

## PARISH COUNCIL

### Parish Council Meetings

Following Government legislation, formal procedures and guidelines the parish council can now hold 'virtual Council meetings'. Montacute Parish Council will be holding their first meeting since lockdown using the Zoom app platform on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm. The basic package is free to use and can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/>. If you would like to attend our virtual parish council meeting please contact the Parish Clerk at [clerk\\_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerk_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk) for the ID link by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August. If you do not have access to the internet but would still like to listen in on the meeting please telephone the Parish Clerk on 01935 822455 for the telephone conferencing number so that you can dial in.

If you would like to participate in the public session, please email/phone through the subject/question you wish to raise with the council when you asked for the ID link/telephone number.

If you are accessing the meeting via the **internet**:

- Click on the link or copy the link into your browser given to you in the email
- Download the Zoom app, if not already done so
- Test your speakers and microphone on your device (you will be prompted to do this)
- You will then be put in a 'Waiting Room' until you are invited to join.
- Once connected, you must click on the video camera icon at the bottom left hand side of the screen to enable the video. This is so that councillors can see who is attending the meeting.

If you are accessing the meeting by **telephone**:

- Dial the number given to you by the Clerk.
- Once connected you will be prompted to type in the meeting ID plus #, then #, then the password plus #. You will be placed in a 'Waiting Room' until invited to join.

All microphones will be automatically muted from the start of the meeting. If you wish to participate in the public session your microphone will be unmuted when you are invited to speak.

Council meetings will continue in this form until such time as we are informed that public meetings/gatherings may take place in person.

### **20/00991/OUT - Outline Planning Application on Land Adjacent to Mason Lane**

The National Trust and English Heritage have now lodged objections and observations on the grounds that the site location is not appropriate for safe access as it would spoil the landscape close to heritage assets, and would have a major impact on both villages. If you would like to read the comments relating to this application go to:

<https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/services/planning/search-for-a-planning-application/> and type in the application number 20/00991/OUT under 'Keywords'.

### **Parish Council Chairman's New Email Address**

The Chairman of the Parish Council has a new email address. You can now contact Christine on [Chairpersonmpc@outlook.com](mailto:Chairpersonmpc@outlook.com)

### **Play Area**

Despite the article in last month's magazine explaining why the play area was remaining closed some residents have taken it upon themselves to flout the decision of the parish council and break into the play area. This is totally unacceptable and should anything untoward happen you or your children then you are not covered under our public liability insurance.

There was good reason why we had not opened the play area:

1. New equipment was being installed and,
2. Existing equipment was being deep cleaned and if necessary repainted

Only one piece of play equipment has been installed so far and we are waiting for a further two pieces to be installed. Also, the area where the old tyre swing used to be needs to be reseeded. Dependent

on when the manufacturers can deliver the new equipment, we expect the remaining work to be carried out on 24<sup>th</sup> August.

The repainting of the existing equipment has nearly been completed and this should hopefully be finished off on 4<sup>th</sup> August. The parish council will then consider opening the play area on 7<sup>th</sup> August. However, the play area will need to be closed again towards the end of August when the remaining equipment is installed.

**Parents** – When the play area reopens, please remember the 2-metre social distancing rules and to bring sanitisers! Children should be supervised carefully to maintain good hygiene and should not use play area if they have any signs or symptoms of coronavirus. There will be posters up in the play area advising on the maximum number of children allowed on equipment to keep the 2-metre rule.

### **New Pavilion**

After some delays due to the lockdown, the parish council have now received all the new plans for the pavilion and the quotes on how we will get the utilities into the building without causing too much disruption to the recreation ground. These plans and specifications have now been sent off to the National Trust for their approval prior to us submitting a planning application.

### **VE 75 Day/VJ 75 Day Celebrations**

We have been asked if we could move the village VE 75 Day celebrations to VJ day (Victory in Japan) which is on 15<sup>th</sup> August. Unfortunately, as mentioned in last month's magazine we are still not in the position to meet in great numbers and hold large public events. However, please feel free to celebrate individually as we did on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

These poignant celebrations will not be forgotten but it is likely that we will not be able to hold large gatherings until next year. As already said, a lot of work has already gone into organising the different aspects of the celebration weekend so it will be held when regulations permit.

