

Recreation Ground and Pavilion Update

Members of the Parish Council recently met with the National Trust to show them around the new pavilion and to discuss the proposed additional improvement work that still needs to be carried out at the recreation ground. This proposed work is to enlarge the car park and provide better fencing/hedging around the car park so that the area is more accessible for those using the facilities. We are also hoping to put a path in from the car park to the pavilion, and to make a small, enclosed area for young children off to the side of the pavilion.

We also discussed the benefits of having improved facilities and its usage, to which the National Trust found favourable. Out of this discussion, it was agreed that the lease would need to be amended so that it could be used out of daylight hours. The National Trust have provisionally agreed to this subject to the approval from their legal team, and in the meantime, they have agreed for the Parish Council to use it up until 10pm.

Parish Council members also asked whether the grounds could once again be used for a bonfire night display. Unfortunately, due to environmental issues, and that the area around the recreation ground is home to thirteen of the country's fifteen species of bats, the National Trust have declined this request.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Bridge Club for their kind donation of £50 towards the pavilion.

If you would like to book the pavilion and grounds for an event, party or classes, please go to the parish council website www.montacuteparishcouncil.com. You can check the availability on the calendar in the 'How to Book' section under Pavilion and Grounds. The terms and conditions, tariff and online booking form can also be found here.

Highways

The Parish Council arranged a site meeting at the end of October with Highways to discuss the various issues throughout the village. Hopefully, we will be able to get some

of them resolved and we can update you in the next issue of the magazine.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2023/24

It was reported at our last Parish Council meeting that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2023/24 had now been completed and the report from the auditors was as follows:

'On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.'

The Chair, Christine Saint, expressed her thanks to the Clerk.

Christmas Tree Lighting Event

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting event will be held on 6th December, at 6.30pm in the Borough followed by a lantern parade and refreshments at the Baptist Chapel. Come and join us for some festive fun and don't forget to enter our competition for the 'Best Dressed Nativity Costume'.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

If you are witness to any incident, it is important for you to report it directly to the police by telephoning the numbers listed below. Any reports given will be dealt with in confidence and your details will not be divulged. Also, you will receive an incident/crime number. Unfortunately, the Parish Council cannot report incidents to the police on your behalf as it would be considered as hearsay (third-party reporting).

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 are held in the **Pavilion** on the third Wednesday of every month with the exception of August and December. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 20th November 2024 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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