

**MELLS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**mellsparishcouncil.org.uk**

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at Mells Barn on Tuesday 24 May 2016 at 7.00 pm. Edmund Costelloe was in the chair, supported by 8 members of the Council (9 from 7.15pm). Four residents were present. The Clerk was in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

The Clerk called for nominations for Chairman. John Earl proposed and Chris Tye seconded Edmund Costelloe. It was unanimously agreed that Edmund Costelloe be re-elected Chair and Edmund Costelloe accepted the role.

**2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

The Chair called for nominations for Vice Chair. Edmund Costelloe proposed and Chris Tye seconded John Earl, all in favour. It was unanimously agreed that John be re-elected Vice Chair and John Earl accepted the role.

**3. A DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE** will be signed at the June meeting.

**4. MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING OF 12 MAY 2015**

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 May 2015 had been previously approved by the Council at the June 2015 monthly meeting and were taken as read.

**5. REVIEW OF REPRESENTATION TO EXTERNAL BODIES**

Steve West	-	Quarry Liaison Committees representative
Chris Tye	-	Footpaths (Mells) Insurance Officer
Vacant	-	Footpaths (Vobster)
John Earl	-	Police Community Support Officers Steering Committee representative
Speedwatch Co-ordinator	-	Jeremy Poynton

Grievance Panel members will be elected at the next monthly meeting.

**6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies absence.

**7. REPORT FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR** – none submitted.

**8. REPORT FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** – none submitted.

**9. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN, BARN COMMITTEE**

John Earl reported that the rental income had been at another record level of £15,697 and expenditure was £8,794. Mells Barn funds are now £7,000 higher than those at the beginning of the year – and stand at over £25,000. This unusual state of affairs and had been caused by a hiatus while ambitious plans for redevelopment of the kitchen and toilets have been drawn up and the negotiations are progressed for the renewal of the lease with the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

The redevelopment plans, like those of the window replacements several years ago, are following a torturous route through the conservation advisers and planning consultants. The lease, similarly, is not a straightforward renewal as the Barn is a very different proposition from that of 54 years ago. The Barn was then a shell of its current state whilst now it is a very popular, well provisioned village amenity with good facilities and wide usability. As part of the

lease renewal a rental agreement needs to be reached guaranteeing that the freeholder may remain committed to providing a worthy facility for village use.

John Earl concluded that 2016 should see an agreement reached by all concerned parties and the Barn's place in the village should then be secured for a further 60 years.

## **10. RECREATION GROUND REPORT**

Good progress is being made with fundraising with a possible £25,000 being secured. It is hoped that improvements to the site will be made soon.

## **11. REPORT FROM TRUSTEE OF MELLS CHARITY**

A full report was submitted by the Trustees last year and little has changed in the last year. The Chair explained the background to the charity and how the money is distributed.

## **12. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON CURRENT YEAR'S ACTIVITIES**

The Chairman reported that the year had been relatively quiet year with the normal monitoring of village planning applications, discussions about traffic and speeding, bus services, mobile phone coverage and broadband speeds, car parking in Selwood Street etc.

The principal events had been the resignation after 26 years of the vice-chair, Councillor Ros Wallace who had served the council devotedly with unstinting hard work as well as total dedication. She would be sorely missed but will continue to support the community in many other ways.

The other major issue had been the rejection by the planning inspectorate of the appeal against refusal of planning permission in respect of wind turbines at Torr works which although not in the parish followed closely on the same outcome in respect of an application 100 metres from the parish boundary. There is little doubt that this means a serious threat to property values and quality of life in the village and surroundings has been lifted.

The parish council was delighted that this year's Daffodil Day was so successful financially and we have congratulated the organisers. They in turn are committed to a repeat in 2017.

The local bus service had been saved in the short term at least after First Bus withdrew at short notice. The new service is markedly better in keeping to timetable and the private operator deserves our thanks.

The village had been without a vicar for much of the period but a successor has been appointed and building works have commenced in the Rectory as has the renewal of much lead roofing on St Andrews church.

The Chair reported that the parish is lucky to have a thriving pair of Pubs as well as a very successful Post Office, shop and cafe. The village appears to be in good shape for the future and it is good to see that the estate is taking rethatching and grass cutting as seriously as ever.

The Parish council had set up a sub-committee specifically to look at creating passing places in Selwood Street and is actively pursuing the case for improved mobile coverage though with little success to date. Fast Broadband in terms of fibre from Mells Telephone exchange to one street cabinet so far has been installed and hopefully some parts of the village will benefit in the coming year.

The Chair concluded by giving his personal thanks to Joy Book, the Parish Clerk for all she does and thanks too for all our councillors for their hard work and support throughout the year.

## **13. PARISH DISCUSSION FORUM**

- i. **Presentation to Ros Wallace:** The Chair thanked Ros Wallace for her extraordinary 26 years service and presented her with a card and gift from the councillors.

- ii. **Mobile phone service:** Alan Brady reported that he had received a phone call from David Warburton's office. Mr Warburton will be meeting with O2. The Parish Council are in contact with various mobile phone providers.
- iii. **Broadband:** This varies throughout the village. BT has installed fibre to one cabinet within the village although the areas that it covers is not clear. Little Green appears to be connected and residents are waiting to go live in June.
- iv. **Rubbish in the village:** Alan Brady reported that a significant amount of rubbish had been dumped in Conduit Lane. After contacting Mendip DC the rubbish had been cleared within 24 hours.
- v. **Quarry noise:** Steve West reported that the noise at night should now be reduced as 4 of the 5 lorries have been rubber lined.
- vi. **Grass cutting and footpath clearance:** Ros Wallace thanked the Estate for maintaining these around the village.

The Chairman thanked the parishioners for taking the time to attend the meeting and closed the meeting at 7.25pm.

Signed..... Date.....

Print Name.....