

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
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A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 8 June 2010 at Mells Barn.

1. PRESENT: Lady Asquith, Mr E Costelloe (Chairman), Mrs M Jennings, Mrs J Mann, Lord Oxford, Ms R Wallace (Vice Chair), Mr S West and Miss H Wynter.

The Clerk was in attendance.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Ms Abi Blanche-Martin (for lateness), Mr V Turner, Mr C Tye and Cllr M Ellis.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were made for Item 5(g) by Clare Asquith and Lord Oxford.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 11 May 2010 had been circulated. It was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Police Community Support Officer's Steering Committee:** PCSO Yvonne Mears's report was read out.
- b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Steve West had attended a recent meeting in which it was reported that a number of complaints had been received from Whatley and Chantry about the severity of blasting. As a result Hanson had changed the blasting firm and was monitoring the situation.
- c) **White Bridge improvements:** Jane Mann advised that John Mann was about to submit three designs to Raymond Asquith after which they would be brought to the Parish Council meeting.
- d) **Erosion of footpath from Top Lane to White Bridge:** Chris Tye had advised that he had confirmed the job with the builder and was awaiting a start date.
- e) **War Memorial plinth:** The Chairman reported that he had written to Christopher Jerram to ascertain ownership of the War Memorial land and had as yet received no reply.
- f) **Grit bins:** The Clerk reported that residents had requested a grit bin for the hill between Little Green and Great Green, impassable in the January snow. It was agreed that a similar grit bin to the one agreed for Upper Vobster could be purchased at a cost of £131.67. Both would be ordered in dark green. Once permission from Langdon Turner to install one at the entrance to the track to Cuckoo Corner had been obtained the Clerk would go ahead with the order.

Cllr Matthew Ellis had forwarded a reply to the Parish Council's query about the lack of gritting in Mells. Mendip Highways Service Manager would pass on our request that the triangle of Little Green/School Lane and Holes Lane be gritted but thought success unlikely due to the limited number of properties involved and being below 500ft. Only school links with over 300 pupils had priority and there were no reserves for additional treatment.

- g) **Recreation Ground:** The Chairman had had a meeting with Tiff Pike and agreed alterations to the Articles of Association of the new company. He had written to the solicitors and on their reply would formally advise the Estate and

the lease would be assigned. He confirmed that he would be one of the three directors along with Tiff Pike and Dr Piers Jennings.

- h) **Footpath clearance:** The Clerk had written to the Senior Rights of Way Officer to request some funding.
- i) **Replacement of railway sleeper:** The Clerk had advised East Mendip Rights of Way of the necessary repair.

Abi Blanche-Martin arrived at this point.

- j) **Lakeside Park signs:** The Clerk had written to the landlord of Lakeside Park and had received a reply from Land Rovers UK, the tenants. In spite of their enthusiasm for their orange branding but in order to protect the interests of the local community they intended to redecorate the now defunct Frome Signs signage to carry the Land Rover's branding but with reverse colours of orange font on black. They will then remove their existing orange signage on which they had just spent a considerable sum. Clerk to write and thank Land Rovers UK.

6. PLANNING

- a) **Erection of dwelling with parking (DEL), 49 Longfield, Mells:** an appeal against Mendip's refusal of permission had been made. Clerk had written to request a copy of the appeal decision letter.

7. LETTERS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) From County Roads re grass cutting: noted.

8. LETTERS FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) Buildings at Risk Register: 2010 Re-survey: the Conservation Officer wished to hear of any listed buildings considered suitable for inclusion in the Register. It was decided to suggest the inclusion of the snow damaged farm buildings at Mells Green Farm and of The Cottage, Little Green.
- b) East Mendip Community Partnership meeting: The Parish Council discussed the advisability of regular Parish representation but agreed that no real purpose would be served unless a matter specific to the Parish were to be tabled.

9. LETTERS AND REPORTS

- a) Peter Lugg, Akela for Mells Cub Pack, asked the Parish Council to judge a *Stop Litter* poster competition. It was agreed to accept his offer and suggest a number of sites where it would be appropriate to install posters.

10. ANNUAL RETURN

- a) Clerk advised that the Annual Return had been sent off to the external auditors following the conclusion of the public consultation.

11. ACCOUNTS

a) JK Costelloe		
(Clerk's salary – (March) paid by standing order)		£ 259.20
(Clerk's salary – (April) paid by standing order)		£ 259.20
(Clerk's Expenses (Mar, Apr, May))		
Stationery	£ 13.07	
Printer cartridge	£ 39.99	
Photocopier cartridge	£ 80.00	
Phone calls	£ 3.24	
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		£ 136.30

It was agreed to pay the above account.

12. RECEIPTS None

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) The Clerk advised that the insurance schedule for 2010-2011 had been received and checked by Chris Tye.
- b) Cllr Matthew Ellis had taken up Mr John Macdonald's Parish Meeting complaint about the lack of gritting in Frome car park during the January snow. He advised that insurance was not a problem, provided that the car parks were completely cleared, but that, as lack of funding made this impossible, it was advisable not to clear the car parks at all.
- c) Abi Blanche-Martin reminded councillors of the Mells Clay Shoot on 19 June in Conduit Lane, in aid of Mells Village Shop.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 6 July 7.15 p.m. in Mells Barn.

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