

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on
Tuesday 8 July 2014 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe – Chairman, Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr C Tye, Mr J Earl, Mr S West, Mrs J Mann, Mrs A Moir, Mr J Price, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr V Turner
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **MINUTES OF MEETING** – dated 10 June 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:** Chris Tye had had a very positive meeting with Highways who have agreed to put in concrete gullies and widen the drainage holes in the wall. The work cannot be carried out until approval from the Estate has been received. Action: Clare Asquith.
 - b) **Vobster Bus Stop:** Highways have indicated that this work will be carried out within 8 weeks ie by mid August.
 - c) **Gully – Murdercombe:** Highways had agreed to clear the gully and remove all the spoil. It has been noted that the spoil has been thrown onto the bank. Clerk to establish whether this a temporary measure. The gully will also be widened.
 - d) **Life Education Wessex – request for donation:** Clare Asquith had spoken to the school who value this service and receive two visits a year from the bus. Ros Wallace proposed and Clare Asquith seconded a donation of £100 towards costs.
 - e) **Dog waste bins:** Jan Seewooruttun had been in contact with Mendip DC who had given details on placement, preferred type of bin and how they are emptied. Chris Tye and John Earl will look at the proposed sites – Recreation Ground and near Fairview – to assess what fittings are required. Clerk to purchase two bins in green at a cost of around £203 ex VAT each.
6. **MELLS ROAD CLOSURE**
The original closure order was for total closure from the War Memorial to the top of Lime Kiln Hill for 9 days. No prior notification had been received by the Clerk or County Councillor. With just four days to go before the works started the Chair contacted the leader of Somerset CC and the Portfolio Holder who then contacted Charlie Higgins at Somerset CC. An on site meeting was arranged and changes were made to the schedule with some work being carried out during the night. Buses were allowed to continue through the village during the works. Thanks were extended to Edmund Costelloe for his negotiations with Highways.

It has since been noted that the gully by the Post Office has been half covered by tarmac during the recent resurfacing works. Concerns were raised that this may reduce its efficiency. Clerk to ask Highways to assess before the contractors leave the area.
7. **PLANNING**

2014/0671 – Replace existing two storey extension with larger two storey extension (revised plans) – 2 Underhill Cottage – no objections

2014/1115 – Erection of ancillary building and associated works – Vobster Quay Diving Centre – no objections. Proposed building will be built where it will have least impact on the site. The Estate also have no objections.

Mendip decisions

2014/0589 HPP & 0592 LBC Single storey extension to Chapel – Manor House – approved with 6 conditions

2014/0702/CLP Lawful proposed development for the creation of an access and hardstanding and the erection of a garage building – Honeysuckle, 21 Fairview – approved

Clerk: Joy Book, 5 The Cooperage, Frome BA11 1JX,

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8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - none**9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL – none****10. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) **Mells Nursery:** Letter of thanks for donation and an update on fundraising. Within the letter was a request for further funding. After discussion, it was decided not to give any further funding for this project but leave the door open on funding for other projects in the future.
- b) **Western Power Distribution:** The Chair had received a box of items which every household is recommended to have in the event of a power cut. John Earl will store the box and Clerk will put a note in the Parish Magazine to inform residents of the recommended items.

11. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND RISK ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTS

All documents were deemed to be satisfactory and no amendments were made. To be reviewed in July 2015.

12. FINANCIAL UPDATE APRIL – JULY 2014

Clerk had prepared the figures up to the end of July. All present were happy with the figures as presented.

13. ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

a)	J Book	Clerk's salary (June)		£273.27
		Back pay £14.23 x 3)		£42.69
	Expenses	(June)		
		1 trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	£ 3.60	
		Phone line rental	£ 5.50	
		Utilities	£ 4.00	
		Postage	£ 4.99	
				£18.09
b)	Mells Nursery – Grant towards extension			£1,000.00
c)	SALC – New Councillor Training			£25.00
d)	Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement Trust			£147.50
e)	Sally Vince – website hosting			£265.00
f)	HMRC PAYE Period 4			£8.20
	Proposed Ros Wallace Seconded Clare Asquith			

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Ash Die Back Disease:** Jon Price has spotted a possible case in Asham Woods. There are two known cases in Mendip. Jon to circulate information to raise awareness.
- b) **Overgrown vegetation around village signs:** Clare Asquith to arrange for it to be cut back.
- c) **Speeding motorcyclist:** Clerk to report to Police before there is an accident.
- d) **Lorries ignoring length restrictions – Vobster:** About two lorries a week are still trying to come through the village. Clerk to write to Mells Pipeworks to encourage them to give the correct directions on their website/literature.
- e) **Bus stop – Vobster:** Drug paraphernalia has recently been found in the vicinity.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 26 August 2014 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed..... Date.....

Print Name..... MINUTES\2014\JULY2014