

**MINUTES OF MONTACUTE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON**  
**MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 VIA ZOOM APP**



**20/092/a PRESENT:**

**Members:** Mrs C Saint (Chairman), Mrs A Gihon (Vice Chairman), Mr J Davies, Mrs J Folkard, Mr R Folkard, Mr R Littlefield, Mrs M Mansi, Mr D Warry

**Others:** Mrs S Moore (Clerk), Mr Tony Capozzoli (District Councillor), and 1 member of the public

**20/092/b APOLOGIES:**

Mrs M Wilson.

Cllr Saint said Cllr Harper had resigned from the council.

**20/093 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

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

Cllr Littlefield 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

**20/094 PUBLIC SESSION:**

A resident said that as more people are owning electric vehicles could the parish council look into getting public charging points. A discussion was held, and it was agreed to discuss this point later in the meeting.

**20/095 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

**20/095/a Cllr Capozzoli**

Cllr Capozzoli said due to the new information regarding nitrates and phosphates no new planning applications are being validated at present.

Cllr Capozzoli said Somerset County Council should be sorting out the issue of the travellers camping out on highway land at the bottom of Station Road. However, it might not be dealt with due to the pandemic.

**20/095/b Cllr Keating:**

Cllr Keating's report had been circulated to councillors.

**20/096 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Minutes of the previous meeting.

**20/097 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

**20/097/a Review of Actions List**

- Various Highway Issues: These items are still ongoing and only statutory work is being carried out.
- Mobile Phone Mast: The Clerk said she had seen some information on a BT Openreach Cabinet and will contact BT **Action Clerk**
- Parking on the Grass Verge in Yeovil Road: This item is still ongoing. **Action Cllr Wilson**
- Fingerpost in Middle Street: The original post has been stolen and the sourcing of a new post is still ongoing. **Action Clerk**
- Security Gate to Recreation Ground: Cllr Littlefield explained the amendment needed to the gate design and that he should have the new plans in 2-3 weeks **Action Cllr Littlefield**
- Fenced Off Land at the Bottom of the Allotments – the Clerk said she was still trying to find out who own this piece of land. **Action Clerk**
- Hedge along the front of the recreation ground – Only half the hedge has been cut back. The Clerk agreed to find out when the remaining hedge will be done. **Action Clerk**

*(Cllr Capozzoli left the meeting)*

**20/098      SPORTS & LEISURE:**

**20/098/a      Play Area & Recreation Ground:**

Cllr Davies said he had carried out an inspection of the playground and reported on the areas of concern which the parish council need to consider. Cllr Davies asked if the lengthsman could undertake some of the basic preventative actions.

The clerk said she had been approached by Pest Control there that are moles in the recreation ground and has asked if the council wanted to have them cleared. The cost will be a one-off clearance charged at £50 per visit + VAT and it would need up to 3-4 visits to clear or, an annual mole contract is £500.00 + VAT. It was agreed that as the grounds are not being used for sport or anything else at the moment it would not be prudent to spend the money and that the problem could be addressed at a later date. It was decided to raise the matter again at the February meeting

**20/098/b      Recreation Ground Pavilion Project:**

Cllr Littlefield updated the council on the Pavilion project. The Clerk said once the new plans have been received the planning application can be submitted.

**20/098/c      Any Other Issues:**

Nothing reported

**20/099      VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT:**

**20/099/a      Allotments:**

Cllr Gihon said the work on the allotments has had to be postpone due to the lockdown and the pandemic. This will be put on hold until the situation improves.

**20/099/b      Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour:**

No report has been received from the police this month. However, the Clerk said she had been made aware of a scam that is being circulated by email. The email states it is from DPD and that the parcel the recipient is waiting for is being held up due to an incomplete address and it asks you to click on the link. The email also shows a telephone number, but this is for an engineering firm in Wales!

**20/099/c      Footpaths:**

No report.

**20/099/d      Ground Maintenance:**

No report

**20/099/e      Highways & Transport:**

**i. Road Closure:**

The road between Montacute and Tintinhull along Montacute Road will be closed completely on 23<sup>rd</sup> November until 4<sup>th</sup> December. This is to enable BT Openreach to lay 130 metres of duct.

