

**March 2021**

### **National Census 2021**

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) conduct a census survey every 10 years which every household in England and Wales must complete by law. Everyone, whether living or staying, in your household at the time of the census must be included. The next census will take place on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021. This census will not only provide a fresh picture of the population and our health, but it will also shed light on social and economic changes to our lives. It will provide the ONS with new information that can be used for years to come. This information will inform decisions on public services, including hospitals, schools, universities and job centres, to meet the needs of our changing society. Also, this year the Government will use the information to improve their understanding of the Covid-19 pandemic and how it has affected people.

The census has been designed to be simple, straightforward and safe to complete and will be a digital-first census. We are all being encouraged to complete the census online this year. However, if you are unable to get online or need assistance completing the census online, there will be Census Support Centres across England and Wales so help will be available by phone, webchat, email, social media or text messaging.

After the Census Day, at the end of March and into April, census field officers will be visiting the households of those who have not completed a census form. The field officers will be working in the same way as a postal or food delivery visit. They will be wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and working in line with government guidance. The field officers will never need to enter your house.

### **Do You Want to Learn New Skills?**

South Somerset District Council are partnering with **Somerset Skills & Learning** who offer online courses at <https://sslcourses.co.uk/courses>. The Community Learning courses are free of charge, so it is well worth a look if you wish to learn a new hobby, increase your wellbeing, improve your maths knowledge or get a taster of skills for a new job.

**Step Up Somerset** provide a more formal skills support for individuals who are job hunting, seeking training in new industries or working to strengthen their skills by providing details of employment and skills services and resources. Those who find themselves at risk of or being made redundant can find a full range of support including help with reskilling, financial assistance and wellbeing information at <https://www.stepupsomerset.org.uk>.

For anyone without internet access further one-to-one help can also be provided via a single phone helpline: 0300 790 6275.

### **Covid-19 Guidelines Update**

The success of the vaccination rollout, alongside falling infections and hospitalisations, is paving the way for the safe and gradual lifting of restrictions. The Government published on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 the 'Covid-19 Response – Spring 2021'. This is a 4-step plan to ease lockdown restrictions in England which will start on 8<sup>th</sup> March. The Government will monitor the situation carefully and depending on the Covid Status Certification all restrictions could be lifted by 21<sup>st</sup> June.

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/>**

Please have a look; this web link is especially useful as there is a lot of information on every aspect of our daily lives. You can find out what businesses, services, and venues are permitted to stay open to getting financial support for individuals or businesses. There is also information on what support is available if you are out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health. You can also download easy read, large print and translated versions of this guidance in a pdf format.

It is difficult for all of us and easy to say Keep Positive, but we do need to try, and we need to keep looking out for one another. Remember to be kind and we will get through it somehow - together. Keep washing those hands, wear face coverings and practicing social distancing! Stay Safe. Remember - Hands, Face, Space!



### **Recreation Ground**

The planning application for the new pavilion was submitted at the beginning of December last year. Unfortunately, due to the current situation SSDC Planning Department currently have a backlog of applications. Our application was finally validated at the end of January and the details of this can be seen on SSDC's website.

The parish council are also changing the security gate by reducing the height of the existing barrier. This will make it easier should any emergency or large vehicles need access into the grounds.

### **Road Closure**

Somerset County Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, have made an Order prohibiting all traffic from proceeding along **Ham Hill Road** for a distance of **84.00 metres**. This Order will enable **Wales & West Utilities to lay a new gas connection**. The Order becomes effective on 18 March 2021 and will remain in force for eighteen months. The works are expected to commence on **22nd March 2021** and last until **25th March 2021** between the hours of **(00:00 - 23:59)** for a total of **4 days**.

Please visit [www.one.network](http://www.one.network) for further information on the alternative route.

For information about the works being carried out please contact **Wales & West Utilities Ltd** on 0800 912 2999 quoting the reference number TTRO411463SS - Ham Hill Road, Stoke sub Hamdon.

### **Beware Thieves About!**

There have been several reports of thieves working actively in our village and surrounding areas. Houses are being marked (on gates/fences/walls) to denote whether there is a dog in the house and, cars are being tagged to either be stolen or to have the catalytic converters removed.

There have also been attempts to seize dogs from people walking their dogs on Ham Hill so please take care and be on the alert. If you see something suspicious, please make sure you report it to the police and alert the houseowner. We can all do our bit by supporting each other and make it as hard as possible for criminals to succeed.

### **Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour**

**For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: [www.police.uk](http://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 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7pm**

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](mailto: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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