

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
mellsparishcouncil.org.uk

A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 17 May 2011 at Mells Barn.

1. **PRESENT:** Ms Abi Blanche-Martin, Mr E Costelloe (Chairman), Mrs M Jennings, Mrs J Mann, Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr V Turner, Mr C Tye, Ms R Wallace (Vice Chair), Mr S West and Miss H Wynter.

The Clerk was in attendance and one member of the public also attended. Mr Lee Wright of Point Cloud also attended up to Item 6 (d).

2. **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:** received from Mr Peter Lowth.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Clare Oxford declared an interest in Items 6(a) & (c) and Jane Mann in Item 10.

4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 5 April 2011 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:** No meeting had recently taken place.
- b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** No meeting had recently taken place.
- c) **Signposts at Woodlands End:** Signs were yet to be installed. Clerk had informed Jeff Bunting that the redundant signpost in The Pound should replace the more modern sign in the triangle at the top of Lime Kiln Hill.
- d) **Footpath across Mells Green:** Clare Oxford advised that the three parties had met and agreed on a way to construct the footpath.
- e) **Trees opposite Halecombe Quarry entrance:** This matter had been reported to Somerset County Council.
- f) **Footpath grant:** Somerset County Council had supplied a grant for the full cost of £220. David McClew had agreed to cut back the footpaths this year for that sum.

6. **PLANNING**

- a) **Approval of matters reserved by condition, Mells Village Shop:** Mendip District Council approval granted.
- b) **Approval of details reserved by condition for consent, Wadbury House, Mells:** Mendip District Council approval granted.
- c) **Extensions and alterations, Great Green Cottage, Mells Green:** Parish Council are recommending approval in principle subject to reservations about the painted vertical timber cladding.
- d) **Conversion of redundant building to holiday accommodation, Former Telephone Exchange, Vobster:** Mr Lee Wright of Point Cloud, the agents acting for the owners, put forward the case for this conversion and then left the meeting. Parish Council are recommending approval, subject to Mendip DC being satisfied with the safety aspect of access to and from the property from a busy road with no land available for turning.

7. LETTERS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Re further electoral review of Somerset:** noted.
- b) **Re application to regrade footpath to bridleway, Upper Vobster to Coleford:** decision delay noted.

8. LETTERS FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL: None.

9. LETTERS AND REPORTS

- a) **From SALC re future of local public audit:** noted.
- b) **From Somerset Age UK:** letter of thanks for grant of £100.
- c) **Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance:** In response to a request it was agreed to grant £100 to Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance.
- d) **The Trails Trust:** Information on a fun ride to be held in the Mells area on 19 June noted.

10. WHITE BRIDGE

- a) It was resolved in principle to proceed with the replacement of White Bridge to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and to prepare all necessary planning specifications, costings, etc and to seek approval of the project from the appropriate authorities.
- b) It was decided to seek public consultation before going ahead with the project.
- c) It was agreed to appoint John Mann to negotiate on behalf of Mells Parish Council for the White Bridge project with the Environment Agency and with Somerset County Council. It was noted that while John Mann was giving his time free of charge, £750 would be payable in fees for the technician to draw up the plans etc.

11. CLERK'S PAYE REGISTRATION & PAYROLL ARRANGEMENTS

- a) It was noted that the Vice Chair would be registering the Clerk for PAYE and undertaking payroll arrangements on her behalf.

12. ANNUAL RETURN

- a) It was resolved to approve the Council's Annual Return (2010- 2011). The Vice Chair signed the statement of accounts, the annual governance statement and bank reconciliation which were currently available for inspection by the public with a notice to that effect on the notice board.
- b) It was noted that the statement of accounts had been approved and signed by the internal auditor, Peter Molony.
- c) The Council thanked the Clerk for the clear presentation of financial documents.

13. REVIEW INSURANCE

- a) Chris Tye, having reviewed the Council's insurance policy, recommended continuing the present arrangement which was adequate for the parish's needs.
- b) It was agreed to adopt Came & Co's 3-year long-term agreement, thereby saving over 5%.

14. ACCOUNTS

- | | |
|--|----------|
| a) Somerset Art Works
(Grant) | £30.00 |
| b) Sally Vince
(Mells Parish Council website hosting &
monthly updating July 09-Mar 11)) | £445.00 |
| c) Broker Network Ltd
(Insurance premium 01/06/2011-31/05/2012) | £788.69 |
| d) JK Costelloe
(Clerk's salary – (Apr) paid by standing order) | £ 259.20 |
| e) Rapid Entry Locksmiths
(clearing parish noticeboard locks) | £ 65.00 |

It was agreed to pay the above accounts, including Item (e) which, as an emergency repair, had not been an agenda item.

15. RECEIPTS

- | | |
|---|----------|
| a) Somerset County Council
(Rights of Way grant) | £ 220.00 |
|---|----------|

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) It was agreed to accept responsibility in principle for the Estate's trustees legal fees in respect of negotiations to set up Mells Sports & Recreation Company Limited.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 14 June, 7.15 p.m. in Mells Barn.

C:\PARISH COUNCIL\MINUTES\110517.doc