

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
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A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 8 November 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. Mr Mike Phypers was also present.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from the Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mrs J Mann and from the Somerset County Councillor.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Abi Blanche-Martin, Peter Lowth, and Chris Tye declared an interest in Item 10.
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 4 October 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:** Peter Lowth attempted to attend the meeting in lieu of Abi Blanche-Martin but was unable to obtain admittance. PCSO reports for October noted.
 - b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Steve West advised that the life of the Tarmac quarry was being extended to 2031 rather than to 2021.
 - c) **Mells First School Fund Raising Appeal:** The Clerk to be alerted a couple of months before the end of the fundraising process; in any case, grant to be handed over before the end of the financial year.
 - d) **Construction outside Meadowbank, Top Road:** The Chairman reported on recent developments.
 - e) **Broken corner stone on war memorial:** In hand.
 - f) **Rural Isolation strategy:** A notice had been placed in the Parish Magazine; the Clerk to date had received no responses.
 - g) **Copies of *How to respond to planning applications*:** The Clerk had requested 10 copies but had had no response to date.
 - h) **Rubbish in Chantry Lane:** Reported to Somerset County Council.
 - i) **Applicants for parish footpath cutting:** Request for applicants to be re-sent to parish magazine.
 - j) **Dangerous parking at Post Office:** Councillors expressed their continued concern at the haphazard parking at Woodlands End combined with dangerous driving both outside the Post Office and along Top and Bottom Lanes. Clerk to write to the School asking them to pass on the Council's concerns to mothers on the school run. Peter Lowth offered to take over SpeedWatch duties from David Thomson and organise a rota. As Top Lane is going to be resurfaced in the New Year, Somerset County Council to be asked if rumble strips would be appropriate. A notice to be inserted in the parish magazine asking for further suggestions.

6. PLANNING

- a) **Demolition of existing garage and conservatory. Single storey extensions and alterations to dwelling house, 10/11 St Edmunds Terrace, Upper Vobster:** Mendip DC approval with conditions.
- b) **Application for 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:** MDC approval with conditions.
- c) **Replacement of commercial outbuildings with single dwelling unit with detached garage to serve the Laurels and 2 number B1(a) Office/units, Laurel Cottage, Little Green, Mells:** with Parish Council.
- d) **Alterations to side extension to raise the ridge height, The Gables, Upper Vobster:** MPC recommends approval.

7. LETTERS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Re De-icing material and depot Open Evening:** It was noted that the Parish Council holds sufficient stocks of de-icing material left over from last winter.
- b) **Somerset Electoral Review:** Noted.
- c) **Re Temporary road closure:** Noted.
- d) **Replacement of defective paving with tarmacadam:** Chairman to write expressing the Council's agreement in principle to contribute to the costs of replacing paving and other materials on a like for like basis but to request clarification on SCC's statutory requirement to do so whenever possible.
- e) **Re Parking strategy consultation:** Noted.

8. LETTERS FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL: None.

9. LETTERS AND REPORTS

- a) **From Poppy Area Organiser re Parish Council wreath:** It was noted that the Parish Council wreath had already been delivered.
- b) **From Mendip Citizens Advice Bureau:** It was agreed to hold over this letter until the March meeting as the Council had already fulfilled its grant quota for the current financial year.
- c) **From St Margaret's Hospice, Yeovil:** It was reiterated that it would be more appropriate to concentrate on making grants to institutions in the vicinity of Mells.

10. WHITE BRIDGE

- a) The Clerk updated the Parish Council on the progress of the *Awards for All* bid.
- b) The Parish Council received the recommendations of the White Bridge Landscaping Working Party.
- c) It was agreed to put forward the proposals of the White Bridge Landscaping Working Party to the Estate for agreement, recommending a simple tarmac finish for the new footpath.

11. ACCOUNTS

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| a) Mells with Vobster PCC (Grant for churchyards maintenance) | £1,500.00 |
| b) Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (Remembrance Day wreath (£17.00) + donation) | £ 42.00 |
| c) CG Rowe (War memorial hedge cutting) | £ 75.00 |
| d) J K Costelloe (Clerk's salary – October 2011) | £ 259.20 |

It was agreed to pay the above accounts.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) The Clerk reported that the sign post had been removed from the garden of The Pound and that she was making enquiries about the progress of the rest of the job.
- b) The Chairman advised that the application from Unicare to create another pharmacy in Coleford had been turned down but that the application from John Ware had been successful; Mendip Country Practice had a right to appeal.
- c) The Vice Chair advised that although the oil community scheme had no local co-ordinator for Mells, Jason Tinley was acting as co-ordinator for the time being.
- d) Steve West to investigate Chris Tye's complaint of the noise from a rock pecker starting off at 6 am at the Quarry.
- e) Chris Tye asked the Clerk to report that the Estate wall opposite Bridge Cottage had loose capping stones which constituted a possible danger.
- f) Monica Jennings reported that the quantity of fallen leaves at Rectory Corner had led to the road being flooded during a recent cloudburst. Clerk to report.
- g) The Clerk advised that Top Lane would now be resurfaced in February and that the current signs which were no longer applicable would be removed.

13. DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2012:

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| Tuesday 17 January | 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn |
| Tuesday 6 March | 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn |
| Tuesday 3 April | 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn |
| Tuesday 1 May (incl Annual Parish Meeting) | |
| Tuesday 12 June | 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn |
| Tuesday 3 July | 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn |
| Tuesday 28 August | 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn |
| Tuesday 2 October | 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn |
| Tuesday 6 November | 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn |
| Tuesday 4 December | 7.15 p.m. Mells Barn |

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 6 December, 7.15 p.m. in Mells Barn.