

We would like to warmly welcome Heather Stokes who was co-opted onto the Parish Council at our February meeting.

Pavilion

Now that we have received the s.106 funding we can complete all the work inside the pavilion, and once the National Grid have connected the electricity supply, the building will be ready for use.

To celebrate the opening of the pavilion, we would like to hold a village party on the recreation ground. More news about this will be announced in the magazine over the coming months.

Defibrillator

A few years ago, the Parish Council purchased a defibrillator, and it is located in the old red telephone box in the Borough.

Should you need to gain access to the defibrillator in an emergency, dial 999 quoting the postcode of where the defibrillator is. The postcode is TA15 6XB. The emergency services will then give you a code to open the cabinet.

The full defibrillator user guide is on the parish council website www.montacuteparishcouncil.com which you can download.

Dogs on Leads

We have been asked to put out a polite reminder to dog owners especially at this time of the year when sheep/cattle are having their young. Please keep your dogs on leads whilst walking around land with stock in, and in Montacute Park, on St Michaels Hill and Ham Hill. Also, please can owners keep their dogs on a lead whilst walking around the recreation ground. There are notices stating that dogs have to be on leads, and this is an area where children play.

Litter

Concerns have been raised about litter and we would like to arrange a litter pick around the village. The last litter pick we held was a tremendous success and we are looking for willing

volunteers to help once again. If this is something that you would be happy to do, please let us know. The date for the litter pick will be in next month's magazine.

Parish Precept

In last month's magazine, we mentioned about the devolution of assets and services by Somerset Council and that Somerset Council were asking town and parish councils to consider taking these services on. However, at the time of writing this article the parish council still did not know which services they were going to dispense with.

The Parish Council held an extraordinary meeting at the end of January to discuss and approve the Parish Council's budget and precept for the coming year. As no finalised information had been received from Somerset Council, the Parish Council decided not to speculate about what services may need to be covered and decided not to overly increase the precept but to just take into account the increase in inflation and the services we currently provide. The Parish Council approved to set the precept for 2024/25 at £41,593 which means the parish's proportion of the Council Tax on a Band D property will be £160.61 per annum.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

If you are witness to any incident, it is important for you to report it directly to the police by telephoning the numbers listed below. Any reports given will be dealt with in confidence and your details will not be divulged. Also, you will receive an incident/crime number. Unfortunately, the Parish Council cannot report incidents to the police on your behalf as it would be considered as hearsay (third-party reporting).

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 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 20th March 2024 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.

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