



MINUTES OF MONTACUTE PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2026
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

	Action
<p><u>26/016/a</u> PRESENT:</p> <p>Members: Mr A McFarlane (Acting Chairman), Mr J Davies, Mrs L Drayton, Mr M Myram, Mr B Owen, Mrs S Richings, and Mr D Warry</p> <p>Others: Mrs S Moore (Clerk), Mr Mike Hewitson (Unitary Authority Councillor) and 4 members of the public.</p> <p><u>26/016/b</u> APOLOGIES:</p> <p>Mrs C Saint (Chairman), Mrs S Bartlett, Mr T Harper, Mrs H Stokes and Mr Oliver Patrick (Unitary Authority Councillor)</p> <p>It was RESOLVED under s.85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to approve the reason for Cllr Saint's non-attendance and any further absence for a further six months.</p>	
<p><u>26/017</u> DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Cllr Davies declared an interest in the therapy sessions, and Cllr McFarlane declared an interest in the work on Hedgecock.</p>	
<p><u>26/018</u> PUBLIC SESSION</p> <p>A resident asked for a breakdown of the cost of the pavilion. The Clerk asked the resident to put their request in writing. <i>(Cllr Davies entered the meeting)</i></p> <p>The resident also enquired about the proposed development near Mason Lane. Cllr McFarlane explained an appeal has been submitted against the refusal and councillors will be discussing it later in the meeting. It was AGREED to put the details in the village magazine.</p> <p>A resident asked if the barrier to the recreation ground was being removed. It was confirmed that it was not. The resident also mentioned that the 'Silver Jubilee' Cedar tree on the recreation ground was being choked by ivy. Cllr McFarlane said he will pass this information onto the National Trust.</p> <p>Councillors reiterated their full support to the representatives from Tintinhull Tigers Youth Football Club. A discussion was held and the representatives enquired about equipment storage. Cllr Owen said the recreation ground working party group will raise this point at the next meeting with the National Trust.</p>	Cllr McFarlane
<p><u>26/019</u> UNITARY COUNCILLORS</p> <p>The Unitary Councillors' report for October had been circulated to councillors. Cllr Hewitson reported on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somerset Council's budget will be available on 4th March. • The Government is providing extra money to write off the schools 'SEND' overspend. • Somerset Council is endeavouring to address the large number of potholes around the county. The Clerk mentioned that when residents have reported potholes on Somerset Council's website, they receive a message stating that there is no defect. Cllr Hewitson said this happens when there have been multiple reports for the same issue. <p><i>(Cllr Hewitson left the meeting)</i></p>	

<p>26/020 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Minutes of the January Parish Council meeting.</p>	
<p>26/021 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES <u>Review of Actions List</u> The action list was reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was AGREED for the pavilion working group to arrange suitable advertisements for different types of hire. 	<p>Recreation Ground Working Group</p>
<p>26/022 SPORTS & LEISURE 26/022/a <u>Play Area & Recreation Ground</u></p> <p>i. <u>Play Area</u> Cllr McFarlane said he will install the new sleepers once the weather improves.</p> <p>ii. <u>Recreation Ground</u> Cllr Owen mentioned that Cllr Harper expressed that he wanted to continue as the Chair the recreation ground working group. <i>(Cllr Hewitson entered the meeting. His report is under Minute ref: 26/019)</i></p> <p>iii. <u>Pavilion</u> A discussion was held regarding the hourly rate for the Caretaker position and the hourly rate for the larger maintenance jobs. It was RESOLVED to approve these in principle. A discussion was held regarding the cost to hire the pavilion for therapy sessions, and it was RESOLVED to charge £10 per hour. <i>(Cllr Davies declared an interest and abstained from voting).</i> Cllr Owen said the price for the furniture and fittings for the therapy room was £225 and said health and safety signage was required. It was RESOLVED to approve the expenditure for these items. It was reported that the cesspit cover had been damaged. A discussion was held and it was agreed to contact the contractor who installed the cesspit for the specifications.</p> <p>26/022/b <u>Any Other Issues</u> None declared.</p>	<p>Cllr McFarlane</p> <p>Cllr Owens</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>26/023 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT 26/023/a <u>Allotments</u> No report given.</p> <p>26/023/b <u>Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour</u> The Clerk had circulated the statistics from the police website for December to councillors.</p> <p>26/023/c <u>Footpaths</u> No report.</p> <p>26/023/d <u>Ground Maintenance</u> The drains in Middle Street and Hollow Lane have been cleared. It was mentioned that the two drains further up the hill in Hollow Lane which have no concrete surrounds needed clearing. The drain in Wash Lane by the village hall also needs clearing.</p> <p>26/023/e <u>Highways & Transport</u></p> <p>i. <u>Speedwatch</u> Cllr Myram said the sessions were continuing, weather permitting. The number of drivers now being reported is lower on 90% of the sessions. Cllr Myram reported that he had received the quote from ElanCity for two SID batteries at a cost of £191.90 incl VAT. It was RESOLVED to accept the quote.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

