

MINUTES OF MONTACUTE PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2017 IN THE BAPTIST CHAPEL HALL

17/017/a PRESENT:

Members: Mr V Baker (Chairman), Mrs C Saint (Vice Chairman), Mrs J Folkard, Mrs A Gihon, Mrs A Jewell-Harrison, Mr H Marsh, Mr M Sampson, Mrs L Seigle and Mr D Warry

Others: Mrs S Moore (Clerk) and 9 members of the public

17/017/b APOLOGIES:

Mrs J Roundell Greene (District Councillor), Mr M Fysh (County Councillor) and the PCSO

17/018 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllr Baker declared an interest in the item on the Bridleway from Windmill to Chilthorne Domer.

17/019 PUBLIC SESSION:

(Cllr Warry entered the meeting)

A resident commented that the recycle collection team were still leaving rubbish on the pavements and roads. It was agreed to inform Cllr Roundell Greene.

It was reported that the landlord of the Kings Arms had agreed to cut back the Berberis hedge during the pruning season.

A resident asked whether the grant of £100 for the Community Speedwatch had been approved. Cllr Baker said that it had and the resident agreed to let the Clerk know who the cheque need to be made payable to.

The resident also enquired when the response regarding the 20mph limit had been received from Somerset County Council and questioned their decisions. The resident also had concerns about the placements of the black boxes and whether they had recorded the information accurately. The resident felt that the parish council had failed to voice the concerns of the community to Somerset County Council and did not provide any feedback.

Cllr Baker said that the decision from Somerset County Council was reported on at the last meeting and the Clerk had written a response outlining many concerns which will be read out later in the meeting under 'Matters Arising from Minutes'.

Cllr Saint commented that it was unfortunate that the parish council do not have a County Councillor at present to assist us in these matters. The resident commented that Cllr Fysh assured everyone that the 20mph would go through. Cllr Baker said that this was incorrect and Cllr Fysh agreed to put the LTP scheme through.

17/020 PCSO REPORT:

No report given.

17/021 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

17/021/a Cllr Roundell Greene:

No report given.

17/021/b Cllr Fysh:

No report given.

17/022 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

An amendment was made to the following minute reference:

Minute ref: 17/009/c – This was change to read 'There was nothing to report.'

The Minutes of the previous meeting were signed and approved.

Proposed: Cllr Jewell-Harrison Seconded: Cllr Folkard 1 abstain; 6 agreed

17/023 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

17/023/a **Sporting Facilities**

The Clerk apologised for not contacting the National Trust with the questions raised by the design architect. Cllr Jewell-Harrison said that the National Trust would not be available until mid-March and Cllr Jewell-Harrison agreed to talk to the National Trust.

Action Cllr Jewell-Harrison

17/023/b **Play Area**

The Clerk apologised but she had not contacted any other playground companies as yet. Cllr Siegle offered to help with this project.

17/023/c **20mph Speed Limit**

The Clerk read out the Parish Council's response to Somerset County Council's rejection of the 20mph speed limit. The response is as follows:

'Further to my email of 16th January, I have been asked to write to you as Montacute Parish Council is extremely disappointed to hear that you will not be recommending a 20 mph speed limit for Montacute Village. The Parish Council would like you to present their observations at the next Board meeting on 3rd February as we feel there are other factors to be taken into consideration that you have not covered in your report.

The proposed 20 mph speed limit is supported by our County Councillor, and Member of Parliament, Marcus Fysh and originally by our previous County Councillor Sam Crabb. I won't detail the slow progress of this issue since 2011 except to comment that we were number 2 on the list for Local Transport Plan Road Safety Scheme and that a grant had been allocated from the Minor Improvements Budget. A proposed plan for the limit was provided by Somerset County Council.

With regard to your Feasibility Technical Note on our request for the 20 limit no mention has been made of the fact that the whole of the village within the requested limit is within a Conservation Area with many listed buildings on both sides of the road. Some of these in Middle Street front directly on the carriageway with no footway or kerb stones between passing vehicles and the properties, the original front doors open onto the carriageway in Middle Street.

Montacute House is a National Trust property and a major tourist attraction in Somerset which attracts many thousands of visitors throughout the year. Many of these use the maps provided by the house to take the opportunity to walk a circular tour around the village using the footways and footpaths and visit the local Museum in South Street or one of the two public houses.

