

August 2021

Last month we reported that we had two new councillors. Unfortunately, due to personal reasons Lindsey Lee is unable to join us so we still have one vacancy on the council. If anyone is interested in helping us support and protect our village community and facilities, please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

Covid-19 Guidelines Update

We now have moved into Step 4 as of 19th July, and many of the restrictions have been lifted. It is no longer mandatory to wear masks or socially distance, but Covid-19 has not gone away, and it is still important to be cautious. Many employers, shops, venues, health care facilities and transport companies are asking people to consider wearing masks and asking people to follow the Government's advice. This WILL reduce risk. Please continue to support our village businesses and venues by choosing to wear your mask when you visit – it shows we respect and care for each other.

Even though Covid cases have risen, all scientific evidence shows that if you have had two vaccination jabs, you are significantly protected against serious illness and death. Please get yourself protected if you can. It's really worth it. For more information go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>



Recycle More

Due to staff shortages throughout the whole county, Somerset Waste Partnership are crying out for drivers to join their Waste and Recycling teams. If you have experienced a delay with your roadside collections, please be patient, the disruption to collections is temporary. If you have not received your new 'Blue' bag yet or you need new or replacement boxes or bins you can order these for **FREE** using the My Waste Services menu at www.somersetwaste.gov.uk. If you do not have access to internet services, please telephone South Somerset District Council on 01935 462462 and they direct you to the relevant department.

News from Avon & Somerset Police

There has been a spate of thefts of catalytic converters from neighbouring villages. Please be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the police.

Dementia Safeguarding Scheme

The Wincanton Neighbourhood Team are introducing the 'Police Dementia Safeguarding Scheme'. The Dementia Safeguarding Scheme (Herbert Protocol) is a national scheme encouraging carers, family and friends to provide useful information which can be used in the event of a vulnerable person going missing. As part of the Scheme, you can request a wearable wristband for the individual which stores electronic information about the wearer, such as their name and next of kin. The wristband will be scanned by emergency services if the individual is found wandering. Wristbands are only available for those with dementia and not any other type of medical condition. If you know someone that would benefit from this scheme go to - <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/apply/dementia-safeguarding-scheme-herbert-protocol> to register them.

Staycations

If you are going on holiday, we have some simple tips to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

- Don't advertise the fact that you are leaving your house empty on Facebook or other social media.
- Ask a neighbour to park a car on your drive.
- Put your lights on timers. We have timer switches available, if you wish to have one, please contact SomEastNPTSomertonan@avonandsomerset.police.uk
- Ask a neighbour to collect your post if it visible from the roadside.

Text Scams

We have previously given advice about text scams, if you receive a text with a link requesting payment and you think it is suspicious, please forward the message to Ofcom on 7726, an automatic message will be returned requesting the number used to send the scan message. You will then need to copy and paste this number and reply to the message from Ofcom.

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.

New Unitary Authority Update

The Secretary of State for Local Government announced that the proposal for a single unitary authority, One Somerset, has been chosen as the future structure for local government in the county. These means that the County Council and the four district councils will be abolished, and a single authority will be created and be put in place for the whole of the county by 2023. This has not been met favourably by some, especially as a government-run consultation and a local poll was held in which more than 111,000 people voted, with 65% preferring the Stronger Somerset proposal.

It is a shame that the Secretary of State has chosen to ignore the will of the people and there is great concern how this decision will affect the services to our local areas and how or even whether our voice will be heard on getting vital work done within our rural parishes. If you feel that the interests of Somerset's residents have not been properly represented, please write to your local MP, Marcus Fysh, as there is still a chance for Parliament to rethink this decision.

Speed Indicator Device and Speedwatch

We are pleased to say that our Speed Indicator Device has finally arrived. Somerset County Council's Traffic Management team have given us permission to put the device up in two areas of the village: just outside the allotments in Montacute Road and in Yeovil Road. The device can go up in these areas for 10 days at a time; we will be able to log traffic speeds and the device will hopefully act as a deterrent for those wishing to speed.

More good news! We now also have a Community Speedwatch Team, headed up by Martin Myram. The team consists of ten volunteers, six of which are already trained and ready to go. We are just waiting for the equipment to arrive.

A huge thank you to Martin and all the team for supporting our community. What fantastic village we have!

Parish Council Meetings

There is no Parish Council meeting in August and the next meeting will be held on Monday, 20th September at 7pm in the village hall.

Contact details: Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk
24 High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PS

Email: clerk_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone: 01935 822455

Website: www.montacuteparishcouncil.com



Would you be interest in joining the Parish Council and helping us to support and protect our village facilities and activities?

We meet once on the third Monday evening monthly. We have 1 vacancy at present. If you would like to know more about it all, please contact Sarah Moore, our Parish Clerk on 822455 for an informal chat.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PARISH OF MONTACUTE

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 87 of the Local Government Act 1972 that one vacancy has occurred on the Montacute Parish Council. Unless a request for an election to be held is submitted in writing to the Proper Officer of the South Somerset District Council, at the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2HT by no later than 31st August 2021 by ten electors for the Parish of Montacute, the Parish Council will proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Mrs S Moore
Parish Clerk

23rd July 2021

FINGERPOST



Last year our wonderful heritage fingerpost was knocked over. We managed to save the fingers and the mounting from the top of the post but unfortunately the post was stolen. The Parish Council asked Somerset County Council Highways to reinstate the fingerpost but sadly they were unable to fund the reinstatement for this type of post as it is not a statutory requirement. Therefore, we decided to do it ourselves.

This Parish Council led project has been kindly assisted by David Fox who offered to source someone to supply a new post and repair the fingers to which we are truly grateful. The cost of the project is going to be £1,910 excluding VAT and David has asked residents via the Montacute Village Facebook page whether they would be willing to donate towards the reinstatement of the fingerpost and the response has been fantastic. What a wonderful community we have!

If you do not use Facebook and would like to make a donation, there are three ways you can donate. This can be by cash, cheque or BACS. If you prefer to pay by cash or cheque then you can send/deliver them to either the Sarah Moore, the Parish Clerk, or to David Fox stating that the money is for the fingerpost. Please make cheques payable to Montacute

Parish Council and do not put cash in the post. If you include your name and address with your donation, the Parish Clerk will send you a receipt. If you prefer to pay by BACS, then please contact the Parish Clerk by emailing **clerk_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk** or telephone **01935 822455** for the Parish Council's account details.

LET'S BRING OUR VILLAGE BACK TOGETHER WITH A PICNIC



The Parish Council supported by the Carnival Committee

invite you to join them

on

Saturday, 11th September at 3pm

at the **Recreation Ground**

for a 'Bring Your Own Picnic' with fun and games for the children.

And who knows a race or two for Mum and Dad!

LOOK OUT FOR POSTERS AND ON THE MONTACUTE FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
FURTHER DETAILS