

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the remote meeting held via Zoom of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 10 November 2020**

01.11.20 PRESENT:

Cllr J Earl – Chair, Cllr John Henderson, Cllr E Costelloe, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Cllr Seewooruttun, Cllr D Seviour

In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk, Cllr Alison Barkshire – District Councillor

Members of the public: None

02.11.20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr V Turner, Cllr S West, Cllr H Leakey

03.11.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Henderson declared an interest in Item 11.11.20 i.

04.11.20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

05.11.20 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES HELD ON 13 OCTOBER

Previously circulated and approved. PP'd by Clerk.

06.11.20 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

i. Unitary council proposal:

All the Somerset councils have been requested to submit their proposals by 9th December.

ii. Climate change:

Mendip is currently adopting a Strategy for Climate Change.

iii. Lockdown:

Frome Market continues to open on a Wednesday and Saturday and the recycling centres will also remain open.

07.11.20 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

None submitted

08.11.20 MATTERS ARISING

i. Superfast Broadband:

Voneous have approached the Estate regarding placing a mast on their land. No decision has been made yet. Residents using Voneous would be tied to them for a few years whereas Openreach allow you to choose your provider immediately after installation. Cllr Seviour raised whether Vobster would be included in the installation. Clerk will ask Lisa Strachan whether this is the case and will also approach Openreach so discussions can be opened with them.

ii. Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane:

The Estate has agreed that something needs to be done with area and are looking at sympathetic options eg. laying cobbles/paving to match the wall with some landscaping. Funding maybe required for the project and it is likely to be quite costly.

iii. Website:

The Clerk now has all the information required to move the domain name etc. Cllr Seviour has a contact who may be interested in designing a new website.

iv. Telephone box – painting:

Clerk to look at contract to see if there are any limitations for its usage/removal. Cllr Asquith to ask the school if they would still like to use it.

- v. **New Community Trust:**
John Henderson has drawn up a preliminary concept for the new Trust. Cllr Asquith will make an informal approach to the quarry to find out if it would be feasible to put some sort of funding in place. It was agreed that it would be preferable for each parish affected by the quarry to have their own form of Trust so they have control over what is spent within their parish.
 - vi. **Footway by quarry:**
Resident would be a happy to form a working group to move this forward. Clerk has had difficulty getting hold of the Rambler Association but has now got a local contact's number which she will follow up.
 - vii. **Defibrillator maintenance and care:**
There is quite a substantial list of items on the list which need to be met to keep the defibrillator in a serviceable condition and it may be difficult to find someone willing to do this. Richard Jelly previously inspected the defibrillator and will be approached to see if he is willing to assist with giving information on how to care for it.
- 09.11.20 HIGHWAY ISSUES:**
- i. **Flooding by Vobster Quays:**
This has been reported to Highways who agree that some action needs to be taken. Clerk to lobby Kilmersdon PC to put pressure on Highways. The only recent works in the area has been to re-tarmac the edges where they have broken up.
- 10.11.20 PLANNING**
- i. **New Applications:**
2020/2115/TCA: Fell conifer, 1 Egypt Cottage, Top lane – For tree officer
 - ii. **Mendip decisions:**
2020/1805/APP: Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (surface water drainage system – pre-commencement) on planning consent 2020/0870/FUL – Virginia Cottage, Upper Vobster Road – Approved
2020/1265/FUL: Retrospective for the creation of a farm track x 600m² – Land at 370601 149369, Vobster Hill - Approved
2020/1861/TCA: Magnolia crown reduce, yew prune back, laburnum reduce to lateral growth, hazel prune back – West Hill, Top Lane – Approved
2020/1859/TCA: Twinned stemmed alder – remove both stems overhanging garden – land north of Brook Cottage, Top Lane - Approved
 - iii. **Other planning matters:**
None
- 11.11.20 CORRESPONDENCE:**
- i. **St Andrews church – Request for grant for churchyard:**
The grant has been held at £1,600 for many years. Cllr Costelloe proposed that it be increased to £2,000. All approved.
 - ii. **Playground Committee – extension to play area:**
The equipment is getting old and only covers a small age range. Although it is inspected every year and any works are carried out to keep it safe, the equipment is nearing the end of its life. Various options were proposed by the Playground Committee but they are unable to progress with them as they do not know who owns the land and how much they may be able to acquire. Cllr Costelloe reported that the play area had originally been leased to the parish council by the Estate. The parish council then leased it to The Company which was formed to take over the day to day running of the recreation ground. Concerns were raised that the proposals may impact on adjacent properties and the residents would need to be consulted.

12.11.20 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

i. Payment of Accounts:

Clerk's Salary (October)	£253.45
Phone line rental	5.50
Utilities	<u>4.00</u>
	£9.50
HMRC PAYE (Period 8)	£63.20
SALC – clerk training - accessibility	£30.00
Dog waste bin	£322.28

ii. Receipts:

None

iii. Barclays mandate:

Clerk has re-sent the documents to Cllr Earl and Cllr Seviour.

iv. Items for 2021/2022 budget:

Clerk requested that consideration be given to any possible projects that the PC wish to implement in the next year so the item can be budgeted for if necessary.

v. Preliminary precept considerations:

Clerk requested that consideration be given to whether there should be an increase for the precept for 2021/2022.

13.11.20 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

i. Bus Stop on Vobster Cross:

The shelter is looking rather unsightly. The hedges behind it need to be cut back more and possibly some form of slabs from the road to the bus stop. To be discussed at the next meeting.

14.11.20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 7.15pm which will be held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm. Details of how to join the meeting will be available on the next agenda.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Printed name: _____