<p>ii. <u>Road Closure</u> Coker Hollow - from the junction with Gooseacre Lane, eastwards incorporating West Coker Road to the junction with West Coker Roundabout. A total distance of 1701 metres. This Order will enable Heidelberg to carry out prep and resurfacing works on behalf of Somerset Highways. The works are expected to commence on 12th February 2026 and last until 28th February 2026 between 19:00 - 06:00 for a total of 13 nights. The redirection is onto the A303 via Crewkerne and Yeovil. Bishopston - from 60 metres south of the junction with Wash Lane, southwards for a total distance of 15 metres. This Order will enable Dare Utilities Ltd to carry out excavation works to lay duct and install a new box on behalf of Openreach. The works are expected to commence on 3rd March 2026 and last until 5th March 2026 between 00:00 - 23:59 for a total of 3 days.</p> <p>iii. <u>Highway Issues</u> The Clerk reported that she has reported several potholes in the village and also the large potholes on the road between Woodhouse Lane and Odcombe Lodge.</p> <p>26/023/f <u>National Trust</u> Cllr McFarlane reported that the National Trust is felling some trees on the upper slope of St Michaels Hill and will give a report on this to the Parish Council in the autumn. Cllr Davies said there has been further movement to the gatepost of the National Trust property in Wash Lane. This has previously been reported to the National Trust and Cllr McFarlane agreed to provide them with an update.</p> <p>26/023/g <u>Street Lighting</u> Cllr Warry said he has reported the streetlight near Woodhouse Lane.</p> <p>26/023/h <u>Triangle Trust</u> No report received.</p> <p>26/023/i <u>Any Other Issues</u> The quotes for the reinstatement of the bollard in Wash Lane are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harry Dale Groundworks - £1,530 incl VAT • W H Adams Construction - £442.32 incl VAT • GA Doble - £870 excl VAT plus £248 excl VAT for a s.171 licence if required <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the quote from W H Adams Construction</p>	<p>Cllr McFarlane</p>																						
<p>26/024 <u>MEMBERS' & CLERK'S REPORTS</u> No report</p>																							
<p>26/025 <u>FINANCE</u> 26/025/a <u>Matters for Report:</u></p> <p>i. <u>Monthly Bank Reconciliation</u> The Clerk gave the monthly bank reconciliation as of 31st January 2026</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Current Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Reserve Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 95,812.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pavilion Reserve Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 36.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 96,098.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plus Outstanding Deposits</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 14.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Less Outstanding Payments</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>£ 40.00</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total as Cash Book</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 96,072.08</td> </tr> </table> <p>Ring-Fenced Amounts:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Sports Pavilion</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 11,946.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Play Equipment</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 6,038.82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asset Management</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 18,559.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pavilion & Grounds Bookings</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£ 226.00</td> </tr> </table>	Current Account	£ 250.00	Business Reserve Account	£ 95,812.07	Pavilion Reserve Account	£ 36.01	Total	£ 96,098.08	Plus Outstanding Deposits	£ 14.00	Less Outstanding Payments	<u>£ 40.00</u>	Total as Cash Book	£ 96,072.08	Sports Pavilion	£ 11,946.02	Play Equipment	£ 6,038.82	Asset Management	£ 18,559.00	Pavilion & Grounds Bookings	£ 226.00	
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<p>25/02000/LBC – vaulting the master bedroom ceiling, insertion of two conservation roof lights and removal of the modern partition wall between the hall and sitting room – 6 The Borough, Montacute, TA15 6XB – awaiting decision</p> <p>25/01224/FUL – the proposed development of a trunk road service area and associated development – part land OS 0023, Cartgate Roundabout, Tintinhull, Yeovil TA14 6RA – awaiting decision.</p>	
<p>26/027 <u>GOVERNANCE</u></p> <p>None declared.</p>	
<p>26/028 <u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></p> <p>i. The Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance have submitted a request for a donation under s.137 as they are raising funds for a second helicopter. A discussion was held and it was RESOLVED to give a donation of £250.</p> <p>ii. The Clerk from Yeovil Without is inviting Parish Councils to consider adding their support to a joint letter being sent to the Secretary of State regarding the New Medium Helicopter (NMH) programme and the future of Leonardo Helicopters UK in Yeovil. It was RESOLVED to support the letter.</p>	Clerk
<p>26/029 <u>ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS</u></p> <p>None</p>	
<p>26/030 <u>DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING</u></p> <p>There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.37pm. The next meeting will be held in the pavilion on Wednesday, 18th March 2026.</p>	