

MINUTES OF MONTACUTE PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 17TH JANUARY 2022
IN THE VILLAGE HALL



22/001/a **PRESENT:**

Members: Mrs C Saint (Chairman), Mr B Bevan-Davies, Mr R Littlefield, M Myram, and Mr D Warry

Others: Mrs S Moore (Clerk), Mr Tony Capozzoli (District Councillor) and no members of the public

22/001/b **APOLOGIES:**

Mrs A Gihon (Vice Chairman), Mr J Davies, Mrs J Folkard, Mr R Folkard, Mrs M Wilson and Mr M Keating (County Councillor)

22/002 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Saint declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall

Cllr Bevan-Davies declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Magazine.

Cllr Littlefield declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall

22/003 **PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

22/004 **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

22/004/a District Councillor

Cllr Capozzoli gave his report which included an update on planning and the phosphate issue and, the recent article in the Leveller about the alleged misuse of district council services.

Cllr Saint said she had been having trouble accessing planning information on SSDC's website. Cllr Capozzoli confirmed there had been some IT issues, but this had now been sorted out.

22/004/b County Councillor

No report.

22/005 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

An amendment was made to *Minute ref: 21/127/a* of the November minutes to read '....a playground report from Cllrs J & R Folkard'.

It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Minutes of the November Parish Council meeting and the Extraordinary Meeting in December.

22/006 **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Review of Actions List

- Maintenance to bench in Hollow Lane – Cllr Saint has contacted the owner of the bench and it will be retreated when the weather improves
- Repainting slide and goalposts – It was agreed to contact the lengthsman. **Action Clerk**
- Dog mess in Ladies Walk – contact the Locality Officer at SSDC and ask for signs to be erected. **Action Clerk**
- Overgrown are behind the bus shelter – it was agreed to contact the lengthsman. **Action Clerk**
- Dangerous parking in Yeovil Road – it was agreed to contact the lengthsman. **Action Clerk**

22/007 **SPORTS & LEISURE**

22/007/a Play Area & Recreation Ground

The play area inspection report by the Play Inspection Company had been circulated to councillors. The Clerk said the overall risk assessment for the play area shows it is 'Low Risk', but the equipment should still be monitored on a regular basis.

The Clerk highlighted the comments regarding the fencing where it states that the posts need treating, and the fencing needed to be either repaired or replaced. There were also comments in the report regarding the old access gate which is padlocked. The Clerk suggested that as this gate is no longer used due to the proximity of the road it could be removed and replaced with fencing.

The Clerk said that she has priced up some chain link fencing based on the measurements she had been given which ranged between £781 to £1,021, but this did not include the installation. It was agreed to ask the lengthsmen whether he would be able repaint the posts, install the new fencing, and find out if there would be an additional cost for him to do this before a formal resolution is made. The Clerk said the rope on the on the 'rope pull' has become unravelled and it was suggested that this could be removed. Also, the report had concerns about the perimeter wall being too low. The Clerk pointed out that this wall is the responsibility of the National Trust. **Action Clerk**

22/007/b Recreation Ground Pavilion Project – Progress Report.

The Pavilion Project Working Party has met to discuss the planning approval conditions and a programme of works. Cllr Littlefield said that prior to any work commencing, a phased Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan needs to be carried out, and the Clerk said she had contacted Brynley Andrews. The Arboricultural Method Statement & Tree Protection Plan will cost £375 and the tree protection monitoring at the beginning, middle and end of development will cost £75 each. Any extra visits or meetings will be charged @ £75 each. The total cost will be £600. It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Brynley Andrews.

The Clerk said a landscaping scheme is also required and has contacted the National Trust to arrange a meeting so this can be discussed.

Cllr Littlefield said he has contacted all the contractors for revised quotations and Cllr Saint thanked Cllr Littlefield for all his hard work.

22/007/c Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022.

The Clerk said a working party needs to set up to discuss and arrange a village get-together for the Queen's Jubilee in June. It was suggested that this could be a village picnic on the recreation ground. It was agreed to defer any discussion until February's meeting.

22/007/d Any Other Issues

None declared

22/008 **VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT**

22/008/a Allotments

The Clerk said Streetscene have been inundated with work but have assured her that the tree work will be completed in February.

22/008/b Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour

No report received.

22/008/c Footpaths

No report received.

