

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on
Tuesday 15 April 2014 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe – Chairman, Ms R Wallace –Vice Chair, Mrs M Jennings, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr C Tye, Mr V Turner, Mr J Earl, Mr S West, Miss H Wynter
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mrs J Mann
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **MINUTES OF MEETING** held on 11 March 2014 had previously been circulated and subject to one 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) **Gap in hedge – Top Lane:** Clerk to chase.
 - d) **Noticeboard:** No further information.
 - e) **Grit – School Hill:** No further information.
 - f) **Pot holes:** Clerk has reported another pot hole. Somerset CC has filled some pot holes.
 - g) **Vobster Bus Shelter roof/Bus Stop:** The work to the bus shelter roof has been completed. Clerk to chase Somerset CC regarding the bus stop which is listing badly and could be a health and safety issue.
 - h) **Councillor recruitment:** Clerk to put an advertisement in the parish magazine, noticeboards and shop.
 - i) **Wording for Brown Mells sign:** No further information.
 - j) **Coleford recycling centre:** No response to letter written by the Chairman.
6. **PLANNING**
Mendip Decisions & Somerset Decisions
2014/0102/FUL Mells Nursery – Office and entrance extension. Approved
2013/2616/HSE Tittlestone, Little Green – Single storey rear extension. Approved
2013/1327 Whatley Quarry – increase in height of existing restoration backfill tip to 10 metres. Approved.
2011/3235 Halecombe Quarry - Installation of water pipe to Soho Farm spring. Approved.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL** - none
8. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL**
 - a) Parish Information Bulletin – passed to Vince Turner
 - b) Somerset Levels and Moors Flood Action Plan – After discussion, it was decided that the onus of any flood prevention schemes should fall on central government and not on local residents. Clerk to respond to email.
9. **OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**
 - a) Invite to join Rural Sounding Board - declined
 - b) NALC Consultation on the Operation of the National Planning Policy Framework – The NPPF has allowed a large number of planning applications to be submitted and approved whilst Local Authorities are having to work to these guidelines in the absence of adopted local plans.

10. YEAR END ACCOUNTS 2013-2014

Final total for year is £11,082.66. A query was raised whether the Parish Council is receiving good value for the loading of information onto the website and its maintenance. This will be reviewed in the next year.

11. INSURANCE REVIEW

The long term agreement with Came & Company has now expired. When the premium for 2014/15 is received it will be assessed for extent of cover and value.

12. ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

a)	J Book	Clerk's salary (March)		£259.04
		Expenses (March)		
		1 trip to Mells @ 45p/mile)	£ 3.60	
		Phone line rental	£ 5.50	
		Utilities	£ 4.00	
		Postage	£ 2.80	
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				£15.90
b)	SALC Subscription			£145.94
c)	SALC Councillor training			£25.00
d)	Vobster Bus Shelter roof repair			£303.76
e)	Photocopying costs (Beckington PC)			£50.00
f)	Rob Symes – Gully clearance			£75.00
g)	Mells Barn Hire			£200.00
h)	Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement Trust			£147.50

Proposed: Monica Jennings Seconded: Chris Tye

Internal Audit: Ros Wallace proposed and Helen Wynter seconded that Alan Aked should be employed to carry out the internal audit. Clerk had recommended Mr Aked who currently audits Rode and Beckington Parish Councils and is suitably qualified.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Solar Panels:** Concerns were raised about the increasing number of solar panels around the village.
- Conservation area:** The cottages at the beginning of the Great Elm road (by Lime Kiln Hill junction) appear to be just outside the conservation area with the boundary following the road. Enquiries will be made with Mendip DC to see if these cottages can be included within the conservation area. Chairman to check boundary on larger scale map. Clerk to write to Mendip DC and send a copy to the Estate.
- Finger post – Lower Vobster:** The finger post has been turned around. Ros Wallace has reported it to Somerset CC. Clerk to chase.
- The Chairman extended his thanks to Monica Jennings and Helen Wynter who have been Parish Councillors for 12 years and 8 years respectively. Helen and Monica will be standing down after the Annual Parish Meeting.

14. 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\APRIL2014