

# VIADUCT

August 2020

Somerton

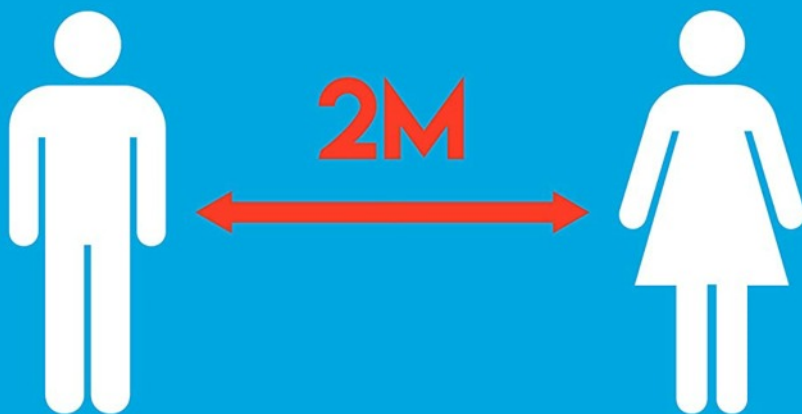
Town Council



*working with the community*

## COVID-19 ALERT

# KEEP YOUR DISTANCE !



## FOR YOUR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF OTHERS



[GOV.UK/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Opening times :  
Mon - Sat 7 am - 9 pm  
Sun 10 am - 4 pm  
Tele No 01458 270870  
Email [info@somertoncoop.co.uk](mailto:info@somertoncoop.co.uk)

Hello neighbour  
Your new  
Somerton Co-op  
is now open



It's what we do



A warm hello from us!

The six month MOT exemption introduced during the COVID-19 outbreak, has now ended.  
If your MOT is due on or after 1st August, please call to book a slot ASAP.

7am slots available for anyone needing to come in before work/home schooling!

We are open for **safe** MOTs, following the current guidelines and all  
vehicles/keys are being sanitised.

Honest, genuine & unbiased MOT Testing for Somerton and surrounding villages since 2014

While You Wait, Drop Off or Collection available – Please stay safe

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Centre



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Somerton, TA11 7HY  
[office@aardvarkmotors.co.uk](mailto:office@aardvarkmotors.co.uk)  
(between Lime Kiln Pub and  
Podimore Roundabout)

## Somerton Town Council - August 2020

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Planning (if required)	11 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> August	7.00pm	Remote Meeting
Accessibility & Highways	25 <sup>th</sup> August (after Planning)	7.00pm	Remote Meeting

If you wish to attend the Zoom meeting and to ask questions, please contact the town clerk. Planning applications may be viewed on the SSDC website with application details displayed on the notice board outside the Parish rooms and on the STC website.

All agendas and minutes are available on the STC website [www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk). Requests from the public for items to be added to the agenda should be notified to the Town Clerk in writing by the first Monday of the month.

Jude Raybould, Town Clerk, has resigned and will be leaving the council in September

Thanks expressed to Councillors Cliff Bassett and Brian Dobson, who recently resigned, for all their hard work on the council.

Vice Chairman Councillor Smith and Councillor Raybould have also tendered their resignations.

**SOMERTON TOWN COUNCIL CURRENTLY HAS FOUR VACANCIES FOR COUNCILLORS.**

There are two separate notices for the vacancies:

**Notice date 7th July 2020:**

**The Parish of Somerton**

Notice is given, in accordance with Section 87 of the Local Government Act 1972 that two vacancies have occurred on Somerton Town Council, and unless a request for an election is submitted in writing to the Proper Officer of the South Somerset District Council at the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2HT, by 27th July 2020, by 10 electors for the Parish of Somerton, the Town Council will proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option.

**Notice date 20th July 2020:**

**The Parish of Somerton**

Notice is given, in accordance with Section 87 of the Local Government Act 1972 that two vacancies have occurred on Somerton Town Council, and unless a request for an election is submitted in writing to the Proper Officer of the South Somerset District Council at the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2HT, by 7th August 2020, by 10 electors for the Parish of Somerton, the Town Council will proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Annual financial statement was approved at the July meeting and can be found on the website.

**Grants have been provided for**

- Save Kirkham Street Field Trust for £25,000 towards the purchase cost of the field.
- Grant for Somerton Recreation Ground to the value of £4560.00 towards the repairs to the temporary changing room floors.

