

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

A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 9 November 2010 at Mells Barn.

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- 1. PRESENT:** Lady Asquith, Mr E Costelloe (Chairman), Mrs M Jennings, Ms R Wallace (Vice Chair), Mr C Tye and Mr S West.

The Clerk was in attendance.

- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Ms Abi Blanche-Martin (for lateness), from Mrs J Mann, Mr V Turner, Miss H Wynter and from Lord Oxford.

- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Clare Asquith declared an interest in item 5(d).

- 4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 5 October 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:**
- b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** The Clerk was asked to request Mells Park to thin the trees opposite Halecombe Quarry on the road side of the wall in order to improve visibility for lorries.
- c) **Grit bins:** The Clerk will ask for the two grit bins to be filled as soon as she has heard from Martin Moore than the Mells Green bin has been fixed to the ground. Chris Tye will check the Parish insurance policy to ensure that the Council is covered for accidents connected with gritting.
- d) **Recreation Ground:** The Chairman reported that following an unforeseen delay the legal documents were about to be signed.
- e) **Signpost at Woodlands End:** Helen Wynter and Chris Tye were to meet with Jeff Bunting on 18 November when they would discuss the costs of installing a new sign outside the Pound wall. All costs incurred would now have to be borne by the Parish Council
- f) **Traffic safety at Woodlands End:** Jeff Bunting had informed the Clerk that no funding was available for any new works, including those previously agreed, under the Minor Traffic Management budget so any improvements have been shelved
- g) **Provision of snow plough for parish use:** Vince Turner had been given the relevant phone number to contact at Somerset County Council. The Chairman advised that any snow clearance carried out would be on behalf of Somerset County Council, not Mells Parish Council.
- h) **Application to upgrade public footpath in Upper Vobster to public bridleway:** The Rights of Way team at Somerset had viewed the Parish Council's old minute books.
- i) **Hazlewood, Top Lane:** The owner of Hazlewood had informed the Chairman that a 5 year lease had been assigned to a children's charity called *24/7*. 3 severely disadvantaged inner city children would be looked after and educated by a couple. The children concerned could range from 4 to 18 years of age. If required the Charity would attend a public meeting to explain their operation.

- j) **Water supply to Mells Brook:** The Clerk would contact Mells Park when details of the incident has been supplied.
- k) **Mells Green Farm outbuildings:** The Clerk had written to Hansons raising the Council's concerns over the collapsed roof and had received a reply advising that the contract for the repair would be issued in the very near future.

## 6. WHITE BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

- a) **To discuss the various options with John Mann:** deferred until the December meeting.

## 7. PLANNING

- a) **Insertion of window within side elevation, 1 Pipework Solutions, Lakeside Park:** Parish Council recommended approval.
- b) **Erection of Electricity Generating Plant, Buckland Down:** Parish Council recommended approval.

## 8. LETTERS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

Abi Blanche-Martin arrived at this point.

- a) **Items of interest to councillors and clerks from SALC:**
  - i) Parish council elections are due to be held on Thursday 5 May 2011.
  - ii) As SALC had recommended that old minute books should be stored at the Somerset Heritage Centre at Norton Fitzwarren it was agreed that the Clerk should make arrangements for the minute books to be deposited in these secure conditions with public access.
- .b) **Re letter from Chief Executive, Somerset County Council:** Noted that parish councils may be requested to take on responsibility for certain services at risk following council cuts.

## 9. LETTERS FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Meeting of East Mendip Community Partnership on 16 November at 6.30 p.m. at Selwood School:** Noted.
- b) **Re local housing issues:** The Chairman reported on a letter addressed to the Chairman of Ditcheat Parish Council and circulated to relevant parish clerks concerning future plans for local housing, the responsibility for which now falls to Mendip District Council. As Mells satisfied the criteria for villages expected to increase their capacity, by reason of having a school, a shop, hall and public transport, the Chairman advised that the Parish Council could expect pressure to agree to additional housing in the village at some stage in future.

## 10. LETTERS AND REPORTS

- a) **Re promotion of next Census on 27 March 2011:** Noted that a poster advertising local census job opportunities had been placed on the notice board.
- b) **From Somerset Waste Partnership re bank holiday collection day changes for 2010/11:** Noted that a poster had been placed on the notice board.

- c) **From Treasurer, Mells with Vobster PCC:** Noted.

**11. ACCOUNTS**

- a) J K Costelloe  
(Clerk's salary –(Sept) paid by standing order) £ 259.20
- b) Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal  
( Remembrance Day wreath (£16.50) + donation) £ 41.50

It was agreed to pay the above account.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) The Vice Chair reported that Bobby Hanscomb had been delighted and honoured to be nominated by Mells Parish Council for the Somerset County Council's Chairman's award and had received the award in Taunton.
- b) Clerk to ask County Roads about the confusing length restriction signs for Vobster Bridge from the Soho Cross direction which had yet to be standardised.

**13. DRAFT DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2011:**

**Tuesday 18 January 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn**  
**Tuesday 8 March 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn**  
**Tuesday 5 April 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn**  
**Tuesday 17 May (incl Annual Parish Meeting) 7.00 Mells Barn**  
**Tuesday 14 June 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn**  
**Tuesday 12 July 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn**  
**Tuesday 30 August 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn**  
**Tuesday 4 October 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn**  
**Tuesday 8 November 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn**  
**Tuesday 6 December 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn**

It was noted that a number of dates had had to be altered since the dispatch of the agenda.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 7 December, 7.15 p.m. in Mells Barn.

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