

**MINUTES OF MONTACUTE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON**  
**MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**19/037/a PRESENT:**

**Members:** Mr V Baker (Chairman), Mrs C Saint (Vice Chairman), Mrs J Folkard, Mrs A Gihon, Mrs K Harper, Mrs M Mansi, Mr H Marsh and Mr D Warry,

**Others:** Mrs S Moore (Clerk), Mrs J Roundell Greene (District Councillor), Mr Tony Capozzoli, Mr Paul Rousell and 3 members of the public

**19/037/b APOLOGIES:**

Mrs A Jewell-Harrison, Mr R Littlefield, and Mr M Keating (County Councillor)

**19/038 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Cllr Baker declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall,

Cllr Gihon declared an interest in matters relating to the Sheep Wash, Triangle Trust and the Village Hall,

Cllr Harper declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall,

Cllr Mansi declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall,

Cllr Saint declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall

**19/039 PUBLIC SESSION:**

Mr Rousell introduced himself as the Liberal candidate in the elections and would be replacing Cllr Roundell Greene.

**19/040 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

**19/040/a Cllr Roundell Greene:**

Cllr Roundell Greene reported on the budget and the economic development strategy. Cllr Roundell Greene said the new website should be improving and residents can sign up for an account. Cllr Roundell Greene reported that SSDC has given an additional £32,000 to the Citizen's Advice Bureau to lessen the effects of the Somerset County Council cuts.

Cllr Saint mentioned that the parking around the new Houndstone development was horrendous; it had originally been agreed for double yellow lines to go the length of the road. Unfortunately, the only double yellow lines were on the corners near the new school. Cllr Mansi said that a cyclist had already been knocked off their bike along that road.

Cllr Marsh was concerned about SSDC's proposal to pedestrianize the road near W H Smiths and the relocation of the disabled parking from outside Marks & Spencer to the car park in Peter Street. Cllr Roundell Greene said the disabled spaces would be an equal distance to the shops

*(Mr Capozzoli entered the meeting)*

Cllr Folkard was concerned about council cuts but said the Western Gazette reported on the properties purchased by SSDC. Cllr Roundell Greene said that the purchase of some properties will help with the Yeovil Regeneration Scheme.

*(Cllr Roundell Greene and Mr Rousell left the meeting)*

Mr Capozzoli mentioned the planning for the pavilion project and suggested councillors go to the Full Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**19/040/b Cllr Keating:**

Cllr Keating's report had been circulated to all councillors.

The Clerk said Cllr Keating had sent through an update on the travellers at the bottom of Station Road. He has asked Highways to remove the fence as it is blocking a public footpath and asked if Cllr Folkard could contact Highways direct. Cllr Folkard said that she had been telephoning Highways but to no avail. It was agreed that the Clerk email Highways with the council's concerns. **Action Clerk**

**19/041 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were signed and approved.

Proposed: Cllr Gihon

Seconded: Cllr Saint

1 abstained; 5 agreed

## **19/042 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

### **19/042/a Review of Actions List**

- Installation of Defibrillator: The Clerk reported that there were problems with the electricity supply to the kiosk and Heartstart were sorting this out and will inform the Clerk once the defibrillator has been installed.
- Extension to Recreation Ground Lease: This item was discussed under *Minute ref: 19/043*
- Removal of Gas Supply to Recreation Ground Huts: This is ongoing **Action Clerk**
- Play Area – apply for community grant: Cllr Saint and Clerk to meet. **Action Cllr Saint & Clerk**
- Completion of s106 application form for pavilion: Cllr Saint and Clerk to meet. **Action Cllr Saint & Clerk**
- Overgrown footpath to A3088, Extend Double Yellow Lines in Middle Street & Mark out Bus Stop: Clerk to contact Highways **Action Clerk**
- Obtain Quotation to dig fence line in allotments: This item is ongoing **Action Clerk**
- Siting of new bin in recreation ground: This item is ongoing **Action Clerk**
- Increase in allotment rent: This item was discussed under *Minute ref: 19/045/a*
- Hedge in Back Lane: The hedge needs cutting back. Clerk to contact N.T. **Action Clerk**

### **19/043 RECREATION GROUND PAVILION PROJECT:**

The Clerk had circulated a report updating councillors.

