

MINUTES OF MONTACUTE PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2016 IN THE BAPTIST CHAPEL HALL

16/136/a PRESENT:

Members: Mr V Baker (Chairman), Mrs C Saint (Vice Chairman), Mr D Warry, Mrs J Folkard, Mr M Sampson, and Mr H Marsh

Others: Mrs S Moore (Clerk), Mrs J Roundell Greene (District Councillor), Mark Keating (Conservative Candidate SCC Elections 2017: Coker Division), Mick Wooden (Friends of Ham Hill), the PCSO and 4 members of the public

16/136/b APOLOGIES:

Mrs A Jewell-Harrison, and Mr M Fysh (County Councillor)

15/137 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None declared.

16/138 VACANCIES – NON-CONTESTED ELECTION RESULTS:

The Clerk read out the notice for the Non-Contested Election results. Mrs Elizabeth Ann Gihon and Mrs Louise Siegle joined the Parish Council. The Clerk asked both new members to sign the Declaration of Acceptance and gave them a new councillor pack. The Clerk also asked both new members to complete their Register of Interests.

Cllr Baker welcomed Cllrs Gihon and Siegle to the council.

16/139 COMPLAINT:

A letter had been received complaining about Cllr Baker's remark to a resident at the previous meeting. Cllr Baker apologised for using the term 'sit down and shut up' and said that it was inappropriate. However, as Cllr Sampson had responded as requested to the Speedwatch Co-Ordinator's complaint Cllr Baker did not think it was appropriate for the Speedwatch Co-Ordinator to then start arguing with members of the council.

Cllr Baker pointed out that the public session is there to offer the public a chance to raise salient points for discussion not to argue with individual councillors.

Cllr Baker said that the work carried out by Speedwatch is much appreciated by the Parish Council

16/140 PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr Mick Wooden of The Friends of Ham Hill gave a presentation on the group and Ham Hill. The presentation included what Ham Hill has to offer such as events, recreation facilities, the education centre, the diversity of the nature reserve and the Ham Hill management plan; how The Friends of Ham Hill support the country park through fundraising, marshalling and supporting events and assisting with the conservation work; the current projects such as the Witcombe Valley Stream project, the Lime Kiln restoration, the round house, the geology trail and the nature walks and talks. The group is looking for greater community involvement, help with fundraising, and to get Ham Hill and events more widely promoted as a valuable local resource. Mr Wooden explained that a large proportion of Ham Hill is in Montacute parish such as Witcombe stream and the three meadows.

Cllr Saint asked if there were any plans to repair the water fountain at the entrance to Ham Hill near the Prince of Wales pub. Mr Wooden said that it had been discussed but was not a priority

It was agreed to put an article in the magazine to promote the group and to ask for volunteers.

Action Clerk

A resident mentioned that there were two elder bushes growing over the wall from the orchard in Yeovil Road obstructing the public footpath. This will be reported to the National Trust.

16/141 PCSO REPORT:

The PCSO reported that the 'clowns' had filtered in from Yeovil and some had been arrested in Martock and Norton. The PCSO explained that individuals were dressing up as frightening clowns and scaring the unsuspecting public with aggressive behaviour and chasing them especially during the evenings. This 'fad' started in the USA and had gone viral over social media sites and was now becoming a nuisance in Great Britain. The PCSO said that all those arrested had been charged with public order offences.

16/142 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

16/142/a Cllr Roundell Greene:

Cllr Roundell Greene gave her report. This covered:

