

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
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A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 14 June 2011 at Mells Barn.

1. **PRESENT:** Ms Abi Blanche-Martin, Mr E Costelloe (Chairman), Mrs M Jennings, Mr Peter Lowth, Mr C Tye, Ms R Wallace (Vice Chair), Mr S West and Miss H Wynter.

The Clerk was in attendance.

2. **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:** received from Mrs J Mann, from the Somerset County Councillor and from the Mendip District Councillor.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** there were no declarations of interest.

4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 17 May 2011 had been circulated. It was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

- a) The Chairman welcomed Peter Lowth to his first meeting as a parish councillor.
- b) Peter Lowth signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- c) The Leigh-on-Mendip Clerk would take up the matter of confusing signs for HGVs commencing at Soho Cross with Somerset Highways. The Clerk had also reminded Jeff Bunting that this matter was as yet unresolved and mentioned that foliage needed cutting back on the road between Lower Vobster and Coleford.

6. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a) **Police Community Support Officer's Steering Committee:** Peter Lowth attended the meeting in Abi Blanche Martin's stead and reported that foot patrols had been in operation in Mells following the spate of break-ins in the vicinity. The Vice Chair advised that travellers had taken up residence near Mells Road Station and that householders in Vobster and Mells should take extra precautions. Clerk to take up with PCSO.
- b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** The planned meeting had been cancelled but would take place in the near future. No particular concerns to raise.
- c) **Signposts at Woodlands End:** Jeff Bunting had confirmed that the signpost would be moved to the top of Lime Kiln Hill but the works would take about 18 weeks from start to finish.
- d) **Footpath across Mells Green:** Chris Tye reported that progress was slow but that the project was moving ahead.
- e) **White Bridge:** The Clerk had applied for a grant of £2,000 lottery money from Awards for All and should hear in one month's time. John Mann had increased the estimated cost of the project to allow for contingency and for repair to the scouring identified by Somerset CC. John Mann was negotiating with Somerset CC and when the plans were finalised arrangements could be made for a public consultation to be held.

- f) **Woodlands End signs:** To be installed at the same time as the signpost in The Pound is moved. The lining at the junction had been repainted in March and Jeff Bunting is proposing to improve the 'Slow' road markings on Lime Kiln Hill and on the approach to the 'Stop' line from the Great Elm direction.

7. PLANNING

- a) **Loft conversion with 2no pitched roof dormers and 1 no Velux roof light to the front elevation and 2no Velux roof lights to the rear elevation, Stoneleigh, Mells, Green:** Parish approval recommended.
- b) **New planning permission to replace extant planning permission No 084622/016 – Conversion of commercial outbuildings to 2 separate dwelling units with ancillary home working units, Laurel Cottage, Little Green, Mells:** Parish recommended that the decision be left to the Planning Officer.

8. LETTERS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **From Chief Executive re broadband bid:** joint bid with Devon and North Somerset for £30m of government funding had been successful and will ensure cross county access to broadband within the next few years.
- b) **From Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit:** Clerk to inform Unit that while the Parish Council was willing to help in an emergency it did not require further contact at present.
- c) **Re Temporary Road Closure Elm Lane to Hapsford Hill, Great Elm:** Noted.

9. LETTERS FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Re structural changes In Mendip DC:** Noted.

10. LETTERS AND REPORTS

- a) **Re letter of thanks from Somerset Art Works for grant of £30:** Noted.

11. RECREATION GROUND

- a) It was resolved to accept responsibility in principle for the Estate's trustees legal fees in respect of negotiations to set up Mells Sports & Recreation Company Limited.
- b) The Chairman advised that the first meeting of the directors with the Supporters Club Committee would be held on the following day.

12. NEW COUNCILLOR TRAINING

- a) It was agreed to pay £25 fee for SALC new councillor training on behalf of Peter Lowth, who had attended on 7 June at Nunney.

13. ACCOUNTS

- a) Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance:
(grant for 2011) £ 100.00
- b) JK Costelloe
(Clerk's salary – (May) £ 259.20

The Clerk advised that the standing order to pay the Clerk's salary had been temporarily cancelled as the amount might vary from month to month for the time being.

It was agreed to pay the above accounts.

14. RECEIPTS

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| a) HM Revenue & Customs
(VAT repayment 2010/11) | £190.65 |
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15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Helen Wynter advised that notices were being fly-posted on telegraph poles and that she would remove them.
- b) Chris Tye reported that plastic ties were strangling some of the Millennium oaks. Clerk to action.
- c) Chris Tye advised that encroaching weeds were threatening the surface of the tennis courts. The Chairman would discuss this at his forthcoming meeting with the Supporters' Club.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 12 July 7.15 p.m. in Mells Barn.