Current Covid-19 expenditure is £1755.48 for support in the community.

STC is seeking to recruit a volunteer Dog Warden. If you are interested please contact Jude Raybould, Town Clerk email: [town.clerk@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk) or phone 01458 272236

The Council objectives were approved at the July Full Council meeting. Details can be found within the meeting minutes on the Somerton Town Council website.

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## News

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### **JOB VACANCY**

#### **TOWN CLERK / RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER.**

Salary within grade LC3 (SCP 33-41 - £35934 - £43662 pa) subject to experience and qualifications

Somerton Town Council is a forward-thinking council at the centre of a thriving local community. The council has “Quality” status in the Local Council Award scheme and aspires to achieve “Gold” level following the May elections.

We are now seeking highly organised and committed applicants to undertake this key role which is responsible for all day-to-day organisation and management of the council’s services, staff, facilities and finances. This is a demanding job and you will need vision, a high level of motivation, excellent leadership, management, administrative, inter-personal, accounting and IT skills in order to work successfully with staff, councillors, external organisations, stakeholders and the community. Ideally you should possess the CiLCA qualification and have a sound understanding of local authority organisation and management.

The post is full-time (37 hours per week) and some evening meeting attendance is required. We offer excellent nationally based terms and conditions of employment. Please visit our website [www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.somertontowncouncil.gov.uk) to download a recruitment pack and an application form.

For an informal discussion please contact the Chair of the Council, Dean Ruddle on 07976 556054

Closing date for applications: 12 noon Friday 31st July 2020.

Interviews will be held on 12th and 13th August 2020. Candidates should ensure they are available to attend on these days should they be selected for interview at each stage.

Due to COVID-19 interviews may take place virtually, for example via Zoom. Somerton Town Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Please visit the Somerton Town Council Website to download the Application Pack: <https://somertontowncouncil.gov.uk/job-vacancy-town-clerk-responsible-financial/>

### **INCREASED DOG FOULING IN SOMERTON**

Please remember to pick up after your dog to keep our paths and verges clear and hygienic.

### **MESSAGE FROM PAT FLAHERTY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE SCC**

World Health Organisation reminds us today that the pandemic is not over, and in its most dangerous phase on the global stage. In Somerset, it is still a live event and we need to continue to think of it that way into the autumn and winter. The message is to keep safe, social distance and remember the virus hasn’t gone away.

Somerset is still in a good place – we’ve had 1,281 confirmed cases but sadly 199 people have died. There was a small outbreak in Burnham on Sea from a public house.

However all customers have been contacted by using Track and Trace supported by our outbreak plan.

## **SOMERTON LIFELINE**

We have been running now from 18th March and it is almost a way of life! Prescriptions are still busy but we are now only going to pick up on Mon, Weds and Fridays. The demand for shopping has reduced, but we think the food bank is going to get busy. It is now operating from Edgar Hall but only for phoning and then delivery (see article below). Many of the original 105 volunteers are now back at work and we thank them for their support.

We have been offered the chance for some of our volunteers to do the MIND Level 1 "First Aid in Mental Health Awareness" course which results in a certificate and knowledge to help those in difficult situations know where to go for help.

The regular phone numbers will accept calls requesting such help, as well as food and prescriptions.

Sheila Crothers and team are trying to form a zone-based volunteer set up possibly building onto our scheme. If you can help please let Sheila know:

crothers4@outlook.com 07947 560 818.

## **SOMERTON COMMUNITY FOODBANK**

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated towards the Community Foodbank, we have delivered around 12 boxes a week to provide help to members of our community during the pandemic. The Etsome Arms have kindly given their space and time to help run operations, but it is now up and running again as a pub, therefore we have moved the Foodbank to the Edgar Hall.

The Co-op in Somerton has kindly placed collection boxes inside for donations.

We are operating on a Monday on a delivery only basis. If you need a food box, please contact the NEW number: 07561 651 372.

## **SPEEDWATCH – WE ARE BACK**

SpeedWatch is out and about again after getting the clearance from the police. We have already been out and unfortunately had to send in reports of cars travelling at over 35 mph in our 20 zones. We are also reporting drivers who exceed the limit on any of our roads and when it says 20mph it means exactly that. If you exceed the speed limits you will be reported and if you are perpetual speeder it is recorded and you will be flagged up and can expect more than a reminder through the post.

