

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
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The Annual Parish Meeting was held at Mells Barn on Tuesday 9 May 2017 at 7.00 pm. Edmund Costelloe was in the chair, supported by 8 members of the Council. Two 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 Alison Moir 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. Jeremy Poynton proposed and Edmund Costelloe 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 24 MAY 2016

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 24 May 2016 had been previously approved by the Council at the June 2016 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
Ros Wallace	-	Footpaths (Vobster)
John Earl	-	Police representative
Speedwatch Co-ordinator	-	Speedwatch has been disbanded
Grievance Panel members	-	John Earl and Clare Asquith agreed to continue the role

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Vince Turner, David Seviour and Steve West

7. REPORT FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR – none submitted.

8. REPORT FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – none submitted.

9. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN, BARN COMMITTEE

Rental income is at another record level for 2016/17 has been an encouraging precursor to the launch of the project for the improvement and enhancement of the Barn toilets and kitchen. These plans incorporate the move of the toilets to a new floor above the kitchen, accessed by an internal staircase on the east side, with a single wheelchair-accessible toilet retained on west side ground floor. The pine cladding will be replaced by a modern facade of glass, steel and coloured facing with the work commencing 2019. Additionally, plans will be drawn up to replace the dated lights with modern efficient and attractive lighting schemes to enhance the unique ambience of the Barn.

The project will require approval for extension of the lease and this is currently in the hands of solicitors to negotiate the fine detail. Approval for this lease renewal has been obtained from the Diocese, St Andrew's Parochial Church Council and Mells Parish Council and the only remaining issue to resolved is that of the rent to be charged

Complaints by neighbours arising from loud music being played by wedding guests led to a review of Barn policy for these events by the Management Committee. It was decided to further restrict the frequency of these events and to require a local connection by hirers.

The lease on the Walled Garden, adjacent to the barn, is currently undergoing renewal, possibly with a commercial venture. Given the investment now being made in the future of the Barn as a key village amenity, it is important to avoid any conflict of interest between the demands of a commercial enterprise and that of a community project in terms of common access but, more particularly, with regard to competition in the key income stream on which the Barn's future depends.

2017/18 looks like being an interesting, perhaps challenging, but rewarding period for the Barn.

Approximately £7,000 profit was made last year and funds stand in excess of £20,000. However, the proposed works are likely to cost in the region of £60,000 and match funding is being sought.

10. RECREATION GROUND REPORT

Edmund Costelloe remains a Director of the Company at present. There have been modest improvements to the Pavilion.

11. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON CURRENT YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

The Chairman reported that:-

- Cllr Philip Ham has been re-elected as the County Councillor
- The precept has remained the same for many years
- Alms Charity – no nominations were required this year
- Several litter bins and dog waste bins had been provided around the village
- Selwood Street parking and traffic issues have been assessed and options to help resolve them were being progressed

The Chairman concluded his report by thanking all the councillors and the Parish Clerk for their continued hard work and help throughout the year.

12. PARISH DISCUSSION FORUM – no motions from the floor.

The Chairman thanked the parishioners for taking the time to attend the meeting and closed the meeting at 7.15pm.

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

Print Name.....