

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
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A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 9 October 2012
at Mells Barn.

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe (Chairman), Ms R Wallace (Vice Chair), Mrs M Jennings, Mr S West, Miss H Wynter, Mr C Tye, Mr V Turner, Mr P Lowth **In Attendance :** Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Miss A Blanche-Martin, the Countess of Oxford & Asquith
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 28 August 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 - New Speedwatch Co-ordinator:** Peter Lowth reported that these meetings had no continuity and essentially featured on Coleford and were of minor benefit to the Parish Council. The Parish Council receives a monthly report from the PCSO which covers information relevant to Mells. New representative for this committee will not be elected at present.
 - b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Next meeting 18 October and Steve West will attend.
 - c) **Speedwatch Progress:** Clerk to put advert into the Parish Magazine and shop. The Vobster bridge closure led to speeding traffic through the village. Edmund Costelloe to check with David Thomson whether he still holds the equipment.
 - d) **Gift of Grit Bin from Mells Village Shop:** No further information.
 - e) **Leigh on Mendip - Shrubs covering road sign:** Sign is still obscured. Clerk to chase.
 - f) **Drainage Channel, White Bridge:** Chris Tye had dug out a drainage channel which appears to be stopping the build up of mud. A long term solution needs to be put in place. Situation to be monitored over the winter.
 - g) **Maintenance of Footpath, Little Green to School:** Chris Tye had spoken with Becky Askew. The school has cut the footpath back a couple of times but the vegetation is creeping across the path. Edmund Costelloe to contact the Estate.
 - h) **Overgrowing Trees by Primrose Cottage, Lower Vobster:** Some work has been carried out but a strip of accumulated mud and debris is still forcing buses across the road. Clerk to follow up.
 - i) **Vobster Bridge Length Restrictions:** Clerk to establish Jeff Bunting's exact proposals to correct the length restrictions.
 - j) **Grasscutting – White Bridge:** Edmund Costelloe to speak to the Estate.
 - k) **Gullies – Old Post Office/School Hill:** The gully at the bottom of School Hill opposite the gates to Mells Park is still blocked. The problem is excessive wash off from the hill above coming down the hill. Tractors cutting the corner are piling up mud in this area too. Clerk to chase Somerset CC. The gully by the Old Post Office has been done.
 - l) **Wreath:** Parish Council purchases one wreath. All present agreed to give a donation of £25.
6. **PLANNING**

2011/3172 Report back on Planning Board Meeting held 19 September 2012. Ros Wallace, supported by Steve West had attended the Planning Board Meeting whereby the vote swung in favour of refusal by one vote. The case is likely to go to appeal. Edmund Costelloe will talk to Cllr Edward Drew. Ros Wallace thanked Edmund Costelloe for providing the information for presentation at the meeting.

2012/1347 Replacement of commercial outbuildings with a single dwelling and attached ancillary annex and B1(a) office unit studio and for the felling of trees. Laurel Cottage, Little Mells Green – *No objection.*

2012/1893 (FPP) & 2012/1895 (LBC) Conversion of Grade II listed building used as a squash court to form a dwelling. Demolition of single storey workshop and erection of replacement single storey extension. Squash Court, New Street – *No objection*

2012/2095 Create formal gardens in the existing lawn area, incorporating planted beds and a shallow Italianate pond. Wadbury House – *For approval*

2012/2116 Replacement of windows, Mells First School, Mells Green – *No objection*

2012/2190 Proposed works to two trees in a conservation area, The Beeches, Top Lane – *No Objection*

2012/2238 Erection of first floor bedroom extension to side (northeast) of existing property, the supporting pillars of which to form a carport over existing parking area, Underhill, Little Green. Peter Lowth will assess this application over the next few days.

Mendip Decisions

2012/1799 Erection of detached garage and felling of trees, Laurel Cottage, Little Green – *Approve with 4 conditions*

7. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) Email from Advisory Finance Manager – Halecombe Quarry Section 106 Agreement – no action.
- b) SID Changes – not relevant to Mells
- c) Meadowbank – Somerset CC have apologised for not noticing that the land was Highway. They have now accepted that the current position of the wall is correct. Edmund Costelloe to respond to letter.
- d) Road Closure – Quarry Lane – 5 November for 3 days. Information to be put in noticeboard.

8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) Parishes Information Bulletin – August, September and October (passed to Vince Turner)

9. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

- a) Church of St Andrew, Mells – request for grant. After discussion it was agreed to donate the amount of £1,600.
- b) Audit Commission
- c) NHS Somerset Primary Care Trust – Application by Nigel Morley for Preliminary Consent – Application has been refused.
- d) FDC Law – Clerk to pass on booking details for the Barn and Pavillion.
- e) Coast update – Connecting Devon and Somerset
- f) South Western Ambulance Service – Twentyfourseven newsletter
- g) SALC – Items of Interest
- h) Mendip Society

10. FINANCIAL UPDATE JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Clerk presented the accounts for the last 3 months and stated that there was insufficient funds in the HSBC for the rest of the year and felt that a transfer of £5,000 from the Barclays account would be adequate to cover costs and unexpected expenses until the precept arrives in April. Ros Wallace proposed and Helen Wynter seconded the transfer of £5,000. All present agreed. Clerk to chase Hedleys Solicitors for VAT invoice. There are a few small outstanding items on the White Bridge. These would be covered by the Parish Council's general funds. The White Bridge account has now been closed.

11. ACCOUNTS

a)	J Book	Clerk's salary – September		£207.24
		Expenses (September)		
		1 trip to Mells @ 45p/mile	£ 3.60	
		Phone line rental	£ 5.50	
		Utilities	£ 4.00	
				<u>£13.10</u>
				£220.34
b)	HMRC PAYE			
	Period 7			£51.80

- c) Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement
(Recreation Ground rent 29/09/12-24/12/12) £147.50

Proposed. Ros Wallace Seconded Monica Jennings

Parish Council await confirmation from Hedleys that the Land Registry has completed the transfer. Also, waiting to hear from Hedleys regarding the VAT receipt from the estates solicitors.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- a) **Clerk's Probationary Period and Contract:** The Clerk has completed the probationary period satisfactorily. Ros Wallace and Edmund Costelloe to finalise contract.
- b) **Future of The Talbot** - Edmund Costelloe will make enquiries.
- c) **Give Way Markings – Bottom Lane:** Clerk to request reinstatement of lines.
- d) **Heavy Plant Crossing Signs:** These signs give incorrect information. Clerk to ask Highways for an explanation.
- e) **Seat by Red Brick Cottages:** Resident has requested the placement of a seat by the field next to these cottages. Steve West to advise resident to contact Highways as the land is in their ownership.
- f) **Overgrown Hedges:**
- i) Outside Hillside Cottage, just above the school.
 - ii) By the estate cottage on the corner of Top Lane and Holes Lane looking towards Frome.
 - iii) Diagonally opposite the cottage on the other corner there are plants growing over the wall on Holes Lane which also require cutting back.
Clerk to contact Mr Jerram, Humberts.

- 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:** Tuesday 13 November at 7.15 pm in Mells Barn
Tuesday 1 December at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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

Print Name.....