

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
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A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 28 August 2012
at Mells Barn.

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe (Chairman), Ms R Wallace (Vice Chair), Mrs M Jennings, Mr S West and Miss H Wynter
Cllr M Ellis – County Councillor (left 7.50pm) **In Attendance :** Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Mrs J Mann, Mr Peter Lowth, Ms A Blanche-Martin, the Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr C Tye, Mr V Turner
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 10 July 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:** Abi Blanche-Martin had prior to the meeting stated that she wished to stand down from this committee. The nomination of a new committee member was deferred until the next meeting.
 - b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Next meeting November/December.
 - c) **SpeedWatch progress:** No further progress. Clerk to contact Police to establish why trained people cannot undertake duties due to incorrect paperwork.
 - d) **Gift of grit bin from Mells Village Shop:** No further information.
 - e) **Lower Vobster shrubs covering road sign:** Clerk at Leigh-on-Mendip will contact Somerset CC to request that the vegetation is cut back.
 - f) **Drainage Channel, White Bridge:** Path keeps filling with silt. Chris Tye has dug out drainage channels twice which have alleviated the problem. More consideration needs to be given to a permanent solution.
 - g) **Potholes, Vobster:** This work has been completed.
 - h) **Drain by Post Office:** This work is currently being carried out.
 - i) **White Lines by Post Office:** This work has been completed.
 - j) **Maintenance of Footpath – Little Green to School:** Awaiting reply back from school contact.
 - k) **Overgrowing Trees by Primrose Cottage, Lower Vobster:** Trees have been entered for inspection by Somerset CC.
 - l) **Vobster Bridge Length Restrictions:** Jeff Bunting maybe able to do an amendment to the existing Traffic Regulation Order to change all the signs to 25' but would be unable to do this until next year. Steve West presented evidence of correspondence dating back to 1991. Clerk to request a copy of the original Traffic Regulation Order. Cllr M Ellis asked to be sent copies of the correspondence.

REPORT FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- i. **Meadowbank:** Cllr Matthew Ellis reported that he had met with Highways on site and it had been agreed that the current wall appears to be in the original position. However, concerns were raised about the wall's construction as breeze blocks are currently visible. If a stone wall is erected in front of the current breeze block wall this would bring the wall forward and over the agreed boundary. The building works have disturbed the highway and works need to be carried out to reinstate the tarmac.

- ii. **Funding:** Somerset CC have two new funding schemes. Health & Wellbeing to encourage parishes to inspire people to live a healthier lifestyle and funding to enable parishes to takeover some of the services currently offered by Somerset CC. Mells currently has no requirements for either of these schemes.

6. PLANNING

2011/3172 Report back on Planning Board Meeting re: Upper Vobster Farm part change of use – Planning Board inspected site in mid August. Next Board meeting is scheduled for 19 September. Edmund Costelloe and Cllr Drew will be unable to attend on this date. Cllr Ellis and Ros Wallace agreed to attend this meeting if the decision on this application could not be deferred to the following meeting. Edmund Costelloe will liaise with Cllr Ellis.

2012/1489 Construction of a 4.5m x 6m single storey timber granny annex to include bedroom, sitting area and bathroom. Woodlands End Court, Woodlands End: PC Decision – Approve with condition that it is for a limited period of 5 years (renewable) and reverts back to a garden shed when no longer required.

2012/1799 Erection of detached garage. Laurel Cottage, Little Green: Revised planning application. PC decision awaited.

Mendip Decisions:

2012/0637 Demolition of existing UPVC conservatory and other works. 3 Hollycroft – Approve with 2 conditions

2012/1539 Proposed works to trees in a Conservation Area, Crofters, Little Green – No objection

2012/1489 Construction of a 4.5m x 6m single storey timber granny annex, Woodlands End Court - Approved with 4 conditions

7. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Somerset** (as above)
- b) **Temporary Road Closure, Vobster Hill:** Date for works changed to 10 September.

8. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

- a) **Emergency Accommodation** – Clerk to check if plan requires updating.
- b) **Somerset Playing Fields Association Magazine:** Passed to Edmund Costelloe.
- c) **Centre for Sustainable Energy:** No action.
- d) **Aster Housing – Estate Inspections:** No action.
- e) **Friends of Asham Wood:** Parish Council is supportive. No action required.
- f) **Somerset Waste Action Conference:** No action.
- g) **Local Works – Sustainable Communities Act:** No action.
- h) **Land Registry – Transfer of Recreation Ground:** All documents have been signed and the transfer should be completed shortly.

9. **ADOPTION OF CODE OF CONDUCT:** Edmund Costelloe proposed and Ros Wallace seconded that the NALC based Code of Conduct should be adopted. The document was duly signed and dated by Edmund Costelloe.

10. ACCOUNTS

- a) J Book

Clerk's salary – July & August	£414.48
Expenses (July & August)	
1 trip to Mells @ 45p/mile)	£ 3.60
Phone line rental	£ 11.00
Utilities	£ 8.00

