

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

A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 5 October 2010 at Mells Barn.

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

The County/District Councillor attended. The Clerk was in attendance.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Ms Abi Blanche-Martin (for lateness) and from Lord Oxford.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Clare Asquith declared an interest in item 10(a).
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 17 August 2010 had been circulated. It was resolved that the minutes be adopted with the addition of Mr C Tye's name to the list of apologies for absence. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

5. **COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Matthew Ellis reported that he was dealing with the matter of the trees between the football field and Longfield. Because of the large financial deficit, County Hall is reviewing areas to achieve reductions including library services. Frome, however, is a core library and while some changes may be made it should be safe from closure. Hinckley Point is a major project which should have some direct impact locally in terms of labour resources and aggregates from quarries in the area. Mendip DC is not in debt but is reviewing its finances. Cuts will impact more on larger towns than on countryside communities.

6. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a) **Police Community Support Officer's Steering Committee:** PCSO Mears report for August noted. On her arrival, Abi Blanche-Martin advised that Frome gangs were targeting villages and that bicycles should be locked up and not left on view.
- b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Steve West to attend a meeting next week at Tarmac.
- c) **Erosion of footpath from Top Lane to White Bridge:** Chris Tye noted that the work done had stood up well to recent heavy rain.

Abi Blanche-Martin arrived at this point.

- d) **Grit bins:** The Clerk reported that a replacement grit bin had been delivered and was in safe keeping. Martin Moore had quoted £185 for securing the two bins. It was resolved to ask Martin Moore to secure the Mells Green bin only. The Vice Chair undertook to get the Upper Vobster bin secured to the fence and would paint lettering denoting Mells Parish Council ownership on the lid.
- e) **Recreation Ground:** The Chairman advised that a fault had been detected in the documentation; this had gone back to the solicitors for correction.
- f) **Signpost at Woodlands End:** The owners of The Pound were not prepared to move the signpost in their garden nearer to the wall but would cut back the willows again this autumn. They were happy for signage plates to be placed on

the outside of their wall. Councillors considered that their request for a street lamp in the vicinity would not meet with general approval.

- g) **Traffic safety at Woodlands End:** Jeff Bunting was unable to supply a plan of intended changes to the road markings and suggested a meeting with councillors. Clerk to ask Jeff Bunting for some dates; Chris Tye and Helen Wynter to attend to agree on an acceptable road lining arrangement.
- h) **White Bridge improvements:** John Mann had shown Raymond Asquith 3 designs for a White Bridge replacement. The unpainted kiln dried oak version was preferred by him and some of the overhanging trees could be cut down to improve the air circulation. The Chairman suggested that a steel base would last longer than the projected 20/30 year lifetime for the oak design. John Mann was asked to attend the next meeting to talk his ideas through.
- i) **Provision of snow plough for parish use:** The Chairman advised that a snow plough could be made available for parish use in return for an undertaking to clear the snow from certain roads. Vince Turner to contact Mendip direct in this connection; he also offered to collect and store extra grit/salt for the parish if this is made available again this winter.

## 6. PLANNING

- a) **Application to extend the time limit of application for erection of extensions, Brook Cottage, Top Road, Mells:** MDC approval with conditions.
- b) **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:** MDC approval with conditions.
- c) **Re appeal for site at garden of 49 Longfield, Mells:** appeal dismissed.

## 7. LETTERS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Re application to upgrade public footpath FR 10/9 to public bridleway:** a visual inspection confirmed that the footpath in Upper Vobster had been used as a bridleway for some time; residents seem to have no objection to its use as such. Clerk to inform Somerset CC that the Parish Council had no problem with its rededication as a bridleway and that the minutes may be inspected in Mells if necessary.

## 8. LETTERS FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Re draft statement of Licensing Policy:** Noted.

## 9. LETTERS AND REPORTS

- a) **From Ms Fiona MacIntosh re parking in Selwood/Gay Streets:** Following Ms MacIntosh's concern at regular car parking at the junction and on the pavement outside the Old Rectory, the Parish Council noted that illegal parking was a matter for the Police. The Clerk could provide a proforma notice for the windscreen requesting people to move their cars. Double yellow lines were considered inappropriate for Mells.
- b) **From District Commander, Yeovil Police Station:** Noted.
- c) **From Frome Running Club:** Thanks for Scenic 7 running race noted.

## 10. WAR MEMORIAL REPAIR

- a) **To consider a parish council contribution to recent repairs and pointing to war memorial in Mells:** The Chairman advised that, following the recent repair of the war memorial (requested by the Parish Council), Humberts had asked that the Parish Council make a contribution to the expenses which totalled £678.56. It was agreed to pay half the total as under most circumstances the war memorial, paid for by public conscription, would be the responsibility of the parish.

## 11. FINANCIAL UPDATE JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER: Noted.

## 12. ACCOUNTS

a) Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement (Recreation Ground rent 29/09/2010 – 24/12/2010)	£ 125.00
b) DW McClew (Footpath clearance)	£ 200.00
c) Mells with Vobster Parochial Church Council (Grant for upkeep of Mells churchyard)	£1,500.00
d) Glasdon Manufacturing Limited (replacement grit bin for Mells Green)	£ 154.71
e) Jane Selwyn James (Plants for war memorial garden)	£ 25.18
f) J K Costelloe (Clerk's salary – (Aug) paid by standing order) (Clerk's expenses June/July/August)	£ 259.20
Excess postage	£ 0.66
100 2 cl stamps	£32.00
A4 paper	£ 4.19
Printer cartridge	£19.95
Phone calls	£ 0.91
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	£ 57.71

It was agreed to pay the above accounts.

## 13. RECEIPTS

- a) Barclays Instant Access Saver  
(Interest June to September 2010) £ 1.27

## 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) It was agreed to make a donation of £25 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in addition to the cost of the Remembrance Day wreath.
- b) It was agreed to ask Chris Rowe to trim the war memorial hedge lightly before Remembrance Sunday.
- c) It was rumoured that Hazelwood, Top Lane had been let to a charity providing underprivileged children with countryside holidays. The Clerk had asked Mendip Planning about change of use requirements and the situation would be monitored.
- d) It was reported that Mells Brook had been left during the summer with no fish and very little water because of dredging of the Mells Park lake. Upon receipt of Peter Lowth's email outlining the facts Clerk to write to Michael

- Samuels requesting that the village receive prior consultation, should works affecting the supply of water to Mells Brook be required again.
- e) Vince Turner reported that Hansons were dealing very slowly with the collapsed roof on the Mells Farm outbuilding. Clerk to write stressing health and safety concerns for passersby.
  - f) Helen Wynter advised that noise from reversing lorries at Lime Kiln Hill had increased and that she was monitoring the situation.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 9 November, 7.15 p.m. in Mells Barn.

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