

New Unitary Authority

You will have seen in the press over the past year that Somerset County Council and the four District Councils – Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton and South Somerset will be merged into one new unitary authority. The new council will officially come into being from 1st April under the name New Somerset Council. There is a lot of speculation of how this will affect the many small parish councils within the county.

The New Somerset Council will be setting up a number of Local Community Networks (LCNs) throughout the county and the aim of these LCNs is to enable the Council, partners and communities to work together to address local issues and priorities, support health and wellbeing activities, and improve outcomes for residents. The New Somerset Council want a model for communities where local voices are heard and decisions are taken with the benefit of local knowledge and experience.

Three LCN Pilot Projects have been set up to explore ways of working with Town and Parish Councils, Highways, Children's Services, Public Services, the Police, Voluntary Sector Organisations and other local groups. Information on these pilot projects can be viewed on the New Somerset Council website – <https://newsomersetcouncil.org.uk/lcn-pilot-projects>.

At the moment, it is proposed that the county is divided into 18 LCN Areas with Montacute sitting in Area 11 – the Crewkerne and Ilminster area. This is a large LCN Area group with 35 other parishes. To view the proposed LCN Area map, please go to the Parish Council website www.montacuteparishcouncil.com/community/montacute-parish-council-7985/other/. Montacute Parish Council is looking at how this will affect our economic stance and our democratic voice.

Allotments

The allotment holders meeting will be on Saturday, 11th March at 10am in the village hall where we will be collecting the rent for the year. We would also like to hear if you have any comments and suggestions about the allotments, and generally getting a chance to catch up with you all over a cup of tea or coffee. We look forward to seeing you all there.

King's Coronation Celebrations

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who is willing to help with the coronation celebrations. To find out what is happening, please see the separate article in this magazine. It will be great for all of us to get together and have fun. Let's make it a day to remember.

Speedwatch, Transport Strategy Group and Parking

Many thanks to all those who regularly go out to Speedwatch sessions and to those who are looking at all the transport and highway issues that we have in the village, we really do appreciate everything you are doing.

As we all know, parking is at a premium in the village as it is in many other villages. Please can we ask everyone to be mindful on how they park so that there is enough room for vehicles or pedestrians to get by. Please do not park too close to junctions or opposite junctions, nor park on or just around blind corners as this is extremely dangerous and affects other road users' visibility which could ultimately cause accidents.

Report It!

The Parish Council would like to you to report to us any potholes, blocked drains or streetlights that are not working/permanently left on. If you know if any need repairing, please email the Parish Clerk on clerk_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk preferably with photographs. When reporting:

- a pothole - please state the exact location, with the size and depth of the hole (when taking a photo, you can put your foot in or by the hole to show the size).
- a blocked drain - please state the exact location.

- a streetlight - please state the exact location and the light's number. You will find this printed in black on the column.

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 March 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.