

A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 11 June 2013  
at Mells Barn.

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1. **PRESENT:** Mr Edmund Costelloe – Chair, Ms R Wallace, Mrs M Jennings, Mr C Tye, Mr S West, Mrs J Mann, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr Vince Turner  
5 members of the public **In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Miss H Wynter
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on 14 May 2013 had previously been circulated. Subject to the addition of the word 'meeting' to 5. j) of the monthly meeting minutes, it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.
5. **COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION**
  - a) **Temporary suspension of Standing Order 1. Meetings (j):** Ros Wallace proposed and Steve West seconded that this Standing Order be suspended to enable a paper ballot to take place. All in favour.

Each of the 5 prospective candidates had previously presented written information about themselves that had been circulated prior to the meeting. One candidate was unable to attend so the Clerk read out her resume. The Chair invited the 4 candidates present to give a brief presentation outlining their skills. The Clerk then tallied the ballot papers and the Chair announced that Mr John Earl and Mrs Jan Seewooruttun had received the most votes. The Chair welcomed them onto the Council and thanked the other candidates for their interest. The Chair also thanked the Clerk for organising the ballot.

## 6. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Claire Asquith queried that it had been noisier in the last few days. This is possibly due to the heavy machinery being used on Finger Farm.
- b) **Gift of Grit Bin from Mells Village Shop:** This will be given to the Parish Council when the newspaper store has been built.
- c) **Vobster Bridge Length Restrictions:** Ros Wallace and Steve West have approved the amendment to one of the signs. Situation to be monitored and if no action has taken place in two months time the Clerk will chase.
- d) **Eroded area Bottom Lane/Top Lane:** Chris Tye will contact Chris Batty at Highways. The edges of Lime Kiln Hill have been cleared back.
- e) **Damaged sign junction of Selwood Street:** Highways will inspect this sign.
- f) **Parking by Talbot:** Problems are ongoing. The Chair has met with Chris Jerram, Estate, to discuss available parking and the only option currently available is the Recreation Ground car park. The Talbot staff have been encouraged to use the car park but few do. On a weekend up to 15 staff cars are parked in Selwood Street. The Estate will talk to The Talbot about this. The Recreation Ground car park is very overgrown and the Chair proposed that the Parish Council clear the car park as a one off with a maximum of £350 being set aside to do this. All in favour. Chair to seek quotes. The work would benefit the community as the clearance could create 10-12 more spaces. Claire Asquith suggested that the car park should be a 'village' car park so it can be used for all village events when it is not being used by the Recreation Ground. New signage would need to be installed regarding the

conditions of parking vehicles on the land. It has been noted that there is an increase in traffic in Bottom Lane due to cars avoiding Selwood Street.

The best solution to aid the movement of traffic along Selwood Street would be passing places at the end of New Street and by Selwood House. Some residents have placed cones outside their properties which has helped their parking situation. Resident reported that their dogs had been slightly hit whilst on the pavement by cars mounting the pavement. They also expressed their concerns that a serious injury would be caused to a pedestrian in the near future.

A public meeting will be held to discuss all the traffic issues.

- g) **G2 Energy Renewable Developments – Wind Turbine proposal at Rockhouse Farm, Chantry:** The planning application will be lodged late summer. Concerns were raised that if this turbine were approved it would lead to more turbines being approved in the future. The Parish Council will await the planning application before passing comment.
- h) **2013/0681 Fast approval of Planning Application – Erection of 3 No industrial units:** No reply to email. This is not acceptable. Clerk will contact the Planning Department again for a response.

#### 7. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Chair proposed that Joy Book, Clerk continues with the role of RFO. All in favour.

#### 8. RECREATION GROUND CHARITABLE STATUS

The Company and Supporter's Club are now seeking charitable status so funding can be sought for the necessary works. The old Supporter's Club still holds its charitable status. The Chair will instruct the solicitors to undertake the application for charitable status on behalf of the Company. It needs to be established whether there are any restrictions on an organisation that raises funds from events. The tennis courts are just about repairable but if they are left for much longer they will be in too poor a condition to save.

#### 9. PLANNING

**2013/1162** Steel framed agricultural building, Stoneash Farm. Ros Wallace and Steve West to assess.

Mendip Decisions:

**2013/3172** Upper Vobster Farm - Appeal is allowed and planning permission has been granted.

**2013/0831** Proposed 3 bedroomed bungalow and front off street hardstanding for two cars. 49 Longfield – Approved with 10 conditions.

**2013/3005** Proposed removal of a hedgerow. Land to west of Mells Park House – No objections.

#### 10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) Flood Mitigation Fund – no action

#### 11. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) Parishes Information Bulletin – passed to Vince Turner  
Mendip District Council now has a new phone number 0300 303 8588.

#### 12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

- a) Community Council for Somerset – Membership – no action

- b) Invitation to SALC East Area AGM – no action. Clerk to enquire when the next SALC training sessions for new Councillors will take place.

### 13. FINANCIAL UPDATE – APRIL/MAY/JUNE

Accounts are on track.

### 14. ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

HSBC statement dated 28 April 2013 - £13,112.80

a)	J Book	Clerk's salary (April)	£207.24
	Expenses	(April)	
		1 trip to Mells @ 45p/mile )	£ 3.60
		Phone line rental	£ 5.50
		Utilities	£ 4.00
		<hr/>	
			£13.10
b)	HMRC PAYE		
	Period 3		£51.80
	<i>Proposed Claire Asquith Secoded Jane Mann</i>		
c)	Receipt - Mendip District Council Tax Grant Allocation		£928.79
d)	Consideration of £10 donation for Peter Lacey (SALC)		
	Memorial Bench - approved		£10.00

### 15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-

- a) **Benches by River:** The former shop benches have suffered from severe vandalism and are a safety issue. With the approval of Claire Asquith, it was agreed that Chris Tye would remove them.
- b) **War Memorial:** The pointing is deteriorating. Estate to inspect.
- c) **Dog Fouling:** This appears to be increasing again. The policy in the past has been not to install dog bins but this may be reviewed.
- d) **Incident in Bottom Lane:** After an incident of a car speeding along Bottom Lane, Chris Tye had met with Chris Batty, Highways who agreed that visibility in Bottom Lane is poor. Lines will be installed at the bottom of the lane to clearly define the bottom of the hill and across Chris Tye's driveway. Incidences of speeding to be reported to the Clerk who will forward them to the PCSO. There is a real need for an active Speedwatch team and more police presence.
- e) **Public Liability insurance for Garden Open Day:** The shop has the necessary insurance in place.
- f) **Tipping of Garden Waste:** There has been a substantial amount of garden waste tipped over the hedge in Top Lane by the bridge. The Estate will investigate.
- g) **Hedge around Laburnum Cottage:** This is reducing visibility. The Estate will inspect.
- h) **New Councillors:** To complete Acceptance of Office forms and Register of Interests forms.

### 16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 9 July 2013 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....

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