

ARTICLE FOR MAGAZINE
August 2022

We would like to welcome our new councillors, Terry Harper, Brendan Owen and Jonathan Davies who joined us at our July meeting. It is wonderful that we nearly have a full complement of councillors and there are only 2 vacancies now. If you want to help to make a difference and have a say in the way the village is run, then we want to hear from you and would love for you to join us. 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.

Good News! You may have seen some work going on in the Borough. Our new Platinum Jubilee commemorative bench arrived sooner than what we thought and has now been installed. This beautiful bench is a great edition to the Borough for everyone to enjoy.

We put a request out in last month's magazine for residents to help us with our newly formed Transport Strategy Group and we would like to thank all those who have come forward to help us. We will be looking at all Highway related issues that we have in the village whether it is parking, speeding traffic, accidents, or signage and line marking. This newly formed team has started carrying out research especially on the number of accidents; in Bishopston and St Michaels View alone there have been nine incidents where vehicles have been written off and at least one accident where a van crashed into an oncoming car.

We have a Speedwatch team, but they are a small group of volunteers of only seven who are trying to achieve a Speedwatch session once a week as a minimum. However, more volunteers are needed! Please help! It is not an onerous task, and all volunteers have specialist training by Avon and Somerset Police. All that is need at Speedwatch session is for vehicle speed to be recorded and this is then reported to the Police after each session has been completed.

If you would like to be involved with either the Transport Strategy Group or the Speedwatch team, or both, then please let us know. You can get in touch with any of our councillors or contact our Parish Clerk.

We all know that parking is an issue in the village, and we have to park where we can, but please can we ask that you park considerately and not block dropped kerbs or park on pavements. Also, please do not obstruct pavements with planters or overhanging vegetation. Please can you cut back any vegetation that is causing and obstruction to pedestrians. Remember people who are disabled, have mobility issues, and parents with prams/ pushchairs need the room to manoeuvre on the pavement.

With the recent spell of hot, dry weather everything is tinder dry. We recommend that you do not light any bonfires; please find other ways of disposing of your garden vegetation. If you do light a bonfire, please be mindful of your neighbours and consider what time of day you light your fires, do not leave bonfires unattended and make sure that they are fully extinguished at the end of the day.

The Chairman and Clerk recently visited South Petherton allotments and had a very interesting and useful meeting with members of their Management Committee. We want to see how we can improve our allotment site, and with the information and help given by the South Petherton allotment committee, we are looking at the possibility of forming our own management committee which will hopefully make the site a better place to be.

An inspection of the play area was carried out at the end of June, and as a result of this we will be getting the roundabout and see-saw areas resurfaced and the matting repaired by the slide. We know the children are on school holidays, but we would like to let you know there

may be times when the play area is closed, or access and access to equipment is restricted. Hopefully, this work will be carried out very shortly and with minimum disruption to the facilities.

South Somerset: Get Connected

South Somerset District Council has produced a directory of internet service providers in the area. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, our broadband connections have continued to be a priority in our lives and are incredibly important to our local communities. SSDC want to offer communities and individuals the opportunity to be aware of the different types of broadband providers and how to take advantage of national programmes of support. The Broadband Directory includes information on:

- Providers delivering broadband solutions within the area
- Gigabit Broadband Vouchers – financial support for communities looking to get connected
- Universal Service Obligation - your right to legally request a decent and affordable connection
- Connecting Devon and Somerset – a local partnership to support the delivery of broadband
- Mobile Boost Scheme - financial support to improve your mobile signal coverage

SSDC would appreciate your help on mapping the quality of the connection in our parish. To view the Broadband Directory please go to <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/life-events/my-business/business-support-and-advice/how-can-i-improve-my-broadband>. If you are suffering with poor broadband, please contact us at econdev@southsomerset.gov.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

There is no meeting in August and as of September, Parish Council meetings will be on the third Wednesday of the month. Parish Council meetings are held in the Village Hall and the next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 21st September 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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