22/008/d Ground Maintenance

Cllrs Saint and Gihon and the Clerk met with the groundsman in November to discuss the standard of the grass cutting and asked him how the problem could be resolved over the winter months in order to avoid the issues experienced at the start of the cutting season last year. The groundsman recommended an additional cut once every six weeks between November and the end of February and each additional cut could cost £135. It was agreed at that meeting for him to do an additional cut in December.

At the extraordinary meeting in December Cllr J Folkard raised concerns about paying for additional cuts as she said the groundsman has missed some cuts throughout the year. It was agreed to arrange a further meeting with the groundsman to discuss this matter. **Action Clerk**

22/008/e Highways & Transport

i. Speed Indicator Device

The Clerk said she had received a quote from Coram Construction regarding the Chapter 8 training. This would cost £190 plus VAT per person and £30 plus VAT per person for the application of the SWQR card. The Clerk said there was a couple of places left on the course on 26th January. Cllr Myram said that he would not be available on that date. It was RESOLVED to approve the quote and for the Clerk to rearrange the training date. **Action Clerk**

ii. Fingerpost

The Clerk reported that Somerset Forge have confirmed that the foundry is in the process of making the post and fingers so it will probably be installed in February. Concerns were raised about the new fingerpost being damaged and Cllr Bevan Davies suggested moving the bench out from against the church wall. It was thought that this may cause an

obstruction, so it was suggested having a circular planter around the post. It was agreed to contact Highways to find out whether this would be feasible. Action Clerk

22/008/f National Trust

It was reported that there is tree down in Hollow Lane.

22/008/g Street Lighting

No report.

22/008/h Triangle Trust

No report.

22/008/i Any Other Issues

The Clerk said she was asked to get some defibrillator signs to go in the three spaces at the top of the telephone box, but these spaces need to be measured. Cllrs Littlefield and Bevan Davies agreed to do this. Action Cllrs Littlefield and Bevan Davies

22/009 MEMBERS' & CLERK'S REPORTS

The Clerk said the Local Government Association (LGA) and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) are supporting local councils to have the option to hold remote meetings. Temporary legislation was given during the Covid lockdown, but this expired in May 2021 and the Government has argued that a permanent provision would require a change to the primary legislation. The LGA and NALC believe that local councils should have a choice to decide how their meetings should be run and remote meetings could be beneficial in certain circumstances. The LGA and NALC are calling for the government to create Parliamentary time to agree a change in the law and are asking local councillors and clerks to support the online petition. The Clerk said she would forward the link for the petition to councillors. Action Clerk

Cllr Myram reported that 4 out of the 7 volunteers had been trained to carry out Speedwatch and were waiting for the go ahead from the police.

Cllr Saint said a road sweeper needed to come and clear the leaves away in Hollow Lane before the gullies become blocked.

22/010 FINANCE

22/010/a Matters for Report:

i. Monthly Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk gave the monthly bank reconciliation as of 30th November 2021:

Current Account	£ 250.00
Business Reserve Account	£50,095.30
Pavilion Reserve Account	<u>£21,265.38</u>
Total	£71,610.68
Outstanding Deposits	£ 0.00
Less Outstanding Cheques	<u>£ 335.77</u>
Total as Cash Book	£71,274.91

The Clerk gave the monthly bank reconciliation as of 31st December 2021:

Current Account	£ 250.00
Business Reserve Account	£49,450.35
Pavilion Reserve Account	<u>£21,265.56</u>
Total	£70,965.91
Outstanding Deposits	£ 0.00
Less Outstanding Cheques	<u>£ 714.00</u>
Total as Cash Book	£70,251.91

Ring-Fenced Amounts

Sports Pavilion	£37,608.12
Play Equipment	£ 4,241.42
Allotment New Plot Deposits	£ 450.00
Allotment Gate Key Deposits	£ 430.00

Defibrillator Accessories	£ 186.50
Fingerpost Donations	£ 1,525.00
Spring Bulbs	£ 100.00
Total	<u>£44,541.04</u>

Budget Working Capital **£25,710.87**

ii. Quarterly Budget Comparison

The Clerk gave the budget comparison and stated there were a couple of areas of council expenditure that were over budget but overall, the parish council's spend was on budget.

iii. National Trust Direct Debits Payments for Recreation Ground

The invoices for the direct debit payments of £29.17 for December and January have been received.

