

July 2021

We held our first face-to-face meeting in the village hall in well over a year and it was lovely to see everyone again. We also co-opted on two new councillors, and we warmly welcome Martin Myram and Lindsey Lee onto the Council. This brings us up to our full quota of 11 council members.

Covid-19 Guidelines Update

As you all know the end of the lockdown restrictions have been postponed to 19th July due to the Delta variant. For more information go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

All adults over the age of 18 are eligible and are encouraged to book an appointment to have a Covid vaccination. So far, 82% of adults have had their first dose and 60% their second. If you haven't had both your jabs yet, please do get yourself protected if you can.

You can also pick up lateral flow test packs from local pharmacies. Testing on a regular basis, which can be done at home, will help to identify people who are carrying the virus without symptoms. By self-isolating if positive, will help to reduce the spread even more thus speeding up the return to normal life.



Recycle More

'Recycle More' from Somerset Waste Partnership is coming to South Somerset at the end of June 2021. You will have received a 'Get ready for Recycle More' leaflet which included a 'what goes where?' guide to recycling with the new service and an individual collection day calendar for recycling and rubbish collections for the coming year.

What is changing?

The key changes are:

- More materials will be collected weekly from the kerbside in addition to the current recyclable items:
 - plastic pots, tubs and trays
 - food and drink cartons (Tetra Pak etc)
 - small electrical items such as kettles or toasters
 - small household batteries
- Non-recyclable waste will be collected every three weeks instead of two.
- Collection days will change for roughly a third of households.
- A new recycling container – a Bright Blue Bag will be delivered to all homes.

What won't change?

- Garden wates and clinical waste collections and their collection days will stay the same.
- Assisted collections (when crews help people with their recycling and rubbish) will continue on the new collection days.

Recycle More will work best if everyone makes full use of their weekly recycling collections. Please ensure you have all the containers you need. Everyone can have green and black recycling boxes and food waste bins. You can order new or replacement boxes or bins **FREE** using the My Waste Services menu at www.somersetwaste.gov.uk

Remember: nothing changes until you get your Bright Blue Bag

Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour

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 Proposals

In the recent Local Poll, 65.3% of residents across Somerset voted for the 'Stronger Somerset' case; creating two unitaries delivering services close to the communities of Eastern and Western Somerset. Just 34.7% of residents supported the 'One Somerset' proposal for a single unitary.

The decision on the future of local government in Somerset is now with the Local Government Secretary and is expected before the summer Parliamentary recess on 22nd July.

BBQS & Campfires at Ham Hill

In previous years, SSDC have had to enforce seasonal bans on BBQs and campfires on Ham Hill due to the very dry and hot periods of weather and the risk of fire to the grasslands. This year, because of irresponsible behaviour where many grass areas have been scorched or set alight, coupled with the dry timber on site as a result of Ash dieback, SSDC have taken the decision to prohibit the use of BBQs and campfires on the Hill permanently.

Village Picnic

Please make a note in your diaries. All being well, there will be a 'Bring Your Own' Village Picnic on 11th September for the residents of Montacute. As we haven't been able to meet and socialise for such a long time the Parish Council along with the Carnival Committee decided we all needed to have some fun. The picnic will be held on the recreation ground with games and competitions for the children and, everyone is being asked to bring their own food and drink. Further information will be in next month's magazine.

Parish Council Meetings

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday, 19th July 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*