**ii. SID Update:**

The Clerk said photographs of the poles have been submitted to SCC and that she is waiting for a response.

The Clerk said she had received an update on the prices/information for the Evolis SID through a company called ElanCity. The cost for the battery/mobile pack and additional mounting bars would be £1,893.95. It was RESOLVED to purchase the SID once approval had been given from SCC.

**Action Clerk**

**20/099/f      National Trust:**

Cllr J Folkard that the National Trust has dealt with the overhanging trees in Back Lane and, has let the letting agency know about Melbury House in Wash Lane. The National Trust has been carrying out clearance on St Michael hill. A couple of councillors met with the National Trust in Lower Town to view the new Welham Brook project. The Clerk forwarded the National Trust's summary report on the project to councillors.

Cllr J Folkard said the Lead Ranger will be attending the January Parish Council meeting

The Clerk said the amendments raised at the last meeting on the new lease has been forwarded to the council's solicitors.

**20/099/g      Street Lighting:**

Cllr J Folkard said the streetlights in Bishopston, Middle Street, South Street and the Borough were not working. There was a major fault and work needed to be carried out on a sub-station. It is unlikely that the lights will be working before the end of November as it was not classed as an emergency.

It was reported that the light in Station Road was not working. This light is not covered under SCC's streetlighting team and is the responsibility of Yarlinton Housing Association.

**20/099/h      Triangle Trust:**

Cllr Warry said the Triangle Trust will be holding a Zoom meeting. Cllr Warry said that due to the current situation the Trust will not be fundraising until next year. Cllr Warry also reported that the Trust will need a new Treasurer after the AGM.

**20/099/i** Any Other Issues:

A discussion was held on the public charging points for electric vehicles. Possible locations were mentioned but it was realised there could be potential issues such as the majority of the village being in the Conservation Area, the narrowness of the streets and ownership of land. It was suggested possibly asking a commercial organisation to accommodate a charging point. It was agreed to set a working party and carry out a feasibility study and to look into what funding would be available.

**20/100 MEMBERS' & CLERK'S REPORTS**

Cllr Saint said she had received a call from a resident regarding the gap that has appeared in the wall of the empty property in Wash Lane. Unfortunately, this does not come under the Parish Council's remit as the property is leased by the National Trust but has passed on the information to the National Trust.

Cllr Saint said the church is looking for support from the parish council regarding the parking at the front of the church since the traffic enforcement officer was on site, they only now have dispensation for a hearse or wedding car. It was agreed to ask the church to define what type of support they require so it can be discussed at the January parish council meeting. **Action Cllr Saint**

Cllr Saint said highways have given permission to put the planters in front of the village marker stones at either end of the village.

Cllr Saint thanked Cllr Littlefield for representing the parish council by laying the wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

The Clerk said Somerset County Council have set up 'Stepping Up Employment Support' scheme. This is a co-ordinated network of employment and skills support for individuals, employers and businesses seeking support and information in relation to employment, skills, careers and apprenticeships which is being rolled out across Somerset under the Step-Up Somerset brand to boost existing provision in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. This includes a new one-stop-shop website [www.stepupsomerset.org.uk](http://www.stepupsomerset.org.uk) which will provide support for individuals who are job hunting, seeking training in new industries or working to strengthen their skills by providing details of employment and skills services and resources. Those who find themselves at risk of or being made redundant can find a full range of support including help with reskilling, financial assistance and wellbeing information. Those without internet access can seek help by phoning 0300 790 6275.

It was agreed that the Christmas tree will be lit on 12<sup>th</sup> December. It was also agreed to send special thanks to the residents who have helped with put the tree up and supply the electric for the lights.

