

**MELLS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**mellsparishcouncil.org.uk**

A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 10 July 2012  
at Mells Barn.

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1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe (Chairman), Ms R Wallace (Vice Chair), Mrs M Jennings, the Countess of Oxford & Asquith (left 8.30pm), Mr C Tye, Mr S West, Mr V Turner and Miss H Wynter. *4 Members of the public*  
**In Attendance :** Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Mrs J Mann, Mr Peter Lowth, Ms A Blanche-Martin
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 12 June 2012 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:** No further information.
  - b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Steve West reported that there was one blasting and one noise problem. The quarry will be working evenings/nights for the next 3 weeks. 25,000 tonnes of water a day are currently being pumped from the quarry into the river at Great Elm and Vallis.
  - c) **SpeedWatch progress:** A couple of people have already been trained but the paperwork was not completed by the previous PCSO so the exercise needs to be repeated.
  - d) **Gift of grit bin from Mells Village Shop:** A planned site visit was postponed due to other commitments.
  - e) **Lower Vobster shrubs covering road sign:** Leigh on Mendip Clerk has not responded. Clerk to chase.
  - f) **Leaf sweeping in Vobster:** Neil Underwood has agreed to sweep quarterly.
  - g) **Drainage Channel, White Bridge:** A meeting between the Chairman, Chris Tye and Tarmac Contractor will be arranged to discuss the two possible options:-
    - (i) Raise level of path with more tarmac
    - (ii) Drainage ditches
6. **PLANNING**
  - a) **Conversion of former telephone exchange to dwelling at Former Telephone Exchange, Vobster Cross:** *(Chairman declared a slight personal interest due to former employment in this field.)* Agent and owner gave the background to the current application stating they felt there was adequate parking outside of the house for one large car or two small cars. They assured the Parish Council that the works would not affect the tree close by. The Parish Council unanimously voted for recommending refusal on the basis the property is not suitable for residential use, there is lack of parking and a turning circle, the close proximity of a road with heavy traffic and lack of amenity space.
  - b) **Proposed works to trees at Crofters, Little Green:** Previous application had expired. No objections.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL**

- a) **Somerset CC Chairman's Award:** Discussed under AOB.
- b) **Jeff Bunting – Finger Posts:** Jeff Bunting has been informed that the fingerpost at Lime Kiln Hill is most in need of painting. Councillors were asked to assess the other posts. Clerk to enquire from Jeff Bunting what constitutes urgent work.
- c) **Section 53 Application – Proposed upgrading of Public Footpath FR4/56 and FR 10/9 to bridleway in the Parishes of Coleford and Mells.** This has been discussed for many years. SCC appeared to be leaning towards approval but subsequently changed their mind. Applicants have appealed but there is very little the Parish Council or applicant can do unless further information is found.
- d) **Mendip Strimmer Project:** Training declined.

## 8. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

- a) **Somerset Primary Care Trust – Ref: 21/12 Application for Preliminary Consent by Mr Nigel Morley prior to inclusion in the NHS Somerset Pharmaceutical list in the vicinity of Mendip Country Practice, Church Street, Coleford:** Current approval expires September 2012. Application has backing of Mendip Country Practice. No changes to the application have been made and the Parish Council views remain the same.
- b) **Came & Company – White Bridge Insurance Schedule:** Additional insurance documents for the bridge have been received.
- c) **SALC – Standard Regime 2012:** Outlining recent changes to Declaration of Interests.
- d) **SALC – Code of Conduct:** Code of Conduct is undergoing change and several model versions have been received which the Councillors will review before the next meeting.
- e) **Coast Communications and Marketing Ltd - Connecting Devon & Somerset Broadband:** Update on current progress.
- f) **Navigus Planning – Journal of Local Planning:** No action.
- g) **Police Funding E-petition:** Not a Parish Council matter. Councillors to support personally.

9. **REVIEW OF INTERNAL INSTRUCTIONS AND STANDING ORDERS:** These documents are required to be reviewed after employing a new Clerk. Standing Orders required no amendments. Clerk to amend Internal Instructions.

## 10. ACCOUNTS

a)	Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement	
	<i>(Recreation Ground rent 24/06/12-28/09/12)</i>	£147.50
b)	Freecall Maintenance	
	<i>(VAT omitted from previous invoice)</i>	£349.00
c)	D Randall	
	<i>(Tarmac – White Bridge)</i>	£860.00
d)	J Costelloe <i>(Handover fee)</i>	£83.40
e)	J Book	
	<i>(Clerk's salary – June)</i>	£207.24
	<i>Travel Expenses</i>	
	<i>(4 trips to Mells @ 45p/mile)</i>	£ 10.80
	<i>Phone line rental</i>	£ 5.50
	<i>Utilities</i>	£ 4.00
	<i>Address book</i>	£ 3.99
	<i>Folders/Dividers</i>	£ 12.36
		<hr/>
		£36.65
		£243.89

f) HMRC PAYE			
	<i>J Costelloe</i>	£ 16.60	
	<i>J Book</i>	£ 51.80	£ 68.40

*Proposed. Helen Wynter Seconded Ros Wallace*

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- a) **Top Lane:** Chairman reported that the layby had been an issue for many years and under Section 130 of the Highways Act the Parish Council wanted to have the layby reinstated. Owners of Meadowcroft gave the history behind the works stating that the issue of the layby being adopted highway had not been brought up before their planning application was approved. Residents have moved the wall back 600mm to 3.4m from the existing garage footings as requested by Somerset CC. Residents now believe the wall is on the original boundary. Chairman replied that the generality of opinion is that the boundary was further back and the Parish Council has asked Somerset CC to establish where it was. Parish Council would ultimately have to accept Somerset CC decision.
- b) **Local Government Boundary Commission:** Final recommendation for the new boundaries.
- c) **Key – Noticeboard:** Chairman to get key cut for Helen Wynter.
- d) **Filling Cabinet:** This has been emptied. Ros Wallace will offer cabinet and photocopier to the Citizen’s Advice Bureau. Steve West will store Halecombe and Whatley Quarry documents.
- e) **Potholes:** Clerk to report potholes at Upper Vobster and Bottom Lane.
- f) **Drain by Post Office:** Clerk to chase Highways regarding drainage in this area.
- g) **Road Markings – Post Office:** Clerk to contact Highways.
- h) **Signs – White Bridge:** Chris Tye will remove the temporary signs now the work has been completed.
- i) **Footpath – Little Green to School:** Queries were raised over who would be responsible for the upkeep of this path. Chris Tye to speak to Becky Askew.
- j) **Engraved Copperplate:** An engraved copperplate for printing Parish Council cheques circa 1890’s was found amongst documents during the recent clearout. Chairman will offer plate to Frome Museum for safekeeping.
- k) **Overgrowing Trees:** Buses are having to avoid overhanging branches opposite Primrose Cottage, Lower Vobster. Clerk to contact Somerset CC.
- l) **Transfer of Deeds:** Chairman is in receipt of Land Registry form which has been duly signed. Fees will be paid at the next meeting.
- m) **Chairman’s Award:** Two members of the Council nominated two individuals who they felt had contributed greatly to the community. After much discussion, it was decided to put forward Shirley Inch who has served the local community for 40-50 years.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:** Tuesday 28 August at 7.15 p.m. in Mells Barn  
 Tuesday 9 October at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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

Print name.....

MINUTES\2012\10JULY2012