



**MINUTES OF MONTACUTE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON**  
**WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**  
**IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b><u>24/037/a</u>      <b>PRESENT:</b></b></p> <p><b>Members:</b> Mrs C Saint (Chairman), Mr A McFarlane (Vice Chairman), Mr J Davies, Mrs L Drayton, Mr T Harper, Mr M Myram, Mr B Owen, Mrs S Richings, Mrs H Stokes and Mr D Warry</p> <p><b>Others:</b> Mrs S Moore (Clerk) and no members of the public</p> <p><b><u>24/037/b</u>      <b>APOLOGIES:</b></b></p> <p>Mr Mike Hewitson (Unitary Authority Councillor), and Mr Oliver Patrick (Unitary Authority Councillor)</p>	
<p><b><u>24/038</u>      <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></b></p> <p>Cllr McFarlane declared an interest in planning applications 21/03731/FUL, 21/03732/LBC and 24/00125/COU</p>	
<p><b><u>24/039</u>      <b>PUBLIC SESSION</b></b></p> <p>None declared.</p>	
<p><b><u>24/040</u>      <b>UNITARY COUNCILLORS</b></b></p> <p>The unitary councillors report had been circulated to councillors.</p> <p>Cllr Hewitson reported on Somerset Council's transformation programme, the projected increase in costs for Special Needs, and the new battery site in Bridgwater.</p> <p>Cllr Saint asked whether it was possible to extend the 20mph limit. Cllr Hewitson said it could be possible if the parish was prepared to co-fund and that it had support from the parish. However, the police would be responsible for enforcing the speed limit.</p> <p>A discussion was held regarding the planning application 24/00125/COU and it was asked why the parish council was not notified of this application despite it being on the boundary line of the parishes of Stoke sub Hamdon and Montacute.</p>	
<p><b><u>24/041</u>      <b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b></b></p> <p><i>(Cllr Davies entered the meeting)</i></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Minutes of the February Parish Council meeting.</p>	
<p><b><u>24/042</u>      <b>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES</b></b></p> <p>Review of Actions List</p> <p>All items under the Actions List are currently ongoing.</p>	
<p><b><u>24/043</u>      <b>SPORTS &amp; LEISURE</b></b></p> <p><b><u>24/043/a</u>      <b>Play Area &amp; Recreation Ground</b></b></p> <p>i.    <u>Play Area</u></p> <p>Cllr Richings reported that she had received some verbal abuse whilst she was carrying out the playground inspection.</p> <p>Cllr Richings said the equipment was in good condition, but some needed cleaning. It was agreed to ask the lengthsman to do this task.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the company carrying out the annual play inspection was behind schedule, and it would be completed as soon as possible.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>

<p>ii. <u>Pavilion Project</u>  Cllr Harper gave an update on the pavilion. It was agreed to discuss the pavilion hire agreements at the Pavilion working group meeting. It was agreed that the working party would meet on 24<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr Warry suggested that the pavilion should be named, and it was agreed to ask residents for suggestions.</p> <p><b><u>24/043/b</u></b>      <u>Any Other Issues</u>  None declared.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b><u>24/044</u></b>      <b><u>VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT</u></b></p> <p><b><u>24/044/a</u></b>      <u>Allotments</u>  The Clerk reported on how much rent had been received and what was outstanding. Cllr Harper said that the water trough needs to be emptied.</p> <p><b><u>24/044/b</u></b>      <u>Crime &amp; Anti-Social Behaviour</u>  The latest reports from the police.uk website had been circulated to councillors.</p> <p><b><u>24/044/c</u></b>      <u>Footpaths</u>  No report.</p> <p><b><u>24/044/d</u></b>      <u>Ground Maintenance</u>  The Clerk gave an update on the potential cluster parish partnership regarding the lengthsman. It was agreed that no decisions could be made until more information had been received. It was agreed to contact the groundsman for a quote to cover the additional work.</p> <p><b><u>24/044/e</u></b>      <u>Highways &amp; Transport</u></p> <p>i.    <u>Speed Indicator Device/Speedwatch</u>  Cllr Myram said that the Community Speedwatch Coordinator had stepped down and there had been a change of police inspector.</p> <p>ii.   <u>Other</u>  The Clerk reported that the unitary councillor had received a complaint about the speeding along Montacute Road/St Michaels View and it had been suggested that Somerset Council install double yellow lines and move the parking elsewhere. A discussion was held on the issue of vehicles parking too close the junction of Station Road causing a pinch point, the poor visibility around the bend for eastbound traffic due to the stone wall around the recreation ground and the lack of care and attention by drivers travelling in both directions. It was agreed that a meeting was required with Highways.  A complaint has been received about the overgrown hedge at the top of Station Road which is causing problems for vehicles and pedestrians. It was agreed to write to the owner.  A letter from Somerset Council had been circulated to councillors regarding the Highway Services devolution. The letter explained Somerset Council's plans to reduce their budget on the reactive maintenance activities which includes gullies, drains and ditches, overgrown hedges and noxious weeds.  <i>(Cllr Hewitson entered the meeting. Cllr Hewitson's report is minuted under Minute ref: 24/040).</i></p> <p><b><u>24/044/f</u></b>      <u>National Trust</u>  The National Trust has laid the hedge in Back Lane.</p> <p><b><u>24/044/g</u></b>      <u>Street Lighting</u>  No report.</p> <p><b><u>24/044/h</u></b>      <u>Triangle Trust</u>  The Triangle Trust is looking for a new treasurer. The next meeting will be on 12<sup>th</sup> June in Stoke sub Hamdon.  <i>(Cllr Hewitson left the meeting)</i></p> <p><b><u>24/044/i</u></b>      <u>Any Other Issues</u></p> <p>i.    <u>Somerset Council Sandbag Policy</u> - Somerset Council have updated their flood protection measures. As of 13<sup>th</sup> March, Somerset Council will not be providing</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>

