Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Parish Council invite you to join us in the Borough to celebrate the lighting of the Christmas tree on the 8th December 2023 at 6.30pm. This will be followed by a lantern parade and refreshments at the Baptist Chapel.

A raffle will be held with a prize of a wonderful Christmas Hamper. All proceeds from the raffle will go towards the new pavilion.

Join in the fun and enter our competition for the best Christmas lantern. Judging will take place at the Baptist Chapel.

There is another raffle being held in aid of the pavilion, separate from the Christmas Hamper raffle. If you would like the chance to win a teddy bear, the tickets are on sale now at the Post Office.

You will have seen that work on the pavilion has now started on the recreation ground. The groundworks have been completed and the building is due to arrive at the beginning of December. Once this has been installed, the next step is to get the electricity supply connected to the building and then all the internal work can be done.

The extreme bad weather recently has caused a lot of flooding on the roads surrounding the village. We have been asked if signage can be put up warning motorists that these roads may flood. A request has been made to Somerset Council.

You will have seen reports in the news recently about Somerset Council's current financial situation. We have received a letter from Somerset Council asking parishes to take on some of the services. Before the Parish Council sets its budget for the next financial year, we will be formally writing to the CEO of Somerset Council for more information on what is expected

from us and how it will affect individuals/the parish if we do not pay for these services.

REPORT IT! Did you know that you can report issues from missed bins to blocked rights of way, potholes, and even dead animals on the road directly to Somerset Council? Go to https://www.somerset.gov.uk/?s=report, and search for the issue you want to report, or telephone 0300 123 2224.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

If you are witness to any incident, it is important for you to report it <u>directly</u> to the police by telephoning the numbers listed below. Any reports given will be dealt with in confidence and your details will not be divulged. Also, you will receive an incident/crime number. Unfortunately, the Parish Council cannot report incidents to the police on your behalf as it would be considered as hearsay (third-party reporting).

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 are held in the Village Hall on the third Wednesday of every month with the exception of August and December. As there is no meeting in December, the next meeting will be on **Wednesday 17**th **January 2024 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.

Contact details: Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk

24 High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PS

Email: <u>clerk montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk</u>

Telephone: 01935 822455

Website: <u>www.montacuteparishcouncil.com</u>