

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on
Tuesday 10 December 2013 at Mells Barn**

PRESENT: Mr E Costelloe – Chair, Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mrs M Jennings, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Miss H Wynter, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr S West, Mr C Tye, Mr V Turner, Mr John Earl
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk
1 member of the public

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mrs J Mann
John Earl thanked those involved in collecting/delivering his Somerset County Council Chairman's Award certificate on his behalf.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
3. **MINUTES OF MEETING** held on 12 November 2013 had previously been circulated. It was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.
4. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Parking by Talbot:** This has improved slightly. The garage is now vacant.
 - b) **Recreation Ground Charitable Status:** No further information.
 - c) **Gully bottom of Line Kiln Hill:** This has filled up with leaves. Clerk to contact Rob Symes in the new year to clear the gully.
 - d) **Bridge – Tynts Hill:** Clerk to chase.
 - e) **Hedge by Top Road:** Vince Turner has agreed to cut the hedge back and will speak to another resident regarding overgrowing vegetation that is reducing visibility.
5. **PLANNING**
2013/1388 – stable block, Mells Park House. Application for approval of matters reserved by condition 2 (joinery) and 3 (external walling materials) of approve application 2011/2557. Mendip District Council acceptable and are sufficient to satisfy the pre-commencement component of these conditions.
6. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL**
 - a) Mud on Conduit Road – Somerset County Council will inspect.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL**
 - a) Parishes Information Bulletin – for Vince Turner
8. **OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**
 - a) Mendip Community Transport – thank you for donation
 - b) SALC – S137 – Clerk to ensure that amounts that fall within Section 137 are detailed in the accounts.
 - c) Connecting Devon and Somerset – update on fibre optic broadband installation
9. **FINALISATION OF PRECEPT**
Resident has been in contact with Mendip DC requesting an explanation as to why the Parish Council had received an extra £928.79 Council Tax Support Grant Allocation last year without being given prior warning. No satisfactory explanation has been received. This year the Parish Council has been informed that it will again receive an extra amount in the region of £650. The extra money received last year

was spent on items that had not been budgeted for eg. Recreation Ground, footpath and gully clearance. However, as the Parish Council has had forewarning for 2014/2015, John Earl proposed and Vince Turner seconded that £650 be deducted from the precept amount of £9,000 which the Parish Council has requested for the past 3 years. 9 in favour, 1 abstention. The precept for 2014/15 will be £8,350.

10. ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

a)	J Book	Clerk's salary (November)		£218.67
		Expenses (November)		
		1 trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	£ 3.60	
		Phone line rental	£ 5.50	
		Utilities	£ 4.00	
				<hr/>
				£13.10
b)	HMRC PAYE			
	Period 9			£54.60
c)	Royal British Legion + £25 donation			£42.00
	<i>Proposed Clare Asquith</i>	<i>Seconded Monica Jennings</i>		
d)	Consideration of grant for Mells with Vobster Churchyards – Ros Wallace proposed and Chris Tye seconded that a grant of £1,600 would be given. All in favour.			

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Motion to approve small contracts up to £200 out of meeting:** Helen Wynter proposed and Clare Asquith seconded the motion. All in favour.
 - b) **Bridge – Duck pond:** The centre arch has become blocked. Clerk to contact the Environmental Agency.
 - c) **Broken bough – near White Bridge:** The Estate will remove the bough.
 - d) **Upper Vobster bridleway:** Footpath is being carefully measured to enable it to be correctly redrawn on the OS map. The outcome of the enquiry is still awaited.
 - e) **Blocked drain by Vobster Inn:** Clerk to contact Highways.
- f) **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**
Tuesday 21 January at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....

MINUTES\2013\10DECEMBER2013