

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on
Tuesday 13 May 2014 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe – Chairman, Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mr C Tye, Mr V Turner, Mr J Earl, Mr S West, The Countess of Oxford and Asquith
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mrs J Mann, Mrs J Seewooruttun
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **MINUTES OF MEETING** held on 15 April 2014 had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.
5. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Bridge – Tynts Hill:** This work should be completed by the end of May.
 - b) **Gap in hedge – Top Lane:** Somerset CC are placing 5 reflector posts along the gap and asking the landowner to cut back the vegetation.
 - c) **Noticeboard:** This work can now be completed as the overhanging vegetation has been removed.
 - d) **Councillor recruitment:** One person has offered to stand so far. Notices are in the parish magazine, noticeboards and in the shop.
 - e) **Wording for Brown Mells sign:** No further information.
 - e) **Vobster Bus Stop:** Clerk to chase.
 - f) **Conservation area designation:** The two cottages are not in the designated conservation area. Clerk to write to Mendip DC to ask for their inclusion.
 - g) **Finger Post – Vobster:** This work will be completed by the end of May.
6. **PLANNING**
Mendip Decisions & Somerset Decisions
2014/0725 Proposed works and felling of trees in conservation area. Ashcroft, Little Green. Only four of the six trees on the plan could be identified. Decision to be left to Planning Officer.
2014/0589 LBC & HPP Single storey extension to chapel, Manor House – For approval.
2013/1951 Rockhouse Farm, Chantry – report back on Planning Board meeting held 7 May 2014. Three parishes had addressed the issue at the Planning Board which unanimously refused the application. The turbines would have been visible from the Westbury White Horse and impacted on Mells tourism. A pair of peregrine falcons, a protected species, are nesting in the area.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL** - none
8. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL**
 - a) Parish Information Bulletin – passed to Vince Turner
9. **OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**
 - a) *Life Education Wessex – request for donation:* The Life Education bus had recently visited the school and there had been a shortfall of £290 to cover costs. Clare Asquith to establish whether the visit had been a success before consideration would be given to giving a donation to make up some of the shortfall.

10. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL RETURN AND INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Clerk presented the Annual Return form and reported that the internal auditor had confirmed the figures and there were no areas of concern. The form was then signed by the Chair and Clerk. Councillors thanked the Clerk for maintaining the accounts accurately.

11. ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

a)	J Book	Clerk's salary (April)		£259.04
	Expenses	(April)		
		1 trip to Mells @ 45p/mile)	£ 3.60	
		Phone line rental	£ 5.50	
		Utilities	£ 4.00	
				£13.90
b)	Alan Aked – Internal Auditor			£50.00
c)	Came & Co (Annual Insurance)			£844.42

Ros Wallace proposed and Chris Tye seconded that the Parish Council accept a Long Term Agreement (3 years) with Came & Co and receive a 5% reduction.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Minifest vouchers:** 90 vouchers with a value of £2.50 each will be circulated to elderly, long term residents of Mells. Congratulations were extended the Minifest committee for the recent event.
- b) **Mells Daffodil Festival:** The future of the festival could be in doubt. John Earl asked if the Parish Council could help. Councillors were very supportive of the festival continuing but didn't feel they had the necessary skill sets or time.
- c) **Nursery extension:** Consideration would be given at the next meeting regarding a possible donation to this project.
- d) **White Lines:** The white lines on the Holes Lane junction to Whatley Quarry have faded. Clerk to report.
- e) **Gully:** Chris Tye reported that the gully at the bottom of the bridge at Murdercombe requires clearing. Clerk to report.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 10 June 2014 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....

MINUTES\2014\MAY2014