

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
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A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 11 December 2012
at Mells Barn.

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe (Chairman), Ms R Wallace (Vice Chair), Mrs M Jennings, Mr P Lowth, Mrs J Mann, Mr C Tye, Mr S West, Miss H Wynter
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from The Countess of Oxford & Asquith. The Clerk sent her apologies for absence caused by illness. (Ros Wallace took the minutes in her absence). **Absent:** Vince Turner
3. **COUNCILLOR ABSENTEEISM:** The Chairman explained the operation of Section 85 of the Local Govt Act which led to the automatic disqualification of Councillor A Blanche-Martin due to 6 months' non attendance. This non attendance was due principally to the change of meeting dates following the appointment of a new clerk and was much regretted. Councillor P Lowth explained and defended the circumstances of the absence and the SALC advice they had received. Following this he advised the Council that with regret he was tendering his resignation in support of his wife. Following his resignation he left the meeting at 7.28pm.

It was resolved that the Chairman would write to both Councillors thanking them for their service to the Council and community.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 13 November 2012 had previously been circulated. It was resolved that the minutes be adopted with the small correction of the date of the next meeting to read as 11th December not 1st December. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

6. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Steve West had attended the meeting at the end of October. Halecombe Quarry reported business was quiet with tonnage down by 50%. Investigations were being made into the balancing lake. A local resident had complained of noise and this had been followed up.
- b) **Speed Watch Progress:** there had been no response from the Parish Magazine nor the school. It was agreed to put up more notices in the Village.
- c) **Gift of Grit Bin from Mells Village Shop:** there was no update on this matter.
- d) **Leigh on Mendip - Shrubs covering road sign:** Ros Wallace had spoken with the Leigh on Mendip Clerk to clarify the position of the sign. The matter would be progressed with Jeff Bunting.
- e) **Drainage Channel - White Bridge:** Chris Tye's remedial works had proved effective and he would continue to monitor the situation.
- f) **Encroaching verge by Primrose Cottage, Lower Vobster:** the Clerk had been liaising with Somerset CC to come and inspect the site.
- g) **Vobster Bridge Length Restrictions:** the Clerk was in contact with Jeff Bunting and trying to set up a meeting on site with him, Steve West and Ros Wallace.
- h) **Gullies – Old Post Office:** Ros Wallace had spoken with the owner of the Old Post Office who stated that it was the BT manhole cover in the road above the house from which water was streaming down the road. The duct needed rodding as far as the road gullies to clear the blockages. Clerk to contact BT.
- i) **Clerk's Contract:** due to the Clerk's absence this would be signed at the next meeting.
- j) **Refilling of Grit Bins:** Richard Branchflower will top up the grit bins when passing.

7. **PLANNING**

Mendip Planning Decisions

- a) **2012/2358** Felling of a Lime tree in a conservation area – Rear of Bus Shelter, Manor House. No objection.
- b) **2012/2095** Create formal garden and shall Italianate pond – Wadbury House. Approve with 2 conditions.

- c) **2012/0182** Proposed agricultural building including photo-voltaic panels – Stone Ash Farm. Approve with 4 conditions.
- d) **2012/1893** Conversion of Grade II Listed building to a dwelling. Demolition of single storey workshop and erection of replacement of single storey extension. Squash Court, New Street. Approved with 5 conditions.

8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Modification of Order, The Parishes of Coleford and Mells - Ros Wallace confirmed the order had been made for the upgrading of the footpath in Upper Vobster to a bridleway but added that should there be any complaint it was likely the matter would be the subject of a Public Enquiry.

9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL - this had been emailed to those Councillors with access to the internet.

10. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

- a) Church of St Andrew – Acknowledgement letter for donation
- b) Mendip Citizens Advice Bureau – Request for donation it was agreed to give a donation of £100 to the Mendip Citizens Advice Bureau following their request.
- c) SALC – Localising Support for Council Tax - this would be brought forward to the next meeting.

11. FINANCIAL UPDATE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

It was unanimously agreed in principle that the precept request would be the same as the last and previous recent years i.e. £9000. As the Clerk was absent the draft budget for 2013/14 would be presented for approval at the next meeting.

12. ACCOUNTS

a)	J Book	Clerk's salary – November		£207.24
		Expenses (November)		
		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 9			£51.80
c)	Chris Rowe – Memorial Hedge Cutting			£75.00
d)	Mendip Community Transport - Grant			£100.00

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- a) **Signs:** Chris Tye mentioned the large number of signs left in Mells by Somerset County Council contractors – Clerk to contact Highways and ask for them to be picked up.
- b) **Cables:** Chris also mentioned hanging cables not picked up by Western Power/BT following the tree damage in Top Road. Ros Wallace to deal with this.
- c) **Shop Signs:** Chris also mentioned the proliferation of signs near Mells and Vobster advertising the Broad Bean Shop at Leigh upon Mendip – Ros Wallace would visit and politely ask if some of them could be removed as the Mells Community Shop was greatly valued.
- d) **Parking:** Jane Mann raised the matter of inconsiderate parking outside the School and commented that the situation had worsened in recent months. It was suggested that it was brought forward to the next meeting and discussed with Lady Oxford who was also a School Governor to try and find a way forward.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: Tuesday 22 January 2013 at 7.15 pm in Mells Barn
Tuesday 11 March 2013 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

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

Print Name..... MINUTES\2012\11DECEMBER2012