The Tree Officer at SSDC has raised some concerns on the planning application regarding the trees and the position of the pavilion. The Clerk said she had sought advice from the tree expert who carried out the arboriculturalist report and he is willing to address these issues and upgrade his report so that it can forward it to the planning department. The Clerk said this would cost £50 and asked for a resolution.

A meeting was held with the National Trust to discuss renewing the lease on the recreation ground as the current lease's term ends in September 2020. The National Trust suggested setting up a new lease from September 2020 for 21 years and for the rent to be payable in advance by direct debit. The National Trust indicated that a rent review should have been carried out every 7 years, but this was not carried out. This had now been done and the rent will increase from £200pa to £350pa to bring it in line with R.P.I.

There was a query about the recreation ground boundary and it appears that the parish council have been looking after the outer boundary which is not covered by the lease. The National Trust agreed to look at possibly amending the lease to reflect this.

Councillors raised the SSDC Tree Officer's concerns about the trees with the National Trust and asked for their opinion on possibly moving the pavilion to either the other side of the Pine tree or over by the fence line next to the car park. They stated that if the pavilion is moved near the fence line it would be seen from the Tower and there will be an issue with English Heritage and, if it is move it to the other side of the Pine tree then the parish council would have to resubmit the planning application and possibly pay another planning fee and pay for new plans, surveys etc. The National Trust also said that if the parish council were thinking of moving the pavilion then it would require further consultation within the National Trust, and they are more than happy for us to keep the pavilion where it is.

The question of liability was raised with National Trust should a branch or tree fall down. As the Trust were not who would take the responsibility it was agreed for the Clerk to contact the parish council's insurers for some advice. As a result of this, the insurers said that the parish council have accidental damage/storm damage included in our policy. The Clerk also contacted DAS, free legal advice service with the parish council insurance policy, regarding any liability and DAS said it would be the owner of the trees. However, there should be an indemnity in the terms of the lease regarding any damage caused by the trees.

Cllr Baker voiced his concerns regarding the tree officer's report and that the pavilion should not require any block work. He was also concerned about the position of the proposed pavilion. A

discussion was held, and Cllr Baker asked councillors whether they were happy with the position of the pavilion; 5 – no, 2 – yes and 1 abstained. There was a further heated discussion and Cllr Baker asked if councillors wished for the planning application to go ahead as it was; 7 agreed, 1 disagreed. The Clerk said that she had received the Heads of Term from the National Trust, but it needed clarification on repairs and was ambiguous on boundary responsibility and, there was nothing about whose responsibility the Cedar trees were or whose was responsible for branch clearance. It was agreed for the Clerk to liaise with the National Trust. **Action Clerk**

**19/044 HIGHWAYS:**

Cllr Baker reported there was a pothole in Station Road near the layby. Cllr Saint mentioned there were numerous potholes in Back Lane and the Clerk said the pothole in the middle of the road in South Street had not been filled in. **Action Clerk**

**19/045 WORKING PARTIES REPORTS:**

**19/045/a Allotments**

Cllr Gihon asked if the Clerk could let her know if there were any outstanding rents to be paid and if she could have an updated site map. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Gihon reported that allotment holders were in favour of a rent increase and they suggested the rent should rise to £20 per year for a full plot. Cllr Gihon said that this would not come into effect until March 2020.

Proposed: Cllr Gihon                      Seconded: Cllr Warry                      agreed unanimously

It was agreed to put this information in the village magazine. **Action Clerk**

**19/045/b National Trust**

No report given

**19/045/c Street Lighting**

The street light in Wash Lane was not working. Cllr Folkard agreed to report it. **Action Cllr Folkard**

**19/045/d Triangle Trust**

No report given

**19/045/e Recreation Ground**

Cllr Saint said that she had received a quotation from Playdale for the cone climber, wigwams and surfacing.

	£
Cone Climber	5,261.00
Wigwam - £964 x 3	2,892.00
Rubber Mulch Tiles	2,800.00
Installation & Delivery	3,746.00
Less Discount	<u>(144.60)</u>
Total	14,554.40

A discussion was held, and the Clerk said that two other quotes would be needed. It was also agreed to apply for funding. Cllr Saint and the Clerk arranged to meet to discuss funding.

Cllr Marsh said that it seemed the council were paying a lot for the electric in the hut and suggested getting it cut off and to use a generator. Cllr Baker said this would not be cost effective as it would be very expensive to get the electricity reconnected.

