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The Lychgate



Brief notes from the parish council 23rd Feb.

Pedestrian safety and traffic calming; Neil Bryant from Vectos gave an introduction to the proposed schemes on improving pedestrian safety in the centre of the village. Ideas and plans involving shared space with no vehicle priorities or segregated pedestrian areas were discussed. Maps and diagrams showing these ideas will be on the village hall board, the village website, Facebook/social media and in the Old Post Office window (n.b. such schemes must be approved by the county council.) Estimates of £100K + are envisaged for any work. With pedestrian walkways, traffic width would be reduced to 4.1 m and bollards would protect those on foot. It is probable that 20m of road is reduced to single width so that only one vehicle can proceed at once along lower Mendip Rd. Reducing road widths = reducing traffic speeds. It does not seem possible to establish a 20mph speed limit in the village. **If parishioners wish to comment on this scheme then please contact the parish clerk at bridget.banwell@yahoo.co.uk by the 17th March please.**

The parish council has public liability insurance in place and will look at if this will cover those who are to help out on the village litter sweep on 2nd April. A risk assessment is required.

Somerset County Council: There is still £18m to be saved this year. The Council has a £7m overspend on the original budget.

Mendip District Council has a small surplus in hand. Council tax will rise by 1.9% . The county flood scheme levy on households is still in place. There is soon to be a Shepton Mallet Sunday Market. It will be every third Sunday with craft and food stalls in the Market square.

New parish Councillor: The parish council is pleased to

welcome Amanda Taylor as a new co-opted member of the council.

Planning; The parish council recommended approval of the application to establish a permanent access to Combe Barn off Frog lane.

Millennium wood: there is still no development from SCC regarding acquisition of the woodland.

Playing field. The parish council will put paved bases under the picnic tables. It will also place safety notices by the swings and skate ramps. A quote for grass cutting has been accepted. Annual upkeep will be close to £6000 for work all around the village. The parish council will pay for an annual safety check of the facilities under the Somerset Playing Association membership scheme

It is hoped to revamp the village website to make it more user friendly. A new design is anticipated.

The parish council has paid £50 **for the green waste bin** to be in use week by week, for churchyard flowers and wreaths etc.

There will be a planning meeting regarding Phippen's Farm on 9th March. **The next full parish meeting is the 30th March, 7.30 Memorial Hall.**

Stoke St. Michael has been given a wheelchair and mobile walker, which are available for any villager who would like to borrow them. The wheelchair can be pushed by either the person in the chair or by a helpful person behind. Just a reminder that the Red Cross suggests reversing down pavements and single steps for the comfort and safety of the person in the chair. Please contact June Maggs by email:

junemaggs2005@yahoo.co.uk.

Lent lunches will be on March 31st and April 7th, from 12 noon to 2pm. All proceeds will go to Zambia Link.