

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 9 December 2014 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe – Chairman, Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr J Earl, Mr S West, Mrs A Moir, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith **In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk
Cllr Edward Drewe – District Councillor
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr C Tye, Mrs J Mann, Mr V Turner, Mr J Price
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – dated 11 November 2014 had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Vice Chair.

Cllr Drewe's report

- a) **Local Plan:** Full Council is meeting on Monday 15 December to formally approve Part I of the plan. Land in villages classed as primary and secondary (which includes Mells) are currently being assessed for future development for Part II of the plan which will go to consultation in late Spring 2015. Many villages have had far more than their allocation of houses approved whilst planning was considered under the National Planning Policy Framework. There has been a change to the categorisation of some villages which in the old plan (2006) were categorised as within the development envelope of the village but are now classified as open countryside.
- b) **Council Tax:** This is likely to remain the same for the next two years. Mendip DC has let all the leisure centres which had proved very profitable.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Vobster bus stop sign:** Clerk to chase.
- b) **Overgrown vegetation opposite Primrose Cottage, Lower Vobster:** Somerset CC have inspected and reported that they have no safety concerns at present but will remove the trees when they next become a problem. This was felt to be unsatisfactory. Clerk will forward photos supplied by Ros Wallace.
- c) **Compacted gravel hump:** Highways will inspect.
- d) **Mobile phone signal:** Responses in support of taking action – Coleford and Kilmersdon. Whatley and Buckland Dinham say their service is satisfactory. No response has been received from Great Elm or Leigh on Mendip. Chair will contact Cllr Philip Ham who is responsible for 15 local parishes to follow this up. When all responses have been received letters will be sent to the Minister responsible, David Heath MP and the mobile phone companies requesting a booster mast in the vicinity of Mells. Alison Moir will talk to O2.
- e) **Finger posts – repainting:** Clerk to find out from Somerset CC if the PC can pay for a contractor if Somerset CC provides the paint/give details of paint/specification required.
- f) **Telephone box – Mells Green – repainting:** Local quotes to be sought. Clerk to find out what paint is required.
- g) **Overgrown vegetation/Car park signs – Recreation Ground:** Clerk has managed to contact Rob Symes but he has not contacted Chris Tye yet. Chair to contact local contractor to kill the weeds on the site. The gully by the Post Office is full again. Clerk to contact Rob Symes.
- h) **Whatley Quarry noise:** The quarry has tried to reduce the noise by putting several improvements in place to reduce lorry noise. The planning application will be reviewed to see what the approved quarry working times are. Noise levels will be monitored.
- i) **Mells School – request for donation:** The school is looking to install a small wooden 'pod' to provide space for a Nature Group for the children that need extra support. Pods cost £6,000. The school is currently having to fund extra support from the County as a result of the recent Ofsted report. In principle a grant of £1,000 was proposed by Ros Wallace and seconded Edmund Costelloe which would come from the Mells Park Trust grant. Clerk to check that this amount can be paid under Section 137.
- j) **Moss on pavement – Longfield:** Clerk to chase.

6. PLANNINGPlanning Applications

2014/2138/OTS Acrewood, Little Green – Application for outline permission (with some matters reserved) for one detached dwelling sought for layout, scale and access. No objections to a dwelling on the site. Concerns were raised about the access onto a busy road. Advised Highways to assess application thoroughly.

2014/2308/CLE The Old Forge, Little Green – alterations to front porch and change existing garage doors for disabled access with windows: No objections.

Mendip Decisions

2014/1440/LBC Vobster Church Studio, Vobster Hill – formation of lobby and washroom to ground floor, extension to first floor for library and extension to spiral stair to new second floor (retrospective): Approved by Mendip DC.

2014/2080/OTS Land at Hillcrest, Somers Hill to Mells Green – outline planning permission for erection of dwelling house: Application withdrawn

2014/1904/HSE Brook Cottage, Top Lane - Single storey extension on the side elevation, relocating front door to original location and a first floor extension on the rear elevation above garage and living: Approved by Mendip DC.

Appeal

Erection of four wind turbines (max 80m blade) Torr Works Quarry: Chair will write to Inspectorate.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL** - None

8. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL** - None

9. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

a) **Church of St Andrew, Mells – request for an exceptional grant:** After considerable discussion it agreed to honour the graveyard grant of £1,600 and recommend they approach the Parish Council in the new financial year.

b) **Rights of Way Improvement Plan:** Consultation taking place between 10 December 2014 and 10 March 2015. Email comments to rightsofway@somerset.gov.uk.

c) **Mendip Community Transport – request for donation:** It was agreed to give a donation of £100 in light of the changes to the bus service, this service maybe required even more.

10. **CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL GRANTS/DONATIONS:** It was agreed that donations would only be made when the Parish Council was approached.

11. **FINALISED BUDGET FOR 2015/2016:** The budget was approved. It was proposed by Alison Moir and seconded by Clare Asquith to raise the precept to £10,000 to boost reserves. All in favour.

12. ACCOUNTS

a) J Book Clerk's salary (October) £273.27

b) Expenses

Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	£ 3.60
Phone line rental	£ 5.50
Utilities	£ 4.00
	<u>£13.10</u>

c) Rob Symes – footpath clearance £250.00

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) **Defibrillator:** A request for a defibrillator was made. The Parish Council is supportive of a project being run by the community.

b) **Speedwatch:** Three people have been trained. First watch is planned for 12 January.

c) **Tree – Longfield:** The broken bough has been reported to Mendip DC.

d) **PCSO meeting:** John Earl had attended this meeting and had been surprised to find out that Vobster is classed as a different policing area to Mells even though they are in the same parish. There have been lots of reports of poaching in the area. The reception for Frome Police is still at the Police Station in Oakfield Road and is manned Monday – Friday 10.00am to 6.00pm.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 20 January 2015 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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

Print Name.....