**19/045/f Footpaths**

Cllr Warry said the National Trust still have not put up signs at the entrances to Ladies Walk and the Park to remind dog owners to dispose of dog mess in the appropriate bin.

**19/045/g Other**

Nothing declared

**19/046 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Cllr Baker said he had received a copy of a letter from the church warden to Western Power Distribution regarding the sub-station by the church. The church is concerned about the visual effect

of the sub-station against the background of the church which is also situated in a conservation area. Cllr Baker asked the Clerk to write to Western Power Distribution on behalf of the Parish Council.  
**Action Clerk**

**19/047 CLERK'S REPORT:**

The Clerk said Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council were in the process of putting their grounds maintenance contract out for tender and are looking at a more cost-effective way by possibly creating an umbrella contract which would amalgamate their contract with other local organisations. Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council have asked whether Montacute Parish Council would be interested in coming in under this umbrella. It was agreed that the Clerk would write a formal letter of interest and to ask for more information.

Proposed: Cllr Harper                      Seconded: Cllr Marsh                      agreed unanimously

**19/048 FINANCE:**

**19/048/a Matters to Report**

i. **Monthly Bank Reconciliation**

The Clerk gave the quarterly bank reconciliation as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019:

Current Account	£ 250.00
Business Reserve Account	£40,698.76
Pavilion Reserve Account	<u>£21,209.09</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£62,157.85</b>
Outstanding Cheques	<u>£ 666.99</u>
<b>Total as Cash Book</b>	<b>£61,490.86</b>

ii. **Wessex Water Invoice**

The invoice from Wessex Water has been received for the period 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018 to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 totalling £60.89. This amount was taken out by direct debit around 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

**19/048/b Cheques for Signature**

Sarah Moore	Reimbursements & Expenses February	£ 127.12	<i>Chq 1547</i>
K M Dike Nurseries	Grass Cutting – February	£ 404.50	<i>Chq 1548</i>
Montacute Village Hall	Hire of Hall 8 x Meetings	£ 80.00	<i>Chq 1549</i>
National Trust	Rent – Recreation Ground	£ 100.00	<i>Chq 1550</i>
Somerset County Council	20mph Speed Limit Signing Work	£ 940.59	<i>Chq 1551</i>
SSDC	Provision of Ranger 2018/19	<u>£ 4,083.52</u>	<i>Chq 1552</i>
	Sub Total	£ 5,735.73	

Proposed: Cllr Gihon                      Seconded: Cllr Mansi                      1 disagree; 5 agreed

**19/048/c Other**

None declared

**19/049 PLANNING:**

**19/049/a Planning Information**

No report given.

**19/049/b Parish Planning Working Party Feedback on Applications:**

**19/00539/TCA** – notification of intent to carry out tree surgery works to No. 4 trees within a Conservation Area – The Monks House, Bishopston, Montacute TA15 6UU - no comments are needed from the parish council

**19/00209/HOU**- erection of a double garage – 28 Townsend, Montacute TA15 6XH – application needs to be viewed by the Planning Working Party and observations will be passed onto the Clerk

**19/049/c Planning Decisions and Reports**

- i. Decisions  
No decisions to report on
- ii. Reports  
**18/0408/FUL** – erection of new pavilion – Montacute Recreation Ground, Montacute Road, Montacute – This application is still ongoing. The only concerns raised have been by the tree officer at SSDC.

**19/050 GOVERNANCE:**

A report had been circulated to all councillors.

The Clerk said she had attended a meeting at the SSDC offices on 27<sup>th</sup> February which outlined the procedures for the impending District and Parish Elections on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May. The nomination forms were handed out to those councillors wishing to stand again and the Clerk went through the forms, the timetable of dates and the procedures after the election period.

The Clerk said that as the Annual Parish Council meeting needed to be held within 14 days of the election date she suggested, subject to election results, the next meeting is held a week earlier than usual on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019. This was agreed

**19/051 CORRESPONDENCE:**

A letter has been received expressing an interest in an allotment. This was passed onto Cllr Gihon.

**19/052 MEMBERS' REPORTS:**

Cllr Saint gave her apologies as she would not be able to attend the next meeting.

**19/053 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:**

Resolution on play equipment

**19/054 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.15pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in the Village Hall at 7pm.