No mention has been made of the popular Junior School located in Yeovil Road (with an exit in Townsend), the pre-school group meeting in South Street or the surveys and petitions signed by most of the villagers in favour of the 20 limit. No mention has been made of the extremely narrow pavements in many places in the village or, the depth of the kerbstones of which the depth of some is non-existent. Combine the narrow pavements and lack of definition from adequate kerbstones this is quite dangerous for pedestrians as vehicles travelling even at 30mph are far too close and going far too fast.

Surely these are issues that need to be considered when making a final decision on this matter and should be included in your report.

We note that you have referred to Traffic Advisory Leaflets 9/99 and 2/93 over 20 mph limits. These are now some 20 years old and are 'Advisory' and not mandatory. Since they were drawn up traffic and residents opinions have changed. There are several 20 mph limits in the area including Ashland's Road Crewkerne, A30 at Crewkerne, A30 West Coker and Haselbury Plucknett that do not comply with the guidelines of the Traffic Advisory leaflets but have their 20 mph speed limits. In view of this we request you reconsider you views.

Under the DfT Circular 01/2006 'Setting Local Speed Limits' section 5.21 states that successful 29 mph limits should generally be self-enforcing. Your speed surveys - Locations 1 and 3 are further in along Bishopston and Yeovil Road and not on the outer edges of the proposed limit. These two survey locations do not reflect actual speeds in these areas and show much lower speeds, similar to those shown in Location 2. You will note that there has been an accident (Accident Location 'C') inside the proposed limit near the entrance to the school.

Also we would like to point out that the use of 85th%ile speed of traffic for provision of speed limits is detailed in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges and is used for major roads rather than villages such as Montacute and the use of the mean speed in these circumstances would be more appropriate.

Please could you pass these observations on for consideration and I look forward to hearing the comments from the Board meeting.'

The councillors thank Cllr Sampson and the Clerk and it was agreed to publish this response in the village magazine.

Action Clerk

17/023/d Village Hall

Cllr Baker reported that he had received a reply from the Charities Commission regarding the village hall. He stated that the committee had made a number of improvements to the hall to which they should be commended but a question has arisen regarding the governance. Cllr Baker said that the hall committee had stated that the Trust Deed had been altered to a constitution and the Charity Commission has said that 'a Declaration of Trust cannot be replaced by a constitution. Changes must be made by Supplemental Deed which will be read alongside the 1966 Trust Declaration'. According to the Trust Declaration an AGM should be held in April and a set of audited accounts must be presented. A set of audited accounts should also be sent to the Parish Council.

Cllr Baker said that the Parish Council have joined the Community Council for Somerset. SSDC have agreed to provide a grant to cover membership and this will be reimbursed in due course.

Proposed: Cllr Seigle

Seconded: Cllr Gihon

Agreed unanimously

It was agreed to send a letter to the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee. **Action Clerk**

17/024 HIGHWAYS:

The Clerk reported that the A356 from Prophets Lane, Stoke sub Hamdon to Scotts Way, Merriott will be closed from 27th February for three weeks due to resurfacing work.

It was reported that the drains at the junction of Hyde Road and Station Road have not yet been repaired and unblocked. This had been first reported on during the site visit with Highways last year and it has again been logged. Highways have said that this would be on their website by 23rd February and should be repaired in April.

Cllr Baker said that he had reported the collapsed drain in South Street.

Cllr Warry mentioned that the road surface in Yeovil Road is breaking up and there is a 4 inch deep hole. This is to be reported. **Action Clerk**

17/025 WORKING PARTIES REPORTS:

17/025/a Allotments

The Clerk said that the rent reminder letters had gone out and that allotment holders are invited to a meeting on Saturday, 25th February at 10.30am where they could pay their rent.

A discussion was held regarding the plans for the allotments. The Clerk said that she and Cllr Sampson had measured some of the plots and Cllr Gihon said that she could get some signage free of charge.

17/025/b National Trust

Councillors gave their comments to Cllr Jewell-Harrison to be forwarded onto the National Trust. Cllr Saint expressed her thanks to the National Trust for tidying up the hedge in Back Lane and asked if the hedge in front of the cottages could be cut back. It was mentioned that the trees in the new orchard have no guards around them.

Cllr Jewell-Harrison reported that the National Trust will soon be laying the hedge in the field behind the recreation ground.

