



Brief notes from the parish council September '17

1. **County council reports:** the signposts in the parish do need restoring, but there are doubts that funding and materials will be provided by highways. The move to bin collections every 3 weeks is still under discussion. The police/library hub in Shepton Mallet is still to be finalised.
2. The council thanked Steven Massey for organising an exploratory walk by the stream to look at **silting, up stream of the Stoke Lane slocker.**
3. **A tree surgeon** will look at the large trees on Moonshill Green.
4. **The NFU will be asked to visit the Millennium wood** to ascertain values for the parish insurance policy.
5. **The village hall committee** are still seeking a booking clerk and chairman.
6. **It is hoped that Mill Lane's hedgerows can be trimmed** in time for the Fun Run on October 16th. This requires permission from land owners flanking the lane.
7. **The public aired their views on the development of the three new tips** by Wainwright's quarries. There are concerns about damage to the ecology and landscape, noise pollution, changes to drainage patterns, surface run off, and the stability of new landforms. There are technical and professional issues to consider with discussions at the highest level. The parish council will respond to the views of parishioners after these consultations are completed.
8. **New Blakes Farm:** The parish council again recommended refusal for this application for a certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of the barn as a residential dwelling.
9. **Phippen's Farm:** Change of use of the barns into 3 dwellings and garages. Information on this application was so confusing that it was recommended for refusal at this stage.
10. **Pedestrian safety scheme.** Discussion with highways is continuing. The parish council felt that the implementation of a Traffic Regulating Order would be encouraging but a physical barrier beyond Cook's Farm would be better still.

11. **The pavilion.** Much of the first phase in improving the pavilion is complete, in time for league soccer fixtures starting in mid September. The Trustees from Wainwright's Quarry will visit the site to gain first hand information on the work in hand and possible future improvements to come.

12. **The safety check on the play area** requires the parish council to buy new swing seats and chains, improve the slide steps and supporting struts, and alter the gateways. These have been taken in hand.

13. **Cheques were authorised** for cleaning the Lychgate, the parish clerk's salary and expenses, the burial clerk's salary, the playing field safety inspection, grass cutting, the website management, and the annual audit of finances.

14. **The vacancy for a new parish councillor** is posted on the village website and on the village notice board. If no election is required then an applicant can be co-opted.

Date of the Next Meeting: 19th October 7.30 in the Village Hall.

MENDIP ROCKS 2017. This well known activity month starts 30th September and runs till 28th October. Events for all the family include caving, quarry visits, geological walks, dry stone-walling, mines, railways, and fossils. **Details and bookings through the Somerset Earth Science Centre 01749 840156 or on line www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk**

The Knatchbull Arms has a new landlord called Shawn. The pub is open every day, though on Mondays from 5pm not midday. There are meals planned for Wednesdays through till Saturdays. These will be self-service and each day has a theme. eg: Wed - curries, Thurs - burgers, Friday - Spicy. Shawn hopes that there can be a Darts team, Pool team, and a Skittles team in the near future.

Stoke St. Michael Church Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 8th October at 4 pm, followed by a three course Harvest Supper at 5.30pm in the Memorial Hall with an auction to follow. Adults £6.50, children £3.50. Bar available. Tickets from Janet Gilham on 01749 840671.