### **Community Speedwatch**

Unfortunately, we have received news that George Stephens has had to step down as Montacute's CSW Co-ordinator for personal reasons. The parish council would like to thank George for all his hard work in trying to get the Community Speedwatch back up and running.

Despite the parish council successfully getting a 20mph speed limit through the village, we still experience speeding traffic through the village and the parish council, along with many residents would like our village to be much safer. Therefore, we do need to continue collating speed data and the Community Speed Watch is one of the ways we can do this so if anyone is willing to take over as the village's CSW Co-ordinator or just join the team please contact either the parish clerk or chairman.

### **Bob Alderman**

It was sad to hear that Bob Alderman passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> July. Bob was on the parish council many years ago and members would like to pass on their condolences to his family. His funeral was at the end of July and as Bob always supported The Railway Children Charity the family have asked that any donations you would like to make be sent to the charity. <https://railwaychildren.org.in/>

### **South Somerset District Council join up with conservationists to save the rare Shrill Carder Bee**

The team at Ham Hill Country Park have begun habitat management on the site to encourage rare Shrill Carder bees to recolonise from an existing site nearby. This will be centred around the hay meadows in the flat fields of the park and will include leaving areas of dense tussock grass for the bees to nest and hibernate. The potential site will be Shrouds Meadow. You can find out more about the Shrill Carder bee at

<https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/BBCT037-Shrill-Carder-bee-Leaflet-02.17.pdf>



*The Shrill carder bee,  
Bombus sylvarum*

## **Somerset Wildlife Trust**

Somerset Wildlife Trust have published a new report, "Reversing the Decline of Insects" which showcases some great examples of how we can all take action for insects. Insect populations are in serious decline with 41% of insect species facing extinction in England. Somerset Wildlife Trust are encouraging us all to help insect populations recover by making small changes to our green spaces. To view the new report and see how you can help, go to:

<https://www.somersetwildlife.org/what-we-do/restore-somerset-nature/campaign-nature/action-insects>

## **Key Contact Numbers:**

**Somerset Support Helpline - 0300 790 6275.** Transport to medical appointments, emotional support, advice, and financial hardship.

**SSDC Wellbeing Hub - 01935 462462** between 8am and 4pm seven days a week. Business grants, free food boxes advice and support.

## **Who Can I Meet and Where?**

We have been asked to clarify the current rules on meeting each other.

- Indoors, it is currently up to two households only – whether it is in our house or garden. That applies too to sitting together in a pub or restaurant. No groups of more than 30 people in total can meet in private homes – and no parties! Public venues are restricted as to the number of people then can have so as to allow social distancing.
- Outdoors, it is currently a group of not more than six people from different households, unless you are one family gathering with a maximum of 30 people.
- And always 'social distance' wherever you can.

It is a now compulsory to wear masks in enclosed public spaces. This includes all public transport, shops, supermarkets, while ordering takeaways, shopping centres, banks, building societies and post offices. You must wear a face covering before entering any shop and must keep it on until you leave. Failure to do this could incur a fine of up to £100.

It is critical that you follow all of these guidelines to keep both yourself and others safe. The virus is airborne. Guidelines are changing all the time about what we can and cannot do, and so you can find the most up-to-date information at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

Keep looking out for one another. Remember to be kind and we will get through it somehow - together. Keep washing those hands and practicing social distancing! Stay Safe.



## **Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour**

**For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: [www.police.uk](http://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.**

The Parish Council's day-to-day business will carry on as usual where possible. If you have any issues/questions, please contact the Parish Clerk on the contact details below.

Contact details: Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk

24 High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PS

Email: [clerk\\_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerk_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk)

Telephone: 01935 822455

Website: [www.montacuteparishcouncil.com](http://www.montacuteparishcouncil.com)