

May 2021

Covid-19 Guidelines Update

Assuming the Government confirms on May 10th that we can all move to Step 3 of the Roadmap these are some of the things that will change in the village from May 17th:

- Outdoors - Up to 30 people now allowed to meet together in gardens and public green spaces.
- Outdoors – entertainment allowed.
- Indoors – only 2 households together or maximum of 6 people from different households · Indoors – community activities in venues can re-start i.e. clubs, pubs, indoor sports. Social distancing and masks still required (1 metre spacing) where more than 2 households are meeting together.
- Masks still required in shops and public venues and on public transport.
- Government decision awaited on when international travel might become allowed.

Please keep a check on the government website for updates. It is critical that you follow all of the Government 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/>

Free COVID-19 test packs available for all

The UK's successful vaccination programme together with the lockdown and social distancing measures are beginning to show real results. As of 19th April, over £36m vaccinations had been given giving a good level of protection. Deaths and infection rates are substantially on a downward trend and providing we all continue to be sensible and follow guidance, it is hoped this trend will continue.

The Government is encouraging all of us to pick up two free lateral flow test packs each week even if we don't have symptoms. Testing on a regular basis (which we can do at home and which gives us the result there and then) will help to identify people who are carrying the virus without symptoms (this can be 1 in 3 of us). By self-isolating if positive, we will help to reduce the spread even more, speeding up the return to normal life. You can pick up the tests for free from local pharmacies.

Business grants available

New Government grants are available for non-essential retail and the hospitality, leisure and personal care sector to help businesses whilst they move back to normal working. Please see the District Council website for more information on how to claim: deadline 30th June.

<https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/life-events/coronavirus-support/coronavirus-business-support/>



Parish Council Vacancies

Unfortunately, Maggi Mansi has decided to step down from the Parish Council. Councillors would like to thank Maggi for all the help she has given to the Council and to the village. She will be sorely missed.

We have received a good response to our article asking for new council members. However, if you are interested in supporting and protecting our village facilities and activities, please consider applying to join the Parish Council. The Parish Council meet on the third Monday every month with the exception of August and December. If you would like to know more about it, please contact the Parish Clerk (contact details at the end of this article).

Help Keep Our Village Tidy!

What a marvellous response to our plea for help for volunteers to clean up the village. It is wonderful that we have such a fantastic community who care for our village. Thank you so much.

The Parish Council have organised a litter picking event on Saturday, 15th May at 10am. We will all meet at Montacute garage where litter pickers, rubbish bag, thin vinyl gloves and hand sanitiser will be provided. Please wear sensible footwear and if you wish, bring some gardening gloves. It is estimated that the litter pick will take 1 ½ to 2 hours. The litter picking event will be organised so that it conforms to current government Covid guidelines.

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, please contact the Parish Clerk, contact details are at the end of this article.

Speed Indicator Device

At last! Somerset County Council has approved a location in Yeovil Road where we can place our Speed Indicator Device (SID). This means that we can now put our new equipment in both St Michaels View and Yeovil Road. The equipment can be at each location for a period of two weeks before it has to be moved.

Our new SID has been ordered and we should hopefully receive it very shortly. This type of device has been proven as an effective deterrent as it not only flashes the vehicle speed and ask drivers to slow down, but it will also monitor vehicle speed which can be forwarded to the appropriate authorities to help us effect change.

Speedwatch

In conjunction with a Speed Indicator Device, we are hoping to reinstate the Community Speedwatch Team and in last month's magazine we asked for volunteers to assist the Parish Council. Thank you to everyone who has come forward to volunteer, your help is very much appreciated.

The Parish Council is inviting residents to come along to the Village Hall on Saturday, 22nd May at 10.30am for anyone willing to volunteer or for those who are interest but would like more information first. Covid guidelines will be adhered to.

Vandalism at the Recreation Ground

It is very disappointing to report that a group of youths decided to vandalise the basketball hoop on the recreation ground recently and also proceeded to strew broken glass around the area. Fortunately, the whole incident was witnessed and reported to the police, but it is incredibly sad to see that a minority of youngsters have no regard for the safety and spoil the enjoyment of others.

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.

Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council will be holding their Annual Parish Council meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, 4th May at 7pm (please see the guidance for virtual meetings below). There will be no ordinary

Parish Council meeting in May and the next meeting will be on 21st June at 7pm in the Village Hall (subject to Covid guidelines).

The Parish Council are now holding their meetings via the virtual meeting platform Zoom. 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 for the ID link by the Friday before the meeting. 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.

*Contact details: Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk
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