We find that only a few drivers are abusive and object to us being out but the majority of people support what we do and are pleased we are back, even if it is just to remind them to slow down. We are supported by the police and any abuse or intimidation is and will continue to be dealt with through official channels – fortunately this is a rare occurrence. If you want to help keep our roads safe, give me a call 01458 897224 and consider joining the team.

David Cundle

## **THANK YOU**

To all who purchased my hand made greetings cards I would like to thank you and advise you all that thanks to your generosity, £500 has been raised for Wessex House our local residential home. The cards are still available and any further proceeds will go to the local air ambulance fund. My thanks again.

Margaret Ralph

## **HEALTH WALKS**

We hope to restart on Thurs 6, 13 and 20th August BUT we can only have 5 plus leader each time. As usual please wear sensible clothes and footwear for the weather. If you wish to join one of the 3 walks please book in with Mo Fletcher on 07718 920 198 or email [fletcher080@btinternet.com](mailto:fletcher080@btinternet.com).

We will meet outside Somerton Library at 11.30am but only those booked in can walk. We will not go for refreshments afterwards at the moment.

Mo Fletcher

## **SOMERTON GROUP OF ARTISTS**

We have suffered like everyone else, having to cancel all our group activities since March. However, some of our members have taken advantage of the wonderful weather by taking their paints outside. Others have been able to continue their painting courses via zoom and WhatsApp. Members are encouraged to mail photographs of their 'lockdown art' so that it can be uploaded to our website - then we can all see what they have created during this difficult period!

Depending on government rules in force at the time, we hope to be able to start our outside painting programme before the end of summer - something we can enjoy while keeping our social distance! You can find more information about our activities on our website: [somertonartists.co.uk](http://somertonartists.co.uk)

## **LABURNUM DRIVE COMMITTEE**

We are still here. Missing all our friends, our parties, chats and of course our coach trips.

As soon as we are allowed to open our Community Hall, have no fear, we will phone, text or email (or shout from the roof top!). You will know as soon as we do. Keep well.

## **PARISH ROOMS RE-OPENING**

The latest information from the Government is: From 4 July, users of community facilities should limit their social interactions to 2 households (including support bubbles) in any location; or, if outdoors, potentially up to 6 people from different households. It will be against the law for gatherings of more than 30 people to take place.

Therefore it is unlikely that the Parish Rooms will reopen in the very near future.

However, rest assured that the trustees are carrying out an in-depth risk-assessment and once we can re-open there will be stringent plans in place to limit the possibility of catching/spreading Covid-19.

## **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

Sadly at the moment we cannot restart until more than 6 people can gather inside. The Sports Club regret this but have no choice.

I hope all our "Friends" are keeping safe and getting what they need. Ring Mo on 07718 920 198 between 10 am and 5 pm if you want a chat.

## **THANK YOU**

Mo Towner thanks the residents of New Street for the £190 following the distribution of the sunflowers which has been donated to the Somerton Area Dementia Action Alliance.

## **TENNIS**

Both tennis courts are open for doubles play. We are still playing to strict Covid 19 guidelines as laid down by our governing body the Lawn Tennis Association. If you would like to book a public court or become a member go to our website [www.somertontennisclub.co.uk](http://www.somertontennisclub.co.uk)

Contact Wendy Driver (Membership Secretary) on [wendyjdriver@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wendyjdriver@hotmail.co.uk) tel 01458 270131.

## **CARING FOR GRAVES**

Regularly tending your loved-one's grave can be an emotional experience at the best of times. As we get older or live further away from their resting place it is even harder to find the time to look after them. Rotary Club of Langport & Somerton can help by providing a grave tending service to ensure the resting place of your loved ones looks well-cared for.

We will tend your family grave once, twice or three times a year on a date requested by you.

On each visit we will: -

- Clean the headstone with soap and water
- Clean all memorial pots
- Remove all dead flowers, plants and leaves
- Trim and edge grass
- Lightly prune any bushes or shrubs
- Place fresh flowers (at an additional cost)
- Provide before and after photos

We are charging what we feel is a very reasonable cost for this emotive service, with all the proceeds going to the charities that are closest to Rotarians' hearts such as homelessness in Somerset, support for local families in need and for Yeovil Hospital's breast cancer appeal.