- Housing and Homelessness: as part of SSDC's Income generation programme and to assist with enabling us to discharge our statutory Homelessness responsibilities, they are building up a stock of homes that are either owned by the Council or leased to the Council which are under their direct control. Across the country, homelessness is rising sharply and the impact of the spare room subsidy, restricted new build programme, capping of Housing Allowance, capping of Welfare Benefits, the rise in private sector rents and the introduction of Universal Credit are all factors. However, in South Somerset there have been no families in Bed & Breakfast, beyond a few days emergency accommodation, in the past 2½ years and there is little street homelessness. Also the Housing Needs register is at its lowest level in a decade, with 2000 on the register and just 267 in the highest priority of need.
- The Precept Capping Consultation: The Government has been consulting on whether or not Town and Parish Councils should have their annual precept capped in the same way as District and County Councils. The consultation has recommended that smaller Parish Councils should not be capped.
- Westland Leisure Complex: Cllr Roundell Greene explained the changes that were being made to the facility and commented that this is a 'flagship' project for the community.
- Health & Wellbeing: SSDC is working closely with all the key Health partners in working further out into our communities so that there is greater ownership of all aspects affecting the health and wellbeing of us within the communities where we live. Health walks and exercise activity are being encouraged for every age group and now there is going to be a new focus on Loneliness and community support for those discharged from hospital.
- Syrian Refugees: A further 6 families (we have 2 at present) will be allocated to South Somerset in the coming months. The feedback from the families already here has been very positive and this will assist in settling and integrating the new families. Also the district is likely to be allocated some unaccompanied young people which mean a more intensive analysis by Social Services in order to get the integration right.
- GKN Aerospace: SSDC are working with GKN to minimise the impact of redundancies following the announcement of the possible closure of the company and give support to all the companies who are in GKN's supply chain. The full impact of this announcement is much more than just GKN, Yeovil and South Somerset, it is about the need for the UK to be very clear about its future ability to be at the leading edge of innovation, design and manufacture of military helicopters that has been the lifeblood of Yeovil for more than 70 years. In seeking to protect the heart of our community, SSDC will be urging Government to undertake an early review of the future capability this country will need.
- Drain Clearance: Cllr Roundell Greene said that SSDC are offering an additional service to the County Council's routine maintenance programme. If the Parish Council identifies any drains that need more attention SSDC can make available the use of its high capacity gully sucker. The cost to the parish would be £12 per pot.

This service can only empty the pot of silt and grit, it cannot deal with any jetter requirements should the connecting pipework be blocked.

The Clerk asked Cllr Roundell Greene to thank the team at Yeovil Recycling Centre for their efficiency and helpfulness.

Cllr Saint said that the large black bins were not being put back properly after the waste had been collected.

Cllr Warry asked if the dog warden could put up some signs regarding clearing up dog waste. Cllr Roundell Greene said that the community needed to report incidents to the dog warden. It was agreed to put an article in the magazine. Action Clerk

16/142/b Cllr Fysh:

No report given.

16/143 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were signed and approved.

Proposed: Cllr Saint Seconded: Cllr Folkard 4 agreed; 2 abstained

16/144 **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

16/144/a Sporting Facilities

The Clerk said that she had received two quotes out of the three for detailed plans and drawings that were needed for the submission of a planning application. These were from Brian Lee, £500; Alan Young Associates, £1,200 and; Gary Smith, no quote.

A discussion was held. Cllr Warry questioned the amount of information included with the drawings and the Clerk explained that the plans and drawings would be up to the standard required for a planning application. Cllr Saint proposed to accept the quotation from Brian Lee.

Proposed: Cllr Saint Seconded: Cllr Sampson Agreed unanimously

16/144/b Play Area

The Clerk said that she had received the plans and quotation from Caloo but she still had to obtain quotations from other companies. The Clerk went through the design and the total cost but emphasised that not all the work had to be carried out at once. Cllr Baker asked if discussions on the play area could be left until the end of the meeting.

16/144/c 20mph Speed Limit

Cllr Baker said that the surveys had been sent out to all residents and that the boxes would be collected from the garage and post office on Saturday 22nd October. It was agreed to have an extraordinary meeting to open and collate the surveys on 10th November. Cllr Saint rang the booking clerk for the Baptist Chapel to check if the hall was available at 5.45pm. Details of the meeting will be put in the magazine. Action Clerk

16/144/d Bonfire Event

The Clerk confirmed that she had received the risk assessment and copy of insurance for the Bonfire Event. Cllr Baker confirmed that the holders had organised sufficient parking areas as well..

