

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
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A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 6 December 2011 at Mells Barn.

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

The Clerk was in attendance.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Ms Abi Blanche-Martin and the Countess of Oxford & Asquith.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Peter Lowth declared an interest in Item 6(d), Jane Mann, Peter Lowth, and Chris Tye declared an interest in Item 10.
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 8 November 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:** PCSO's report for November noted.
 - b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Steve West had passed on the complaint about the rock pecker starting up at 6am and will also pass on complaints about loading noise at 5.45am and after midnight.
 - c) **Dangerous parking/speeding issues:** Jane Mann had spoken to PCSO Yvonne Mears who will provide notices to put on car windscreens or to be left in the Café to educate people about safe parking outside the Shop. Clerk had raised concerns about speeding with the PCSO, a notice requesting suggestions had been placed in the parish magazine and a suggestion to place 30mph stickers on wheelie bins had been received. Clerk to speak to PCSO about this. Peter Lowth has taken as over SpeedWatch Co-ordinator and is liaising with Terry Drake.
 - d) **Broken corner stone on war memorial:** In hand
 - e) **Applicants for parish footpath cutting:** Clerk had placed a notice in the parish magazine requesting applicants. Two people had expressed an interest.
 - f) **How to respond to Planning Applications booklet:** Clerk to remind NACL of her request for 10 copies.
 - g) **Replacement of defective paving with tarmacadam:** Chairman had written to Somerset County Council requesting their comments on the Council's understanding of conservation area planning laws that it was a statutory requirement to replace like for like wherever possible. He had yet to receive a reply and would contact SCC again.
 - h) **6 am start for quarry rock pecker:** Dealt with under 5(b) above.
 - i) **Fallen leaves at Rectory Corner:** Clerk had reported and they had been cleared away.
 - j) **Estate wall opposite Bridge Cottage:** Clerk had reported and Christopher Jerram had replied that this was in hand.

6. PLANNING

- a) **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:** Parish Council recommends approval
- b) **Alterations to existing stable block at Mells Park House, Mells:** Parish Council recommends approval.
- c) **Extension to existing portal framed building, Mells Road Works, Vobster Cross:** Parish Council recommends approval.
- d) **Proposed works to trees in a conservation area, land north of Brook Cottage, Mells:** Parish Council recommends leaving the decision to the planning officer.
- e) **Conversion of former telephone exchange to self-catering holiday let with roof terrace at Vobster Cross:** Parish Council recommends refusal.
- f) **Erect single storey front entrance porch extension, 2 storey rear access stairway and first floor extension to form new en-suite, Rock Cottage, Upper Vobster:** with Parish Council.
- g) **Alterations to side extension to raise the ridge height at The Gables, Upper Vobster:** Mendip DC approval with conditions.

7. LETTERS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Re potential increase in charges for renewing or applying for a Blue Disabled Parking Badge:** Noted.

8. LETTERS FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL: None.

9. LETTERS AND REPORTS

- a) **From Somerset Age UK (Age Concern) re update and request for a grant:** to be reconsidered at the March 2012 meeting.
- b) **Re Update from District Commander, Yeovil Police Station:** Noted.
- c) **From Treasurer, Mells with Vobster PCC:** letter of thanks for grant noted.
- d) **From Somerset Waste Partnership:** arrangements for rubbish collection in severe weather conditions noted. Poster to go up on notice board.

10. WHITE BRIDGE

- a) The Clerk reported that a grant of £9000 had been received from the Big Lottery Awards for All and that it had been paid into the Parish Council bank account. As required by the conditions of the grant, a press release and pictures had been sent out to the local media and details of the project had been posted on the parish council website. A banner from Big Lottery had been placed on the bridge. Publicity has been obtained in the Somerset Standard and in the Mendip Times. An image of the proposed new bridge had appeared on the cover of the parish magazine together with a full report.

John Mann had been informed about parish council dates so that councillors' authorisation of cheques could be arranged to coincide with meetings. He is also considering the appropriate type of contract. The Somerset County Council grant would only be released once the project was completed and possibly only in the next financial year. The Mells & Vobster Community Trust grant could be made available at fairly short notice.

- b) The Clerk advised of Raymond Oxford's comments on the proposals of the White Bridge Landscaping Working Party.
- c) It was agreed to set up a White Bridge Jubilee Opening Working Party consisting of Jane Mann, Abi Blanche-Martin and Chris Tye.

11. FINANCIAL UPDATE: Noted.

12. DRAFT BUDGET

- a) It was agreed to approve the budget for the financial year commencing 1 April 2012.

13. PRECEPT

- a) It was agreed, given the economic situation, to keep the precept for the financial year commencing 1 April 2012 at the current level of £9,000.

14. ACCOUNTS

- a) J K Costelloe
(Clerk's salary – (November 2011)) £ 259.20

It was agreed to pay the above account.

15. INCOME

- a) Big Lottery Awards for All
(grant for White Bridge Replacement) £9,000.00

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) The Chairman advised that, as the bank account had now been set up, the first board meeting of the new Recreation Ground company should be held to formally approve the assignment of lease before Christmas. The company was looking for further directors and for more volunteers.
- b) The Vice Chair reported that the road sign near Bilboa needed replacement.
- c) Chris Tye volunteered to clear out the gully opposite the Shop where flooding had occurred.
- d) Steve West had not been contacted by Richard Branchflower of Somerset SCC in connection with the overhanging trees opposite the entrance to Halecombe Quarry. Clerk to supply Steve West with Richard Branchflower's phone number.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 17 January 2012, 7.15 p.m. in Mells Barn.