

It's only a month ago but it still seems strange to talk about Christmas. The Parish Council hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas and wish everyone a Happy New Year!

A huge thank you for everyone who came out in the cold to celebrate the lighting of the Christmas tree and to enjoy a mince pie and a drink or two. We raised £65 on the raffle which has gone towards the new pavilion funds.

In August last year, the Parish Clerk received a letter from Somerset County Council asking for nominations for 'The Chair's Awards for Service to the Community 2022-23'. After talking to parish councillors, it was agreed to nominate Christine Saint as she has worked tirelessly for this village for over 40 years making her a key member of the Montacute community. She is always willing to help and support the whole village and makes herself available whether in person or by phone to anyone who needs her, despite what she is going through in her personal life. There is nothing she will not do to try and help people. Her selfless and hard-working approach is hugely deserving of recognition.

Christine has been a Parish Councillor for some 35 years and in that time, she has held the position of Chair twice and been Vice Chair numerous times. She works tirelessly for the Parish without recognition or reward and epitomises the self-less and hard-working Parish Councillor. Her common-sense approach and ability to work well with anyone has been vital to the Parish Council and the village. Her unselfish hard work and encouragement to others has ensured that Montacute is supported at the local community level. During her time on the Parish Council, Christine has achieved bring the 20mph speed restriction to the village, made progress in re-establishing the Recreation Ground and its facilities, worked in establishing the Primary School and has excellent relationships with residents, the Council, the National Trust and other key stakeholders.

Christine has also been a key contributor to many of the other village community activities including: the pantomime, carnival, village hall and primary school. Christine set up the village pantomime group over 40 years ago and this still thrives. It is an important part of the community and generates charitable income. It is a huge pleasure for all ages within the village. She has also supported the village carnival for many years, through coordination and provision of a participating float, has been a staunch member of the village hall committee (including vice-chair) for many years, and was on the village Primary School Board of Governors for a number of years.

The Parish Council are please to say that Christine's nomination has been successful and, much to Christine's surprise, she has been invited to the award ceremony in Taunton on 17th February. We all wish you good luck, Christine!

Allotment Vacancies – Do you want to grow your own fruit and vegetables but don't have enough space in your garden at home or need more space? Then why not have an allotment. For more information about vacant plots and costs contact either the Parish Clerk or Terry Harper on 01935 824537

Temporary road closure of Montacute Road – 500 metres south-east from the junction of Perrins Hill, for a further distance of 415 metres. This Order will enable USL to carry out work to replace BT poles. The works are expected to commence on 2nd February 2023 for 1 day between the hours of 08:00 – 16:00.

Please visit <https://one.network/?tm=131504894> for further information on the alternative route. For more information about the works being carried out please contact Utility Services on telephone number 01884 763 100 quoting the reference number ttr0804965SS

Get on Board and Support our Bus Service - As reported in last month's magazine, the withdrawal of Government funding will make many bus services no longer commercially viable, and it is likely that the bus service between Yeovil and South Petherton will be reduced. We need you to support this vital service as much as possible.

Do you have a Free Concessionary bus pass? Yes? Then there's no better time to travel for free!!

You can travel free Monday -Friday after 9.30; £3.00 before, & Saturdays are free all day!

So why not support local buses, save the environment and save money, "Think Bus"!

Please contact South West Coaches on 01935 475872 or follow on Twitter

@southwestcoach1.

For timetable information www.southwestcoaches.co.uk

Follow Yeovil Bus Users Group on Facebook www.facebook.com/yeovilbususersgroup

Calling all parents! Do you park near the school to drop off or pick up your children at the primary school? Concerns have been raised about where and how you are parking, and also the lack of consideration for other road users and pedestrians. This situation is becoming dangerous.

Please consider whether it is necessary for you to drive your children to school. Can you ease the congestion by walking your children to school? If you do need to drive, then please can we ask you to be more considerate when parking so that you are not obstructing the main thoroughfare, parking on pavements or blocking visibility splays.

Please **DO NOT** park on the grass verge. This is not a parking area.

When looking at the budget for 2023/24 in December, the Parish Council agreed to keep expenditure as low as possible despite rising costs to services. The Unitary Authority comes into force in April which could mean that the parish may potentially have to cover some costs that were not previously our responsibility, such as verge cutting and drain clearance.

However, we are yet to find out how all this works.

With all this in mind, the Parish Council took the decision to increase the precept to £35,000 which means that the Band D rate will rise to £136.54 a year.

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 MEETINGS

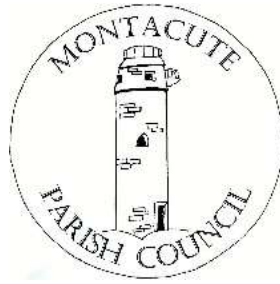
Parish Council meetings are held in the Village Hall on the third Wednesday of every month with the exception of August and December. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 15th February 2023 at 7pm**. Parish Council meetings are open to the press and public, so residents are welcome to come along and listen to what we have to say. There is also a short public session at the beginning of every Ordinary Parish Council meeting.

*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



Montacute Village Emergency Plan

The Parish Council has compiled an Emergency Plan for the village. This Plan sets out what potential risks could affect our village and its residents. These could be:

- A pandemic
- Flooding
- Loss of Power
- Ice/Snow

Every single person in the village is important!

We need to look after each other especially the vulnerable members of our community.

We need your help!

We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to help their neighbours/community.

This could be in the form of:

- A point of contact – be part of the 'Telephone Tree'. Be someone on the other end of the telephone to raise the alarm to those in authority or to get other volunteers to help
- Carry out deliveries – groceries or prescriptions.
- Provide transport – this could be for doctors/dentist appointments.
- Spread grit on the pavements in icy weather.

The possibilities are endless!

If you are willing to help with, please contact either Christine Saint, Chair of the Council or Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk. Contact details are listed in the front of the magazine.