be submitted before Highways will carry out any work. This had been discussed at parish council meetings and residents were in support of this. Cllr Sampson pointed out that the visually impaired could mistake this for a crossing point but will just lead an unsuspecting person into the road.

**16/128 WORKING PARTIES REPORTS:**

**16/128/a Allotments**

Cllr Marsh said that a sign has been erected at the top of Mason Lane warning people not to manoeuvre their vehicles in this area because of the Japanese Knotweed. It was agreed that the plot at the top of the allotment site near the Japanese Knotweed would be laid down to grass.

The Clerk said that she had received some allotment rent in but has now found out that some holders have not received their letters so she will resend them. It was agreed to include in this letter that there will be a meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February in the Baptist Chapel to collect next year's allotment rent.

Cllr Warry asked if the trees/hedge on the link road side could be cut back. The Clerk said that this is Highways remit as the trees on outside of the allotment fence line and the land belongs to SCC.

**16/128/b National Trust**

No report given.

**16/128/c Street Lighting**

No report given.

**16/128/d Speedwatch**

The Clerk gave the results of the recent Speed Indicator Device (S.I.D.) report. The figures collated show how many vehicles were travelling at different speeds in Yeovil Road between 28<sup>th</sup> June and 18<sup>th</sup> July. The results are as follows:

< 30mph	11,456
< 40mph	13,239
< 50mph	1,021
> 50mph	50

Total no vehicles. 25,766

**16/128/e Triangle Trust**

No report given.

**16/128/f Recreation Ground**

The Clerk expressed her concerns about the cost of the grass cutting since the contractors had been taken over. A discussion was held and it was agreed that the grass cutting/groundsman contracts needed to be reviewed and tenders needed to be sent out for next year.

**16/128/g Footpaths**

No report given.

**16/129 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Cllr Baker asked the Clerk to order the Christmas tree. Cllr Saint said a date need to be arranged for the lighting ceremony. It was decided that this would be held on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

**16/130 CLERK'S REPORT:**

- i. Travel Somerset

The Clerk reported that Somerset County Council has recently launched a new traffic and travel website – www.travelsomerst.co.uk which runs alongside the @TravelSomerset Twitter account that provides live updates from the Council's traffic control team. The new website provides updates 24/7, has a searchable map showing current and future roadworks and, also provides information about public transport, cycling and walking.

ii. SSDC: Stand Against Racism and Inequality

South Somerset District Council passed a resolution at their last meeting condemning any form of racism, intolerance, bigotry or xenophobia and they are asking all Parish Council to do the same. It was resolved to support this request with the wording as follows:

“We totally condemn any form of racism, intolerance, bigotry or xenophobia. Hate crimes have no place in our society and we will do all we can to prevent them. The residents of Montacute, whatever their gender, race, creed, age, colour or sexual orientation are treated equally. We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. Our council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.”

Proposed: Cllr Saint      Seconded: Cllr Folkard      agreed unanimously

iii. Friends of Ham Hill

The Clerk has received a request from the Friends of Ham Hill to come along to the next meeting to give a presentation. It was agreed to invite them to the October meeting.

**16/131      FINANCE:**

**16/131/a      Matters for Report**

**16/131/b      Cheques for Signature**

Sarah Moore	Expenses for July & August	£ 56.34	Chq 1402
K M Dike Nurseries	Grass Cutting on Rec June & July	£ 810.00	Chq 1403
Montacute Baptist Chapel	Hire of Hall for July & August	<u>£ 50.00</u>	Chq 1404
	Total	£ 916.34	

Proposed: Cllr Sampson      Seconded: Cllr Folkard      agreed unanimously

The Clerk passed the cheque for Montacute Baptist Chapel to Cllr Saint.

**16/131/c      Matters for Resolution**

The Clerk asked for a resolution to make a donation to the Royal British Legion under the *Local Government Act 1972 s.137*. It was agreed to make a donation of £50.

Proposed: Cllr Sampson      Seconded: Cllr Marsh      agreed unanimously

**16/132      PLANNING:**

**16/132/a      Planning Information:**

**16/132/b      Report on Applications:**

**16/02706/FUL** – barn conversion to residential dwelling – Buildings at St Michaels Nursery, Mason Lane, Montacute – no observations or objections

**16/03386/LBC** – re-roofing of pitched roofs at Nos 1 & 2 The Borough using existing roof coverings and re-roofing of flat roof at No. 1 for extract fan ducted from bathroom – 1 & 2 The Borough, Montacute TA15 6XB – no observations or objections

**16/132/c** Report on Applications Considered

No report given

**16/133** CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk said she had been contacted regarding a running event which will take place on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2017 called the Conquest of Avalon. It is a long distance running event and there are three different routes, all of which finish at Glastonbury Abbey. Two of the routes start on Ham Hill and will go through Montacute. From Ham Hill, the runners will go along the Monarch Way, into the field below St Michaels Hill and then up and over St Michaels Hill, down past Abbey Farm and the church into Bishopston. The route then takes them into Wash Lane and back out into Middle Street. The runners go through the village and eventually turn into Back Lane and into the Trust's park. The route will then take them across the A3088 towards Windmill where it will then go into Tintinhull parish.

The Clerk said that she has advised the organisers to contact the landowners to get their permission and to contact the necessary authorities to get a traffic management system in place and to ensure the safety of the runners. The Clerk commented that the organisers are looking for volunteers to help at various stages. It was agreed to put an article in the magazine.

**16/134** MEMBERS REPORTS:

Cllr Folkard mentioned that the historical 'sheep wash' in Lower Town is falling into disrepair. She said that if there is a heavy rainfall it could possibly collapse. Cllr Baker said that he would have a look at it and would check Land Registry to find out who owns it. It was suggested that funding may have to be sought in order to get it repaired. **Action Cllr Baker**

Cllr Warry asked for an update on the litter bin. The Clerk explained that the order had gone astray and that Broxap had rectified this and it would be delivered shortly.

Cllr Warry asked about some new dog bins. The Clerk said that she would speak to Streetscene to see whether they would agree to have additional bins on their cleaning rota.

Cllr Folkard said that it had been previously agreed that the bonfire event organiser were to send in the risk assessment and insurance paperwork 6-8 weeks prior to the event taking place. This had not been done. It was agreed to chase this matter up.

Cllr Baker said that he would remove the broken Perspex from the bus shelter.

Cllr Baker said that there is a ploughing match at Windmill Farm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September between 10am and 2pm and that entry was free.

**16/135** ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

None declared.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.56pm. The next meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm in the Baptist Chapel