

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
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A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 4 October 2011 at Mells Barn.

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

The Clerk was in attendance.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from the Somerset County Councillor.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Abi Blanche-Martin, Peter Lowth, Jane Mann, Clare Oxford (on arrival) and Chris Tye declared an interest in Item 5(c), Chris Tye in Item 6 (a) and Clare Oxford in Item 10
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 30 August 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 Officers' Steering Committee:** PCSO reports for August and September noted.
 - b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Deferred in the absence of Steve West.
 - c) **White Bridge Replacement:** The Chairman expressed his disappointment that only two residents had attended the public consultation on White Bridge held immediately prior to the meeting and thanked John Mann for his presentation. The Clerk reported on progress with the Awards for All bid. It was agreed to set up a working party consisting of Clare Oxford, Chris Tye, Peter Lowth and John Mann to bring proposals for landscaping the White Bridge area to the next meeting.
 - d) **Mells First School Fund Raising Appeal:** Clarification having been received on the precise need for the requested grant, it was resolved to pledge a grant of £3,000 to the Fund Raising Appeal in view of the importance of Mells First School to the village and to the community.
 - e) **Threat to Dispensing Pharmacy at Mendip Country Practice:** The Chairman advised that over 700 letters had been received in support of the status quo.

Clare Oxford arrived at this point.

- f) **Construction outside Meadowbank, Top Road:** The Chairman reported that, although Somerset CC had notified the owners of Meadowbank that they were building on the public highway, construction work had continued until a formal stop notice had been served.
- g) **Broken corner stone on war memorial:** Clare Oxford had reported this to Mells Estate.

- h) **War Memorial Hedge cutting:** The Clerk confirmed that Chris Rowe had cut the hedge at a cost of £75.

6. PLANNING

- a) **Proposed pruning of a willow tree in a Conservation Area, bridge Cottage, Mells:** No objection from Mendip DC.

7. LETTERS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL: None.

8. LETTERS FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Re Rural Isolation strategy for Mendip:** Clerk to suggest that Mendip send a doorstep survey; she will put a request for examples of rural isolation in parish magazine.
 b) **From Mendip District Council re revenues and benefits event:** noted.

9. LETTERS AND REPORTS

- a) **From Treasurer, Mells with Vobster Parochial Church Council:** following a request for a grant to cover the annuals cost of maintaining Mells and Vobster churchyards it was resolved to pay the PCC a grant of £1,500.
 b) **From CPRE & NALC re a new guide, *How to respond to planning applications*:** Clerk to request 10 copies of this booklet for each parish councillor.
 c) **Re Boundary Commission for England:** Noted.
 d) **Somerset Waste Partnership Bank Holidays Collection day changes 2011/12:** To be posted on notice board.

10. RECREATION GROUND RENT REVIEW

- a) The first rent review due on 29 September 2011, adjusting the annual rent to £590, was noted.

11. FINANCIAL UPDATE JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2011: Noted.

12. ACCOUNTS

a)	Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement		
	(Recreation Ground rent 29/09/2011 – 24/12/2011)		£ 147.50
b)	J K Costelloe		
	(Clerk's salary – (Aug 2011)	£259.20	
	(“ “ (Sept 2011)	£259.20	
			<hr/>
			£ 518.40
c)	JK Costelloe		
	(Clerk's expenses July/August/September 2011)		
	Ink cartridge	£ 19.99	
	Phone calls	£ 3.33	
			<hr/>
			£ 23.32

It was agreed to pay the above accounts.

13. RECEIPTS

- a) Barclays Business Saver Account
(Interest 6/June-4 Sept 2011) £ 1.27

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) It was agreed to pay a grant of £25 to the Royal British Legion in addition to the cost of the Parish Council Remembrance Day wreath.
- b) Clerk to ask Mendip DC to remove rubbish from wooded path at end of Chantry Lane.
- c) It was noted that off-roaders had been churning up Stony Path and the bank opposite Mells First School and that this was a matter for the Mells Estate.
- d) Clerk to advertise in parish magazine for applicants to cut back parish footpaths following the resignation of David McClew.
- e) After complaints of indiscriminate and dangerous parking in the area of the Post Office, Chris Tye and Jane Mann to draft a notice for the Shop door following discussions with the Manager.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 8 November, 7.15 p.m. in Mells Barn.