<p>sandbags or equivalents to householders and businesses. Somerset Council state that there is no statutory duty for them to provide sandbags in times of heavy rain or flooding and it is down to the individual householders and businesses to be responsible for protecting their own homes. It was agreed to put an article in the magazine.</p> <p>ii. <u>Litter Pick</u> – The litter pick will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> April at 10am. It was agreed to put an article in the magazine.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>																																						
<p><b>24/045 MEMBERS' &amp; CLERK'S REPORTS</b></p>																																							
<p>The Clerk said that the Annual Parish meeting will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in the village hall. This meeting gives the electorate a chance to ask the council to consider new projects and address issues over the coming year. It is also an opportunity for village organisations to report on their activities.</p> <p>Cllr Drayton suggested registering the pavilion as a place of safety with somersetprepared.org. Cllr Drayton agreed to forward the information to the Pavilion working party.</p> <p>It was noted that there were a number of 'Then and Now' pictures of Montacute on the village Facebook page and it was agreed to ask the contributors if these pictures could go on the parish council's website.</p> <p>Cllr Davies commented on the amount of illegal parking near the King's Arms.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Drayton</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Saint</b></p>																																						
<p><b>24/046 FINANCE</b></p>																																							
<p><b>24/046/a Matters for Report:</b></p>																																							
<p>i. <u>Monthly Bank Reconciliation</u></p> <p>The Clerk gave the monthly bank reconciliation as of 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024:</p> <table data-bbox="231 1064 997 1276"> <tr> <td>Current Account</td> <td>£ 250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Reserve Account</td> <td>£ 64,324.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pavilion Reserve Account</td> <td><u>£ 35.17</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>£ 64,609.24</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Less Outstanding Cheques</td> <td><u>£ 1,419.11</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total as Cash Book</b></td> <td><b>£ 63,190.13</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>The Clerk gave the monthly bank reconciliation as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024:</p> <table data-bbox="231 1377 997 1590"> <tr> <td>Current Account</td> <td>£ 250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Reserve Account</td> <td>£ 63,501.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pavilion Reserve Account</td> <td><u>£ 35.21</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>£ 63,786.41</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Less Outstanding Cheques</td> <td><u>£ 5,825.57</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total as Cash Book</b></td> <td><b>£ 57,960.84</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Ring-Fenced Amounts</u></p> <table data-bbox="231 1702 997 1948"> <tr> <td>Sports Pavilion</td> <td>£21,267.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Play Equipment</td> <td>£ 6,084.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asset Management</td> <td>£14,059.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allotment Rent &amp; Donations</td> <td>£ 2,359.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allotment New Plot Deposits</td> <td>£ 562.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allotment Gate Key Deposits</td> <td><u>£ 420.00</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b><u>£44,753.03</u></b></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Budget Working Capital</b> <b>£13,207.81</b></p>	Current Account	£ 250.00	Business Reserve Account	£ 64,324.07	Pavilion Reserve Account	<u>£ 35.17</u>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 64,609.24</b>	Less Outstanding Cheques	<u>£ 1,419.11</u>	<b>Total as Cash Book</b>	<b>£ 63,190.13</b>	Current Account	£ 250.00	Business Reserve Account	£ 63,501.20	Pavilion Reserve Account	<u>£ 35.21</u>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 63,786.41</b>	Less Outstanding Cheques	<u>£ 5,825.57</u>	<b>Total as Cash Book</b>	<b>£ 57,960.84</b>	Sports Pavilion	£21,267.96	Play Equipment	£ 6,084.43	Asset Management	£14,059.00	Allotment Rent & Donations	£ 2,359.14	Allotment New Plot Deposits	£ 562.50	Allotment Gate Key Deposits	<u>£ 420.00</u>	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£44,753.03</u></b>	
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- ii. National Trust Direct Debit Payment for Recreation Ground  
The monthly invoices for March and April of £29.17 for the recreation ground lease had been received. These invoices are paid by direct debit.
- iii. HugoFox Direct Debit Payment for Website  
The monthly invoices for March and April of £23.99 for the website has been received. These invoices are paid by direct debit.
- iv. Water2Business Invoice  
The invoice of £140.65 has been received. This is payable by direct debit at the beginning of April.
- v. Year-End Budget Comparison Report – 31.03.24  
The year-end budget comparison report had been circulated to councillors. The Clerk stated that the council's expenditure was under budget for the year and the income received was over budget.
- vi. Local Government Act 1972 s.137 Allocation for 2024-25  
The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have confirmed that the s.137 allocation has been increased from £9.93 to £10.81 by the percentage increase in the retail price index, in accordance with Schedule 12b to the 1972 Act.

