

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on
Tuesday 26 August 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 A Moir, Mr V Turner, Mr J Price, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith **In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mrs J Mann
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
Item 10. a) was brought forward. Resident was very concerned about speeding in the village, especially along Longfield. Cars are notably speeding up after they pass the parked cars. Resident has arranged a meeting with Det Insp Mike Nicholson to discuss the problems. Parish Council acknowledged the problems and several offers of help were received for training for Speedwatch. John Earl reported that there are now 3 Police motorcycles available to carry out speed radar checks. Resident will contact Terry Drake, Speedwatch Area Co-ordinator to ask for a check to be carried. Based on the outcome of the checks, other methods of speeding restrictions maybe looked into although the regular presence of a Speedwatch check would probably be the best deterrent.
5. **MINUTES OF MEETING** – dated 8 July 2014 had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.
6. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Bridge – Tynts Hill:** The works have been completed.
 - b) **Vobster Bus Stop:** Clerk has chase Somerset CC as they had given an 8 week deadline for this work which passed on 12 August.
 - c) **Gully – Murdercombe:** Somerset CC have reported that this work should be completed within 3 months. Clerk has asked for the debris to be removed from the site.
 - d) **Dog waste bins:** After discussion it was agreed to purchase two 60 litre bins in green. Jon Price and John Earl will fix them in the agreed locations.
 - e) **Overgrown vegetation around village signs:** Chris Tye to assess and send a list of the signs affected to Clerk.
 - f) **Speeding motorcyclist:** Motorcyclist has not been seen for a couple of weeks.
 - g) **Lorries – length restriction Vobster bridge:** Mells Pipeworks will do their best to request that lorry drivers avoid the bridge.
7. **PLANNING**

2014/1440/LBC Vobster Church Studio - Formation of lobby, washroom, extension to first floor, spiral stair and new second floor (retrospective): Sympathetic, natural materials have been used. No objections. Final decision to be left to the Planning Officer.

2014/0725/TCA Ashcroft – works/felling of trees: The Carpinus tree will be felled but the Tree Officer will request that one or two trees are planted further from the house.

Mendip Decisions

2014/0878/FUL Mells Garage – Change of use of motor garage to leisure facility: Approved with conditions. The development shall not be operated at any time other than for the purposes ancillary to the use of the Talbot Inn. No external facing material or external joinery shall be installed unless full details of that piece have been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

2014/0671/HSE 2 Underhill Cottages – Replace existing two storey side extension with larger two storey side extension: Approved with conditions. South west elevation Bedroom 4 shall be glazed with obscure glass and unopening unless more than 1.7m above the floor of the room.

2014/0620/HSE & 2014/0621/LBC Old Prospect Farm – Construct a new en suite bedroom by adding an extra storey to an existing storey extension: Approved with conditions. No external facing material or external joinery shall be installed unless full details of that piece have been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Appeal

14/00034/REF Rockhouse Farm, Chantry – erection of a single wind turbine to 77 metres with accompanying access track, crane hardstanding, substation: Appeal received. Starting date 7 August. Chair will write to the Inspector emphasising importance of the economic value of tourism to the area. Vince Turner advised the meeting that his son Langdon was about to put in a planning application for Wind Turbine(s) on their land.

8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – Parishes of Coleford and Mells: Confirmation of change from public footpath to bridleway.

9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment 2014: Request for land suitable for possible development. Noted.
b) Parishes Information Bulletin – passed to Vince Turner

10. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Email from resident – speeding around village: As above
b) Thank you letter from Mells Nursery
c) Thank you letter from Life Education

11. ADOPTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Model policy previously circulated. No changes were made and the Chair signed and dated the policy.

12. EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT

Accounts have been approved. However, the External Auditors noted that the bridge had not been added to the fixed asset section. Clerk to revise asset costs for next year.

13. ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

a)	J Book	Clerk's salary (July/August)	£273.27	£273.27
	Expenses			
		Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	£ 3.60	£ 0.00
		Phone line rental	£ 5.50	£ 5.50
		Utilities	£ 4.00	£ 4.00
		Postage costs	£ 1.24	£ 0.00
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			£14.34	£ 9.50
b)	SALC – Councillor training (Jon Price)			£25.00
c)	The Royal British Legion – wreath and £25 donation			£42.00

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Recreation Ground maintenance:** A complaint has been received regarding the current condition of the ground. Mells and Vobster Trust have recently donated £1,500 for grasscutting equipment. Chair and Jan Seewooruttun to discuss.
- b) **Overgrown vegetation – Primrose Cottage:** Clerk to contact Somerset CC to cut back the tree which has grown back with vengeance since being cut back last year.
- c) **WW1 commemoration:** There are currently no planned commemorations. Clare Asquith is looking for support for a cultural group to use the church with a view to raising awareness of the church.
- d) **Concrete on road – Mill Hill:** Clerk to report lump of hard concrete on bend to Mells Park to Somerset CC.
- e) **Compacted gravel hump:** Clerk to report the hump on the slip road connecting school hill with Frome direction of Holes lane opposite the entrance to Mells Park.
- f) **Memorial Hedge:** Clerk to contact Chris Rowe to trim the hedge before the service.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Friday 17 October 2014 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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

Print Name..... MINUTES\2014\AUGUST2014