16/144/e Christmas Tree

The Clerk confirmed that the Christmas tree has been ordered but needed to know when it was to be delivered by. Cllr Saint said that the lighting ceremony had been arranged for the 9th November but the village hall has an event on the same day and asked if the date needed to be changed. It was agreed to change the date to the 2nd December at 6pm. Cllr Saint said that a resident had suggested doing a nativity play at the ceremony. A discussion was held and it was agreed not to do this as there was no time to get it organised.

16/145 **HIGHWAYS:**

The Clerk said that she had received an email from the Area Traffic Engineer at Somerset County Council regarding a complaint from a resident about parked vehicles obstructing the

entrance to Wash Lane at its junction with Middle Street. The engineer had said this problem could be resolved by placing an 'H' bar line marking across the entrance and either side of the junction but as it is in a conservation area he needed the Parish Council support on the proposal. A discussion was held and Cllr Sampson suggested that as it was in a conservation area then a 50mm wide line would be better than a 100mm wide line. It was agreed to support this.

Further discussion was held on parking in the village and the main points of concern were Middle Street and the corner by the church; Townsend, cars park at the junction of the school exit in the evenings making it difficult for other vehicles to get through. It was agreed that a reminder needs to go into the magazine about parking on the pavements and dropped kerbs which makes it difficult for those with mobility difficulties and also emergency vehicles. Cllr Siegle mentioned that vehicles have tried to gain access to the village hall via Middle Street into Wash Lane. Cllr Saint suggested that when users book the hall they should be notified that vehicular access is in Bishopston.

16/146 WORKING PARTIES REPORTS:

16/146/a Allotments

Comments were made about the condition of the allotments. The Clerk asked if any of the allotment holders had used the rotavator yet. Cllr Baker said they had not. The Clerk said that she had recently rented out a plot but the vacant plots need measuring.

16/146/b National Trust

Points to raise with the National Trust are:

- Hedge in the orchard at the top of Station Road needs tiding up
- The hedge in Back Lane needs cutting back before the winter
- The Lime tree in the recreation ground needs lifting
- The small additional 'no cycling' signs have been removed in Ladies Walk

Cllr Saint said that she would report these to the National Trust in Cllr Jewell-Harrison's absence.

16/146/c Street Lighting

No report given.

16/146/d Speedwatch

This item was discussed under *minute ref: 16/144/c*

16/146/e Triangle Trust

Cllr Warry said that the Christmas Bazaar is on the 26th November between 2pm and 4pm at the Memorial Hall in Stoke sub Hamdon. Cllr Warry reported on the survey carried out at the surgery in Stoke sub Hamdon regarding the Triangle Trust and it found that very few people knew about the Trust and what it provides for the surgery. The Clerk suggested that the Triangle Trust should promote itself more by advertising in the parish newsletters and magazines. Cllr Warry said that he would raise this at the next meeting.

16/146/f Recreation Ground

The Clerk expressed her concerns that the contractors who have taken over K M Dike's business seem to be charging excessively and are in fact double the price. The Clerk said that as good practice the council need to look at putting the grass cutting and groundsman contract out for re-tender before the renewal date and that perhaps both contracts should come under one umbrella. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a new contract.

A discussion was held regarding the time spent cutting the grass and it was agreed to notify the contractors that due to the change in season the grass would only need cutting no more than once a fortnight until further notice.

Action Clerk

16/146/g Footpaths

No report given.

16/147 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Cllr Baker asked the Clerk to write to the King's Arms regarding their hedge as it is causing an obstruction to mobility scooters and pushchairs.

Cllr Baker said that he had nothing to report regarding the 'sheep wash' which was mentioned at last month's meeting.

Cllr Baker said that St Catherine's Church was holding a Christmas tree festival on 17th and 18th December. He asked members if the Parish Council should decorate a tree. It was agreed to do this.

16/148 CLERK'S REPORT:

(Cllr Gihon left the meeting)

No report given.