**24/046/b** Invoices Payable

Invoices payable

Invoices paid on 27.03.24

Sarah Moore	February Expenses	£ 259.74	Chq 1861
Evis Ground	Maintenance		
	Grass Cutting – February	£ 575.54	Chq 1862
Somerset Council	Lengthsman Scheme – September 2023 & February 2024	£ 902.11	Chq 1863
Brendon Owen	Reimbursement for Plumbing Items for the Pavilion	£ 122.00	Chq 1864
HMRC	PAYE Period 11-12	£ 243.00	Chq 1865
Zurich Municipal	Addition to PC Insurance	£ 51.80	Chq 1866
Terry Harper	Reimbursement for Materials for Pavilion Internal Works	<u>£ 3,036.67</u>	Chq 1867
	Total	<u>£ 5,190.86</u>	

April Invoices

Sarah Moore	March Expenses	£ 220.19	Chq 1868
Evis Ground	Maintenance		
	Grass Cutting – March	£ 575.54	Chq 1869
Somerset Council	Lengthsman Scheme March 2024	£ 422.51	Chq 1870
Montacute Village	Hall		
	Hire of Hall	<u>£ 196.00</u>	Chq 1871
	Total	<u>£ 1,414.24</u>	

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments.

**24/046/c** Other:

None declared.

**24/047** **PLANNING**

**24/047/a** Parish Planning Working Party Feedback on Applications:

**24/00125/COU** – change of use of land to extend the residential curtilage of the property Lochindore – Lochindore, Montacute Road, East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6UQ – the parish council objects to this application.

<p><b>24/00577/FUL</b> – change of use of land to residential, erection of a detached garage to front of dwelling and the erection of two detached outbuildings comprising of a workshop and potting shed to rear of dwelling (revised application of 23/01715/FUL) – Ridsdale, Townsend, Montacute TA15 6XH – the comments made on application 23/01715/FUL still stand.</p> <p><b>24/00680/TCA</b> – notification of intent to fell no. 2 trees withing a conservation area – Little Sparrows, 17 Bishopston, Montacute TA15 6UU – the parish council are not required to comment.</p> <p><b>24/047/b</b> <u>Planning Decisions and Reports</u>  <u>Decisions:</u></p> <p><b>24/00597/TCA</b> – notification of intent to carry out tree surgery work to No. 2 trees within a conservation area - The Roundhouse, Bishopston, Montacute TA15 6UU – Decided</p> <p><b>24/00420/TCA</b> – notification of intent to fell No. 3 trees and carry out tree surgery work to approximately No. 53 trees within a conservation area – Montacute All Saints C E V A Primary School, Yeovil Road, Montacute TA15 6XG – Decided</p> <p><b>24/00169/HOU</b> – the erection of a single story octagonal wooden summerhouse building – Shoemakers House, Townsend, Montacute TA15 6XH – approved</p> <p><b>24/00118/TPO</b> – application to carry out tree surgery works to no.1 tree as shown within SSDC (MONT 1) 1999 Tree Preservation Order – Park House, Lower Town, Montacute TA15 6UN - approved</p> <p><b>24/00100/TCA</b> – notification of intent to carry out tree surgery work to approximately No. 01 trees within a conservation area – Montacute All Saints C E V A Primary School, Yeovil Road, Montacute TA15 6XG – decided</p> <p><b>23/02766/HOU &amp; 23/02767/LBC</b> – raking out cementitious mortar and repointing with Lime mortar; replacing the rear modern conservatory with a glazed extension and alterations to garden wall; sympathetic internal alterations to the first-floor layout and relocation of bathroom; alterations and replacement of the modern windows in the rear gable; underpinning works to the south elevation and widening and moving the door into the sitting room and relocation of kitchen into the centre of the ground floor. Vault ceiling to relocated first floor bathroom and install conservatory style roof lights – 6 The Borough, Montacute TA15 6XB – approved</p> <p><u>Reports:</u></p> <p><b>21/03731/FUL &amp; 21/03732/LBC</b> – conversion of the former piggery to dual use as a self-contained residential annexe to the principal farmhouse and a holiday let – Abbey Farm, Bishopston, Montacute TA15 6UA – awaiting decision.</p>	
<p><b>24/048</b> <u>GOVERNANCE</u>  The Clerk circulated updated council contact information to all councillors.</p>	
<p><b>24/049</b> <u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>  The Clerk said she had received a request from a contractor to put a ‘welfare unit’ on part of the Borough car park. A discussion was held. Due to the size of the unit and where it was to be situated, it was RESOLVED not to sanction this request.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>24/050</b> <u>ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS</u>  Pavilion Grand Opening  Regular Litter Picking Sessions</p>	
<p><b>24/051</b> <u>DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING</u>  There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.58pm. The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council meeting at 7pm, followed by the ordinary May meeting at 7.30pm which will be held in the village hall on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024.</p>	