

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

The Clerk was in attendance.

2. **THE EARL OF OXFORD AND ASQUITH**

The Parish Council noted the recent death of the Earl of Oxford and Asquith. The Chairman paid tribute to Lord Oxford whose record of 38 years service on Mells Parish Council will be remembered with affection.

The Chairman then formally declared a casual vacancy. The Clerk had informed Mendip District Council who had confirmed that, being within six months of an election, the vacancy need not be filled until May.

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Lady Asquith and Ms Abi Blanche-Martin (for lateness).
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 7 December 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:** The PSCO's report for December 2010 was noted.
 - b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Steve West advised that no further meetings would take place until the summer.
 - c) **Recreation Ground:** The Chairman reported that one or two legal matters remained to be tied up but that the matter should be resolved shortly.

Lady Asquith arrived at this point and the Chairman expressed the Council's condolences on the recent death of Lord Oxford.

- d) **Signpost at Woodlands End:** The Clerk had received a copy of Jeff Bunting's letter to the owners of The Pound together with a leaflet advocating the conservation of traditional direction signs.
- e) **Secure storage of council's minute books:** A proposed visit to the Somerset Heritage Centre had been cancelled due to the bad weather but another was proposed for the following week.
- f) **Proposed closure of Coleford Recycling Centre:** A letter from SCC's Cabinet Member, Strategic Planning and Economic Development in reply to the Clerk's letter was noted.
- g) **Feasibility of footpath across Mells Green:** Clare Asquith had made an arrangement to walk across the route of the proposed footpath with the concerned resident.

- h) **Flooding between Vobster Cross and Babington:** Mendip DC would contact the owners of the field on one side of the road with a view to installing drainage to alleviate the problem.

6. PLANNING

- a) **New wall and secure door to provide safe roosting environment for bats etc, Wadbury House, Mells:** MPC recommends approval, Mendip DC approval.
- b) **Proposed timber decking, 3 Egypt Cottages, Mells:** No objections from Mells PC.
- c) **Replacement of some windows, a set of French doors, one external door and glazed screen and internal alterations, Rectory Stables, Mells:** MPC recommends approval.
- d) **Proposed works to trees and hedges in a conservation area, Hillside, Mells Green:** MPC recommends approval.
- e) **Alterations to house and ancillary buildings, Wadbury House, Mells (listed building consent and planning permission):** MPC recommends that the decision be left to the Planning Officer.

7. LETTERS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Application for postponement of the first review date, Whatley Quarry:** Refused on various grounds including noise, blasting techniques and light pollution.
- b) **Re recent availability of additional 20 kg bags of de-icing material up to a maximum number of ten:** Vince Turner would collect and store bags for public highway use.

Abi Blanche-Martin arrived at this point.

8. LETTERS FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL: None.

9. LETTERS AND REPORTS

- a) **Letter from District Commander, Yeovil Police Station:** Noted.
- b) **Localism Bill:** A summary of the four powers to be available to parish councils was circulated.
- c) **From the Secretary of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport:** noted.

10. WHITE BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

- a) The Council reviewed the options presented at the December meeting and asked Mr John Mann to produce basic costings for the 'hybrid design' and requested copies of the three designs in contention for circulation at the next meeting. The Parish Council offered recompense to Mr Mann for the work this entailed.

11. ACCOUNTS

- a) Visc Asquith's 1999 Settlement Trust
(*Rec Ground Rent 25/12/10-24/03/11*) £ 125.00

b)	Somerset Playing Fields' Association (Subscription)	£	10.00
c)	MJ Moore (Fitting 1 grit bin)	£	92.50
d)	C Rowe (Trimming war memorial hedge)	£	60.00
e)	JK Costelloe (Clerk's salary – (Nov) paid by standing order) (Expenses (Oct, Nov, Dec 2010))	£	259.20
	Envelopes	£	1.98
	Phone calls	£	3.29
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		£	5.27

It was agreed to pay the above accounts.

12. RECEIPTS

a)	Barclays Business Saver Account (Interest Sept-Dec 2010)	£	1.27
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13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Monica Jennings reported that Conduit Lane was flooded again on the bend and that the oil drums on Conduit Lane had been cleared away.
- Clerk to remind Jeff Bunting to clear gully at Woodlands End as promised (Chris Tye).
- Steve West reported dumping of tyres between Lower Vobster and Soho.
- The Vice Chair reported that some potholes for repair on Upper Vobster Lane had not been dealt with as snow had erased the white markings.
- The Clerk reported that Peter Molony of Great Elm had agreed to act as internal auditor for the Parish Council this year.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 8 March, 7.15 p.m. in Mells Barn.

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