

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on
Tuesday 11 March 2014 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Ms R Wallace – Stand in Chair, Mrs M Jennings, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr C Tye, Mr V Turner, Mr John Earl, Mr S West, Mrs J Mann
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr E Costelloe, Miss H Wynter
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **MINUTES OF MEETING** held on 21 January 2014 had previously been circulated. Subject to one small amendment, it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.
5. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Recreation Ground Charitable Status:** No further information.
 - b) **Bridge – Tynts Hill:** Clerk to chase.
 - c) **Dumped rubbish - Cundict Lane:** This has been removed.
 - d) **Gap in hedge – Top Lane:** Somerset CC will inspect.
 - e) **Noticeboard:** Clare Asquith to enquire whether this has been done.
 - f) **Trees – Churchyard:** A planning application has been received for removal of one tree and the reduction of height of another.
 - g) **Recent spate of burglaries:** Councillors to urge residents to be extra vigilant. Chris Tye has a mobile number for the Police which he will check can be circulated before passing it on to the councillors.
 - h) **Trees by Reading Rooms:** Clare Asquith has reported them.
 - i) **Grit – School Hill:** Vince Turner will report whether this has been done or not.
 - j) **Sign – Top Lane:** This has been replaced. The information at the top of Lime Kiln Hill requires replacement. Clerk to ask Somerset CC whether wording can be included instead of having knife and fork symbols.
 - k) **Tennis courts:** Some tidying work has been carried out.
 - l) **Pot holes:** Several have been filled. Councillors to give Clerk location of others so they can be reported to Somerset CC.
 - m) **Wire over stone tiles – Bus shelter:** This has been fixed. Some of the stones and cement work is crumbling at the back. Clare Asquith to get it inspected.
6. **VOBSTER BUS SHELTER ROOF**
The recent bad weather has damaged several of the corrugated roof panels. Ros Wallace proposed getting a quote and having the roof repaired. All in favour. The concrete bus stop post requires refixing. Clerk to contact Somerset CC.
7. **PLANNING**
 - 7.1. **Review of planning application process:** The Clerk currently emails the details to the councillors who respond whether they wish to look at the application or not. Unfortunately, very little response is being received so the same people are taking the burden. It was agreed to continue with this process now the situation had been highlighted. John Earl and Jan Seewoorutten will shadow other councillors to learn what is involved.

2013/2616 Proposed single storey rear extension – Tittlestone, Little Green. No objections. The planning officer has been advised to be mindful of the roofing materials.

2014/0102 Office and entrance extension – Mells Nursery, Mells Green. No objections.

2014/0237 Proposed work to cypress trees - Church of St Andrew. No objections.

Mendip Decision

2013/2595 Upper Vobster Farm Approval of details reserved by Condition 5 (bin store) on planning permission 2011/3172

8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - None**9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL**

- a) Parish Information Bulletin – passed to Vince Turner

10. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) *Church of St Andrew's*: – thank you for grant.
 b) *SALC – The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 & Local Audit and Accountability Act*: This is currently in draft form. In future, Councils will be able to film, photograph and audio record meetings and facilitate for someone not present to see or hear the meeting as it takes place.
 c) *Campaign to Protect Rural England* – invite to join: Mells does not currently require their services but will leave the option open should the need arise in the future. Clerk to write.
 d) *Closure of Coleford Recycling centre*: The centre closes on 1 April. Chair to write.

11. ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) J Book Clerk's salary (January & February) £437.34
 (£218.67 x 2)

Expenses	(January and February)	
	1 trip to Mells @ 45p/mile)	£ 3.60
	Phone line rental	£11.00
	Utilities	£ 8.00
	Postage	£ 3.60

£26.20

- b) HMRC PAYE
 Period 11 & 12 (£54.80 x 2) £109.20
- c) **INCOME** VAT refund - £42.25

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Bin by duck pond**: Water is accumulating at the bottom of the bin. Chris Tye will drill a couple of holes in the base to drain it.
 b) **Halecombe quarry meeting**: Steve West reported that there have been no complaints in the last 6 months. The quarry is still waiting for approval for a condensation plant. Around 20% of materials are recycled.
 c) **Gate on cycle track**: This was placed to stop cars parking on the privately owned land.
 d) **Councillor training**: Clerk to arrange training for John Earl.
 e) **Councillor resignations**: Helen Wynter and Monica Jennings have tendered their resignations beginning in May. Ros Wallace thanked them both very much for their help and commitment over the years.
 f) **Mells & Vobster Community Trust**: Ros Wallace nominated John Earl as the Parish Council nomination to the Trust. All in favour.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Tuesday 13 May 2014 at 7.00pm in Mells Barn followed by monthly meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....

MINUTES\2014\MARCH2014