22/010/b For Resolution

i. Invoices Payable:

Sarah Moore	December Expenses	£ 125.77	Chq 1711
Evis Ground	Grass Cutting December	£ 388.88	Chq 1712
Maintenance			
Roy Littlefield	Reimbursement for Stationary	£ 43.73	Chq 1713
HMRC	PAYE for period 8-10	£ 293.80	Chq 1714
The Play Inspection	Annual Inspection	£ 126.00	Chq 1715
Company			
Elizabeth Gihon	3 x Keys for Allotment Gate	£ 16.00	Chq 1716
Montacute Village	Hire Fees for 2021	£ 78.00	Chq 1717
Hall			
	Total	£1,072.18	

The Clerk asked councillors to also approve the payment of £20.94 (Chq 1718) to Cllr Saint for the reimbursement of some jubilee clips for the speed indicator device, making the total payments for the month £1,093.12.

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments.

ii. Other:

The Clerk reported that the budget for 2022/23 was approved at December's Extraordinary meeting and said that the Finance Group had cut the budget back as much as possible and added that there would not be the funds for any additional expenditure throughout the year.

The Clerk said that the Tax Base for 2022/23 has decreased which meant that the number of residents claiming Council Tax relief has increased. Therefore, those residents not claiming tax relief would have to pay more to cover the shortfall. A decrease in the Tax Base rate automatically increases the Tax Band rate even if the precept is kept at its current level. The Clerk explained that looking at the historical data the Tax Base rate is the lowest it has been for eight years.

A discussion was held, and it was agreed that even by taking into account the estimate general funds left at the end of the financial year, in order to break even and cover the budget the precept would need to increase to £29,430.

It was RESOLVED to approve the increase in precept.

22/011 **PLANNING**

22/011/a Planning Information

None declared.

22/011/b Parish Planning Working Party Feedback on Applications:

21/03730/HOU – single storey rear extension and alterations to dwelling – 20 Townsend, Montacute TA15 6XH – this application is with the Planning Working Group for consideration

21/02748/ADV – the display of 3 non-illuminated signs – Montacute House, Bishopston, Montacute TA15 6XP – this application is with the Planning Working Group for consideration

22/00020/TCA – notification to fell no. 1 tree with a Conservation Area – 3 Yeovil Road, Montacute TA15 6XG – the parish council is not required to make comment.

21/03731/FUL & 21/03732/LBC – conversion of the former piggery to dual use as a self-contained residential annexe to the principal farmhouse and a holiday let – Abbey Farm, Bishopston, Montacute TA15 6UA – this application is with the Planning Working Group for consideration
22/011/c Planning Decisions and Reports

i. Decisions:

21/03277/TCA – notification of intent to fell no. 1 tree within a Conservation Area – Gables, Wash Lane, Montacute TA15 6XA - permitted

21/03298/HOU – proposed increased width of dormer and loft conversion – 3 Yeovil Road, Montacute TA15 6XG – application refused

ii. Reports:

20/00991/OUT – Outline application with all matters reserved save for access for the residential development of land for up to 17 no. dwellings – Land at Mason Lane, Montacute - This application is still awaiting decision. Several comments have been submitted since the reduction to the number of houses. Natural England have pointed out that the site is within the fluvial catchment of the Somerset Levels & Moors Ramsar site and if the development is identified as likely to add additional phosphorus to the catchment, planning permission should not be granted until a Habitats Regulation Assessment has been undertaken. Historic England still object to the application due to the affect it will have on designated heritage assets. The National Trust still object to the application, and both Stoke sub Hamdon and Montacute Parish Councils have objected to this application. There are currently 82 objections from individual residents.

22/012 GOVERNANCE

The Clerk reported that the Town and Parish Council elections have been brought forward a year to 5th May 2022 so that they align with the Somerset Unitary Council elections and that following the move of the elections to 2022, the subsequent elections will take place five years later in 2027. The Clerk went onto explain the election process and said that if there is a contested election then the parish council have to pay for this.

The Clerk said she had received a letter from Pat Flaherty, CEO of Somerset County Council regarding the Unitary elections. It explained about the number of candidates for each electoral division and the number of members that will be elected. The letter also stated there may be a boundary review after the elections in May.

22/013 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence received

22/014 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None declared

22/015 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21.58pm. The next parish council meeting will be held in the village hall at 7pm on Monday, 21st February 2022.