16/149 FINANCE:

16/149/a Matters for Report

i. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk gave the quarterly bank reconciliation as at 30th June 2016:

Current Account	£ 250.00
Business Reserve Account	£ 43,987.25
Sports Project Reserve Account	<u>£ 16,181.41</u>
Total	£ 60,418.66
Outstanding Cheques	£ 916.34
Total as Cash Book	£ 59,502.32

ii. Quarterly Budget Comparison

The Comparison of Budget report was circulated to all members. The report shows the annual budget and the expenditure for the financial year 2016/17. The report does not include the money held in the Sports Project reserve account. This is the second quarter report showing expenditure as at 30th September 2016. The report shows that all areas with exception of two are showing an under spend; the areas showing an over spend is Subscriptions as the annual SALC fee is paid at the beginning of the financial year and, Rent as the Parish Council have taken on a new lease from the National Trust for the car park in the Borough.

iii. Tax Base and Council Tax Support Grant 2017/18

The Clerk reported that she had received the information from SSDC regarding the tax base and CTS grant

16/149/b Cheques for Signature

Sarah Moore	Expenses for September	£ 53.95	Chq 1405
K M Dike Nurseries	Grass Cutting on Rec Aug & Sept	£ 945.00	Chq 1406
Montacute Baptist Chapel	Hire of Hall for September	£ 25.00	Chq 1407
HMRC	2 nd Qtr Income Tax	£ 215.40	Chq 1408
The National Trust	Land Rent – Recreation Ground	£ 100.00	Chq 1409

Local Government Act 1972 s.137

The Royal British Legion	Donation to Poppy Appeal	<u>£ 50.00</u>	Chq 1410
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Total £ 1,389.35

Proposed: Cllr Sampson Seconded: Cllr Folkard agreed unanimously

The Clerk passed the cheque for Montacute Baptist Chapel to Cllr Saint and the cheque for the Royal British Legion was passed to Cllr Baker.

16/149/c Matters for Resolution

None declared.

16/150 PLANNING:

16/150/a Planning Information:

No report given.

16/150/b Report on Applications:

16/03981/LBC – refurbishment and conversion of the stable building – The Stables at Myrtle Farm, Back Lane, Montacute TA15 6XF – No observations or objections

16/03977/LBC – alterations to conservatory & kitchen area of the dwelling – Myrtle Farm, Bank Lane, Montacute TA15 6XF – No objections. Observed that there are tiles on the surrounding buildings, would these be more in keeping than slate.

16/04061/FUL – demolition of existing nursery buildings and erection of 14 houses with associated access – land adjoining Woodside, Montacute Road, East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6UQ – No objections or observations.

16/04131 – installation of a solar photovoltaic renewable energy generation system consisting of PV panel arrays on 3 separate roof slopes with associated inverters, electrical cabling, switches, controls and supporting frameworks – Stanchester Community Academy, Montacute Road, East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6UG

16/150/c Report on Applications Considered

16/03386/LBC – re-roofing of pitched roofs at 1 & 2 The Borough using existing roof coverings and re-roofing of flat roof at No.1 in lead sheet. Drilling of holes through single stone in rear gable wall of No.1 for extract fan ducted from bathroom – 1 & 2 The Borough, Montacute, Somerset TA15 6XB – application was granted.

16/151 CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence.

16/152 MEMBERS REPORTS:

Cllr Sampson said that there the Remembrance Service will be held by the Monument on Ham Hill on Sunday 13th November.

Cllr Marsh reported that the primary school will become an academy.

Cllr Folkard said that the 7.5t lorry limit sign near Montacute Drive should be moved back to the start of the village near the allotments. Cllr Sampson commented that there needs to be the appropriate signage on the A3088 stating that lorries exceeding the limit should not be allowed into the village except for access.

Cllr Gihon how long the road will be closed at the top of Thorne Lane in Yeovil. Cllr Baker confirmed that it was now open and there was a traffic management system in place whilst the work is being completed on the new roundabout.

16/153 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

Christmas tree lighting ceremony

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.50pm. The next meeting will be held on 21st November at 7.00pm in the Baptist Chapel