(Cllr Siegle left the meeting)

17/025/c Street Lighting

There was nothing to report.

17/025/d Speedwatch

Business Reserve Account	£ 38,356.40
Sports Project Reserve Account	<u>£ 16,182.63</u>
Total	£ 54,789.03
Outstanding Cheques	£ 25.00
Total as Cash Book	£ 54,764.03

17/028/b Cheques for Signature

Sarah Moore	Expenses for January	£ 71.17	Chq 1424
K M Dike Nurseries	Grass Cutting on Rec January	£ 45.00	Chq 1425
Montacute Baptist Chapel	Hire of Hall for January	£ 25.00	Chq 1426
Ron Marsh	Fuel for Mower (Churchyard)	£ 26.54	Chq 1427
Community Council for Somerset	Membership Fee	<u>£ 40.00</u>	Chq 1428
	Total	£ 207.71	

Proposed: Cllr Sampson Seconded: Cllr Jewell-Harrison agreed unanimously

The Clerk passed the cheque 1426 for Montacute Baptist Chapel to Cllr Jewell-Harrison and cheque 1427 to Cllr Baker

17/028/c Matters for Resolution

i. Finance Committee Minutes

The Clerk apologised for not presenting the Finance Committee minutes at the last meeting and asked for a resolution. The Minutes were signed and approved.

Proposed: Cllr Marsh Seconded: Cllr Jewell-Harrison agreed unanimously

17/029 **PLANNING:**

17/029/a Planning Information:

No report given.

17/029/b Report on Applications:

17/004478/FUL – single storey rear link extension, internal alterations and formation of pitched roof to a flat roofed dormer – The Cottage, Station Road, Montacute TA15 6UL – no objections. Observation – will enhance the property.

17/029/c Report on Applications Considered

16/04711/LBC – reinstatement of front door – The Monks House, Bishopston, Montacute TA15 6UU - granted

16/04863/FUL – single storey extension and internal alterations – 15 Bishopston, Montacute TA15 6UX - granted

17/030 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

i. Grant application from the Friends of Ham Hill

Friends of Ham Hill have applied for a grant for £100 towards CCTV to be installed to cover primary parking areas on Ham Hill. There have been 64 reported crimes since January 2016, predominantly thefts from vehicles but also sexual assaults and drunk driving. The installation of CCTV would cost £3,319.26 and all the parishes that cover Ham Hill have been consulted along with Avon & Somerset Police. A discussion was held and it was agreed to award a grant of £100

Proposed: Cllr Sampson Seconded: Cllr Gihon agreed unanimously

ii. Grant request from Shopmobility

A request for a donation from Yeovil Shopmobility has been received. The Clerk said payment would be allocated under the *Local Government Act 1972 Section 137*. It was agreed to award a donation of £50.

Proposed: Cllr Marsh Seconded: Cllr Folkard agreed unanimously

iii. Community Defibrillator

The Carnival Committee have written stating that they would like to fund the installation of a defibrillator and ask if the Parish Council could decide on a suitable place for it to be situated. It was suggested that it could be installed in the telephone box in the Borough. The Clerk commented that she had been involved in the installation of defibrillator for another village and suggested some suppliers and commented on the process of the installation.

A discussion was held regarding the size of the village and Cllr Saint suggested that the Parish Council fund a second defibrillator. It was agreed to get the first one install and then discuss the possibility of another one at a later date. It was agreed for the Parish Council to take the lead and for the Carnival Committee to fund. The Clerk agreed to write to the Carnival Committee. **Action Clerk**

17/031 MEMBERS REPORTS:

Cllr Seigle asked if anything had been done about the parking in Townsend. The Clerk said that she had contacted the police who have stated that residents should contact 101, the police's non-emergency number, when they come across obstructive parking. It was agreed to put this in the magazine article. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Seigle noted that the National Trust are asking for donations to park in their car park and asked whether they were planning to charge for parking. If this was the case then there would be an impact on the village especially the parking in the Borough.

Cllr Warry asked if the Yeovil Half Marathon route (Montacute section) which is being held on 26th March could be included in the magazine as some of the roads in the village will be closed.

17/032 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

Planning – Section 106 Agreement funding – Developments in Stoke sub Hamdon

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.30pm. The next meeting will be held on 20th March 2017 at 7.00pm in the Baptist Chapel