

Doesn't time fly! It was only a few weeks ago we were all basking in glorious sunshine, but now the nights are drawing in and Autumn is finally here. The weather is no longer glorious; instead, we have high winds and rain, so please take care when driving and be aware of fallen trees and branches. Also, at this time of year because of the amount of rainfall we are susceptible to localised flooding. Even though our village lengthsman works hard to keep the village's drains and gullies clear, please can we ask you to keep the area outside your own properties clear as much as possible. If there is an issue with blocked drains, please let us know by contacting the Parish Clerk so we can then report it to Somerset Council.

We were very sorry to hear that Richard Coombes had passed away. Richard was chairman and a member of the parish council for a number of years. Richard worked tirelessly for the village when he was on the council and was willing to assist us after he had retired with his extensive knowledge whenever we asked. We would like to express our sincere condolences to Stephanie Coombes for her loss.

At the beginning of August, some of our councillors attended the inaugural Local Community Network (LCN) meeting at the Westland Leisure Centre. We were able to network with other parishes and Somerset Council, and to find out, now that there is only one council for the whole of Somerset, how we can be a 'voice' for our community. There will be meetings every couple of months, and we hope to bring you more information in due course.

We have been progressing steadily with the new pavilion. Councillors have met with contractors to discuss the groundworks and installation of the new pavilion, and you will see that the area has now been marked out. Councillors have also met with the National Trust to keep them apprised of the project so far. In the previous magazine, we said that work should commence in October, but the start date for the groundworks has been delayed slightly and work will not be starting now until early November.

We have been working with our unitary councillors on a number of highway issues. Road safety is one of those issues and at our meeting in September, it was resolved to ask for a safety audit to be carried out throughout the village on our roads, especially in Yeovil Road, South Street and along St Michaels View.

Also, at our meeting in September, councillors approved to give St Catherine's Church a grant of £900 towards the maintenance of the churchyard. Members of the church are also experiencing problems with parking when carrying out church business and the parish council is working with our unitary councillors to hopefully resolve these issues.

It has come to our attention that people have been taking their dogs into the play area, letting them run loose and not picking up their dogs' mess. The parish council would like to point out that dogs are not allowed in the play area because children are more susceptible to contracting Toxocariasis. Toxocariasis is caused by worms found in dogs which can be passed onto people by infected dog faeces. The symptoms of this infection include a high temperature, coughing, stomach ache, an itchy rash, eye pain or redness, changes to sight i.e. floaters or flashes of light, and loss of vision.

It has also been noted that some dog owners are letting their dogs run loose on the recreation ground. Dogs must be on leads and under control when walked on the recreation ground.

### **Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour**

There have, yet again, been a number of incidents in the village, so please report anything you see. 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](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.**

Somerset Council is looking volunteer drivers to help people with no transport of their own to get to crucial medical appointments. It is an ideal opportunity for anyone over 18 with a full UK driving licence and a four-door car to do something for their community. To find out more about the role and to apply, please visit <https://volunteering.somerset.gov.uk/drive/> or alternatively, email [volunteering@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:volunteering@somerset.gov.uk) or telephone 01823 359200. You can make a difference to someone in need.

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 18<sup>th</sup> October 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*  
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