

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
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A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 12 June 2012
at Mells Barn.

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe (Chairman), Ms R Wallace (Vice Chair), Mrs M Jennings, the Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr C Tye, Mr S West and Miss H Wynter.
In Attendance : Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Mrs J Mann, Mr Peter Lowth, Ms A Blanche-Martin, Cllr M Ellis.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 1 May 2012 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) **Lower Vobster shrubs covering road sign:** Steve West had inspected the signs and reported that a couple were almost totally obscured and offered to remove the vegetation from the sign on the Vobster side of the bridge. Clerk to write to Leigh on Mendip Parish Council to request removal of vegetation around the sign in their Parish. Clerk will also write to Somerset CC regarding the discrepancies in the length restriction signs at the bridge.
 - b) **Leaf sweeping in Vobster:** Request for leaf sweeping passed to Neil Underwood of Fountains Group who has subsequently swept the sides of the road and gateway. Clerk to send letter of thanks and request quarterly sweeping.
6. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Police Community Support Officer's Steering Committee:** No further information.
 - b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** No further information.
 - c) **SpeedWatch progress:** No further information.
 - d) **Gift of grit bin from Mells Village Shop:** Two suggestions were made for the siting of the bin - by the telephone box on Mells Green.or opposite the telephone box on the verge. Chairman will enquire with Mells Estate as to the suitability of the verge site and arrange for the bin to be fixed at this location if agreement is received. Somerset CC will be requested to fill and replenish the grit bin.
 - e) **Clerk's consultancy payment:** After discussion it was agreed to pay the retiring Clerk a set fee of £100 to cover the handover and any future enquiries made by the new Clerk.
7. **PLANNING**
 - a) **Installation of a timber clad temporary modular classroom with accessible and pupil toilets at Mells First School.** Conditional planning permission from SCC.

- b) **Conversion of former telephone exchange to self catering holiday let with roof terrace at former telephone exchange, Vobster Cross:** Refusal of planning permission from MDC.

8. LETTERS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

Grant towards replacement of White Bridge: Letter raised concerns about rust damage underneath and to the kickboards which has been referred to John Mann. Somerset CC require confirmation of who owns the bridge, who has liability for the bridge and the respective owners of the abutments. Chris Tye has a document stating that he has no responsibility for the abutments and will pass details to the Chairman. Chairman will respond to Somerset CC when all the information is to hand.

9. LETTERS FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

Parish Information Bulletin: Chairman noted information regarding the location of dates for future Forum meetings. Mendip DC is meeting every Parish Council in the district to develop better relationships between the Parishes and Mendip DC. The Chairman and retiring Clerk had had a very interesting meeting with two members from the Council.

10. LETTERS AND REPORTS

- a) Audit Commission's consultation on future appointment of external auditor - noted.

11. WHITE BRIDGE

- a) **Update on progress:** Awards for All had received the end of grant report and confirmed that it met their requirements as a result of which the grant file is now closed. The tree in the north eastern wall was felled, the wall rebuilt incorporating the commemorative stone and the landscaping completed in time for the 2 June party. Invoice for £1745.00 had been received but no VAT had been added. New invoice has been requested. Catering and tarmacking amounts have not been added to account but the final figure for the complete build will be around £20k which is slightly over budget.
- b) **Report on parish Diamond Jubilee party/bridge opening:** Chairman thanked everyone who helped on the day especially as two Councillors had pulled out at short notice. Special thanks were extended to Chris Tye, Ros Wallace and Sally Vince. David Heath's editorial in the Somerset Standard had a picture of the event and a short article. A full report should appear in the next edition of the Somerset Standard. Ros Wallace read a letter from June Costelloe in which she thanked the dedicated Parish Councillors for the lovely Diamond Jubilee party and for the flowers she received.

12. PARISH CLERK REPLACEMENT

- a) **To confirm the appointment of a new Mells Parish Clerk and Responsible Officer from 11 June 2012:** The appointment of the new Clerk and RFO was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Monica Jennings. All present endorsed the appointment.
- b) **To confirm the Clerk's salary:** Salary as advertised.
- c) **Contract of Employment:** Contract will be issued in due course.
- d) **Clerk's Expenses:** The Clerk wished to confirm expenses. Travel expenses at 45p/mile, use of home utilities £4.00/month and payment of half phone line rental £5.50 (calls would not be charged)

13. ACCOUNTS

a)	Northcliffe Media Ltd (<i>Advertisement for clerk</i>)		£ 177.60
b)	Broker Network Ltd (<i>New insurance schedule to cover White Bridge</i>)		£ 76.26
c)	Newlands Tree Care (<i>Removal of tree and stump White Bridge</i>)		£ 585.00
d)	RJ Griffin (<i>Supply of stone & carving of inscription</i>)	£ 650.00	
e)	Sally Vince (<i>Website hosting 2011 & updating Apr11-Mar12</i>)		£ 265.00
f)	JK Costelloe (<i>Clerk's salary – May</i>)	£ 210.80	
	(<i>Lump sum in lieu of overtime</i>)	£ 399.80	
			<hr/>
			£ 610.60
g)	JK Costelloe (<i>Clerk's expenses Apr/May 2012</i>)		
	Postage stamps	£ 36.00	
	Photocopier toner	£ 39.99	
	Memory stick	£ 16.99	
	A4 paper	£ 4.99	
	Phone calls	£ 7.35	
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			£106.22
h)	HM Revenue & Customs (<i>Income tax deduction for clerk's salary – May</i>)		£148.60.
i)	Freecall Maintenance (VAT not on invoice) (<i>Rebuild wall, insert stone</i>)		£1745.00
<p><i>Proposed Ros Wallace. Secoded Steve West.</i></p>			
j)	Ros Wallace (<i>Catering costs for the Diamond Jubilee Celebration</i>). Approved.		£154.38

14. **RECEIPTS:** VAT refund £1968.67
Grant Somerset CC for White Bridge £4,000

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Chairman and Clerk need to be added as signatories on bank accounts.
- Clerk will check availability of the Barn for the second Tuesday of each month. Provisional date for next meeting 10 July.
- Assignment of Recreational Ground is going through. Chairman had inspected the site and reported that the pitch was in excellent condition but the surrounding vegetation was untidy and the Pavillion was looking tired. Steve Burdett has been informed that there are funds available in the Trust but no requests have been forthcoming.
- Ros Wallace reported that Somerset CC had assessed the mortar on Lower Vobster Bridge and had been surprised by the weight and type of traffic passing over it.

- e) Chris Tye reported that there are no drainage channels either side of White Bridge and this is liable to cause run off onto the footpath. Chris Tye to give full details to the Chairman who will contact the Estate.
- f) Top Lane Layby: Letter received from Somerset CC stating it was in a position to grant approval to Meadowcroft. Chairman had responded that the Council were ignoring the Parish Council's and local opinion. Copy letter sent to John Osman, Leader of Somerset CC.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: Tuesday 10 July at 7.15 p.m. in Mells Barn
Tuesday 28 August at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Signed..... Date.....

Print name.....