1 visit per year	£35
2 visits per year	£50
3 visits per year	£75

Flowers and wreaths are all provided at extra cost

For more information, please contact Gerard Tucker email: [gerardttucker@aol.com](mailto:gerardttucker@aol.com).

## **RUBBISH**

As Gregory & Rachel Mason noted in the last issue of Viaduct, now that lockdown is easing and fast food outlets are re-opening, the incidence of litter in our hedgerows and verges has once again increased. Also, some people have noted discarded face coverings and with the new ruling that they must be worn in shops, please be reminded not to discard them, nor any plastic gloves, but take them home and, if you can, wash and reuse them, but if not then discard safely.

## SOMERTON LIBRARY

Somerset County Council (SCC) has introduced a phased approach to opening libraries in Somerset, with the initial focus on the five larger libraries: Bridgwater, Frome, Minehead, Taunton and Yeovil. Smaller SCC-managed libraries will open after the 'big 5' when the necessary safety measures have been reviewed and are in place. Community Library Partnerships, such as Somerton, will be supported by SCC and will follow similar procedures, but there is an overriding requirement to ensure the safety of Somerton's band of volunteers, some of whom may be in the vulnerable categories defined by the government.

Somerton Library will not reopen until issues and lessons have been identified following the operation of the 'big 5' and smaller SCC-managed libraries such as Langport. Time will be required to determine how these issues can be dealt with in a volunteer dependent library. It is therefore unlikely that Somerton Library will open before mid-September.

Initially, browsing books in libraries will not be possible because of concerns about handling books.

The core provision will be an 'order and collect' service so that customers can place an order for a selection of books, talking books or DVDs that staff will hand-pick to be collected from the library. They may be collected by a third party on behalf of the customer. It is expected that Somerton Library will offer limited access to the public computers. At first this is likely to be for pre-booked, time limited slots. Library opening hours may have to be adjusted to accommodate a range of constraints and priorities. When the details of the 'new operating model' for Somerton Library are better defined, the information will be advertised locally.

Jeremy Greenop

## CRICKET

Good news to report! We are going to start with a few revised bubble league games commencing on July 25th through to Sept 5th so there will be matches and play – of course subject to many social distancing and other rules and regulations.

## WEATHER REPORTS

KEN SAYS – We had four inches of rain in June – a big difference compared to May!

### YE OVILT ON AVERAGE WEATHER STATISTICS FOR JUNE 2020

	Max temp	Min temp	Rain mm	Sun hrs
June Average	20.5	11.0	103.0	187.6
55yr Average	19.6	9.9	55.7	187.3

So June 2020 was a little warmer but much wetter than the 55year average





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Call us or get in touch online at  
**[www.cse.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.cse.org.uk/contact-us)**

Taun & Warm Somerset is managed by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) in partnership with Somerset Independence Plan, on behalf of Mendips, Sedgemoor, South Somerset and Somerset West and Taunton councils.



**Lucy Mead**  
Director



**AJM ELECTRICAL SERVICES (SW) LTD**

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a Unit 6 Carvin Court, Bancombe Road, Somerton, Somerset, TA11 6SB



**Cheekatrade.com**  
electrician registration number

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### **VIADUCT ADVERTISING RATES**

Black & white quarter page: £30

Black & white half page: £45

Black & white full page: £75.

Colour half page (inside front and back cover): £55

Outer back cover: £120.00

Full centre spread: £120.00

**Special offer - 20% discount for 12 months and 10% discount for 6 months. Prices include VAT**

Ads should be provided in pdf format and sized at full, half or quarter A5 page size as appropriate. To advertise in Viaduct contact us on: 01458 272236 or [viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:viaduct@somertontowncouncil.gov.uk).

### **SOMERTON ELECTRIC BIKE RENTALS**

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#### **OPENING HOUSE**

Sunday to Thursday

12.00pm to 2.00pm &

5.30pm to 10.30pm

Friday: Lunch Time Closed

Re-open 5.30pm to 11.00pm

Saturday: 12.00pm to 2.00pm &

5.30pm to 11.00pm

13 Brunel Shopping Centre  
Somerton, Somerset TA11 7PY

### **COMPTON DUNDON CRICKET CLUB**

**CRICKETERS WANTED FOR  
GAMES OVER THE SUMMER**

**COMPETITIVE GAMES IN A  
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ENVIRONMENT**

Contact Ben on:  
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or email:  
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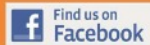
   



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