**20/101 FINANCE:**

**20/101/a** Matters to Report

i. Monthly Bank Reconciliations

The Clerk gave the monthly bank reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020:

Current Account	£ 250.00
Business Reserve Account	£47,941.39
Pavilion Reserve Account	£21,263.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>£69,454.45</b>
Less Outstanding Cheques	£ 992.46
<b>Total as Cash Book</b>	<b>£68,461.99</b>

Ring-Fenced Amounts

Sports Pavilion	£33,678.83
Play Equipment	£ 3,240.00
Allotment New Plot Deposits	£ 200.00
Allotment Gate Key Deposits	£ 350.00
Defibrillator Accessories	£ 186.50
Spring Bulbs	£ 100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£37,755.33</b>

**Budget Working Capital****£30,706.66**ii. Bank Account and Online Banking

The Clerk said she had received notification that the online banking mandate was incorrect, but it did not say what part of the application was incorrect. Cllr Saint agreed to contact NatWest and for the Clerk to send her the account details.

**Action Cllr Saint & Clerk****20/101/b** Cheques for Signature

Sarah Moore	October Expenses	£	159.71	<i>Chq 1648</i>
Evis Ground Maintenance	Grass Cutting – October	£	388.88	<i>Chq 1649</i>
Paull's of Martock	Christmas Tree	£	130.00	<i>Chq 1650</i>
PCC Montacute	Grant for Churchyard Maintenance (LGA 1972 s214(6))	£	<u>900.00</u>	<i>Chq 1651</i>
	Total	£	1,578.59	

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments.

**20/101/c** Other

The Clerk explained the draft budget for 2021/22 and the Finance Working Group's recommendations. It was RESOLVED to approve the budget.

The Clerk said once she had received the Tax Base from SSDC the Finance Working Group will be able to set the precept which will be brought to the January parish council meeting.

**20/102** **PLANNING:****20/102/a** Planning Information

i. Planning Consultations – Parish Council Planning Working Group had concerns about the proposed new planning processes which they thought could do lasting harm to the environment and communities. Planning applications should be allowed to be scrutinised by residents, Parish Councils and Council officials in the area where the building is to take place and it is wrong to remove this democratic right by fast-tracking applications. The White Paper, if adopted, is in danger of repeating the mistakes of the 1960's and 1970's when whole communities were destroyed, and uncharacteristic buildings were built. These types of buildings do not work, and neither will the proposed 'skimping' on planning rules.

ii. 5-Year Land Supply 2020-2025

SSDC's Strategic Planning Team have now completed the assessment for 2020-2025. It does not affect Montacute in any way as there is no available development land within the parish. However, Stoke sub Hamdon is designated a Rural Centre and the HELAA has identified two potential development sites for additional housing totalling 174 dwellings. Details of this can be viewed on the South Somerset District Council website.

**20/102/b** Parish Planning Working Party Feedback on Applications:

No new applications received

**20/102/c** Planning Decisions and Reportsi. Decisions

None to report

ii. Reports

**20/02854/TPO** – application to carry out tree surgery works to no. 1 tree as shown within SSDC (MONT 1) 1994 Tree Preservation Order – 43 Bishopston, Montacute TA15 6UX - Awaiting Decision. The Parish Council are not required to comment on TCA applications

**20/02301/HOU & 20/02302/LBC**– retention of single storey rear extension. Internal and external alterations to dwelling to include replacement of kitchen window and installation of new French door and new window to rear elevation of the dwelling and alterations to rear ground floor toilet cubicle – 23 The Borough, Montacute TA15 6XB – Awaiting decision

**20/00991/OUT** – Outline application with all matters reserved save for access for the residential development of land for up to 30 no. dwellings – Land at Mason Lane, Montacute – Awaiting Decision. No further information has been posted on the SSDC Planning Portal

**20/02559/TCA** – Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery works to no. 1 tree within a Conservation Area – 39 Bishopston, Montacute TA15 6UX - Awaiting Decision. The Parish Council are not required to comment on TCA applications

**20/103 GOVERNANCE:**

Nothing to report

**20/104 CORRESPONDENCE:**

i. Royal British Legion Donation

I have received a thank you letter from Rob Fisher for the donation for the Poppy Appeal.

ii. St Catherine's Church

The Clerk said St Catherine's church has requested that the council consider awarding a grant for 2021-2022 towards the churchyard maintenance. It was RESOLVED to continue to provide a grant of £900 in 2021-22.

**20/105 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:**

February - Pest Control: Moles in recreation ground.

January – Approval of the precept for 2021/22

**20/106 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.43pm. The next parish council meeting will be held remotely via the Zoom app at 7pm on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.