

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
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A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 17 August 2010 at Mells Barn.

1. **PRESENT:** Lady Asquith, Mr E Costelloe (Chairman), Mrs M Jennings, Ms R Wallace (Vice Chair), Mr V Turner, Mr S West and Miss H Wynter.

The Clerk was in attendance.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Ms Abi Blanche-Martin, Lord Oxford, Mrs J Mann and Cllr M Ellis.
3. **PRESENTATION BY LOCKDOWN LTD.** The Parish Council received a presentation on security for commercial and agricultural premises.
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** There were no declarations of interest.
5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 6 July 2010 had been circulated. It was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.
6. **MATTERS ARISING**
- a) **Police Community Support Officer's Steering Committee:** PCSO Mears report for July noted.
 - b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Steve West had nothing to report.
 - c) **Erosion of footpath from Top Lane to White Bridge:** In the absence of Chris Tye the Chairman would check that the path had been mended before dispatching payment.
 - d) **Grit bins:** The Clerk reported that the two grit bins had been delivered and placed in position pending filling by County Roads who had been informed of their delivery. The empty grit bin for Mells Green had been stolen. The Upper Vobster bin had now been placed in safe keeping. Clerk to obtain a quotation from Martin Moore for securing the bins. It was resolved to order a replacement bin. An insurance excess of £250 precluded a claim.
 - e) **Recreation Ground:** The Chairman had signed the final documents before passing them to Mr Tiff Pike for signature. They would then go to Dr Jennings for signature after which the new company would be registered with Companies House..
 - f) **Pothole at Little Green:** The pothole had now been mended and new drainage works concluded.
 - g) **Signpost and traffic safety at Woodlands End:** Jeff Bunting had advised that removing the signpost from inside the garden at The Pound would cost in excess of £5,000. County Roads would be unable to pay for these works and in order for them to be carried out they would have to be funded by the Parish Council. The Council expressed their reluctance to take on these costs.

Jeff Bunting was unwilling to do more to improve traffic safety at Woodlands End beyond changing the road markings. Clerk to ask him to produce detailed plans and diagrams in order to facilitate an informed decision. Clerk to write to

The Pound explaining that a clear view of the Great Elm signpost was part of the solution to the traffic safety problem that the Council is aiming to address.

- h) **Chairman's Award for Service to the Community 2010:** The Clerk had obtained permission from the agreed candidate and the submission was ready for posting.

7. PLANNING

- a) **Change of use of land from agriculture to equestrian use and construction of a stable block and ménage for private use, Virginia Cottage, Upper Vobster:** Parish Council approval (SW).
- b) **Application to extend the time limit of application, Brook Cottage, Top Road, Mells:** Parish Council approval.

8. LETTERS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Re Temporary Road closure, Underhill, Coleford:** Noted.
- b) **Community Safety Consultation Survey:** Councillors were asked to complete the previously circulated survey.
- c) **Review of Winter Maintenance Services:** Chairman to attend forthcoming meeting to express parish concerns and return completed questionnaire.

9. LETTERS FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Mells Conservation Area Appraisal:** The Parish Council were in broad approval but expressed their concern that no further funds should be used to improve the already satisfactory presentation.

10. LETTERS AND REPORTS

- a) **From Treasurer, Mells with Vobster Parochial Church Council:** it was agreed to pay a grant of £1,500 towards the upkeep of Mells churchyard. Clerk to write to the Treasurer asking if further grants could be applied for, including from Daffodil Festival funds.
- b) **From NHS Direct, Somerset, re assessment of pharmacy services:** completed questionnaire to be returned expressing approval of existing services.
- c) **From National Association of Local Councils re Community Right to Build:** noted.
- d) **From SALC re precept capping:** a consultation paper had been issued on aspects of local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases but the Mells precept would be below the proposed trigger level..

11. ANNUAL AUDIT

- a) The audit of the Council's 2009-10 accounts had been concluded.
- b) A copy of the Statements of Accounts and the auditor's certificate had been published and a notice to that effect had been posted on the notice board for the statutory 14 days.

12. ACCOUNTS

a) Moore Stephens <i>(Audit fees for year ended 31 March 2010)</i>	£141.00
b) Glasdon Manufacturing Limited <i>(Grit bin for Mells Green)</i>	£154.71
c) Glasdon Manufacturing Limited <i>(Grit bin for Upper Vobster)</i>	£154.71
d) J K Costelloe <i>(Clerk's salary –(June) paid by standing order)</i>	£ 259.20
<i>(Clerk's salary –(July) paid by standing order)</i>	£ 259.20
e) KM Austin <i>(Footpath repair from Top Lane to White Bridge)</i>	£450.00

It was agreed to pay the above accounts.

13. RECEIPTS No receipts had been received.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) The Parish Council resolved to take a more active role in winter maintenance and would collect salt from the depot when available. Chairman to ask whether a snow plough could be provided for a farm tractor to clear the hills.
- b) Monica Jennings reported that two shrubs had been purchased for the war memorial garden and the Council agreed to authorise a payment of £25.99.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 5 October, 7.15 p.m. in Mells Barn.

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