

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 20 January 2015 at Mells Barn**

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – dated 9 December 2015 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) **Vobster bus stop sign:** First will look into the matter.
- b) **Overgrown vegetation opposite Primrose Cottage, Lower Vobster:** Highways have agreed to take another look at the vegetation.
- c) **Compacted gravel hump:** This has been removed.
- d) **Mobile phone signal: Coleford are supportive.** Alison Moir has spoken to O2 who have no immediate plans to install a mast near Mells. Clerk/Chair to write to mobile companies, David Heath MP and Minister responsible for mobile services.
- e) **Mells Park Estate – Community Benefit Payment/Mells School request for donation:** The donation of £1,000 to the school will be paid in the next financial year. DCLG has advised that the appropriate sum for the purpose of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 for 2015-2016 is £7.36.
- f) **Finger posts – repainting:** Somerset CC no longer paint these posts and have not responded to enquiries regarding paint specification. Clerk to find list of all fingerposts in the parish. Quotes to be sought.
- g) **Telephone box – Mells Green – repainting:** Clerk has sourced the paint specification. Chris Tye knows someone who may be interested in doing the work. The telephone box is now working properly and the light has been fixed.
- h) **Overgrown vegetation/Car park signs – Recreation Ground:** The Chair will walk around the site with Jon Price who may be interested in carrying out the work.
- i) **Whatley Quarry noise:** This seems to have reduced. Residents should phone the quarry direct if they have any complaints. Environmental impact of the quarry is due for review this year. The Parish Council will be consulted and make comment at that time. The situation will be monitored in the meantime.
- j) **Moss on pavement – Longfield:** Highways will inspect. Selwood Street has recently been cleared due to a resident falling on leaf debris. Chair will supply Clerk with list of streets that require sweeping.

6. PLANNING

Planning Applications

2014/2683/LBC Mells Primary School – Internal alteration of a new partition wall and extra sound insulation. No objections so long as the 16th century wooden panelling remains undamaged.

Mendip Decisions

2014/2138/OTS Acrewood, Little Green - Application for outline permission (with some matters reserved) for one detached dwelling sought for layout, scale and access – Refused.

2014/2193/TCA Prospect Cottage, Top Lane – proposed felling of Thuja tree in conservation area – Approved.

2014/2308 Certificate of Use Proposed – The Old Forge, Little Green - Alterations to front porch and change existing garage door for disabled access – Approved.

2014/2435 & 36/APP Old Prospect Farm, Top Lane – Application for approval of reserved matters Conditions 3 and 4 - Approved

Appeal

2013/1951 Rockhouse Farm, Chantry: Erection of single wind turbine: Appeal dismissed.

Erection of four wind turbines (max 80m blade) Torr Works Quarry: Chair has written to the Planning Inspectorate. Ros Wallace thanked the Chair for the quality of the letter.

7. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

a) **Overgrown vegetation by wall of Almshouses:** Highways will inspect.

b) **Proposed diversion of Bridleway FR10/97 and downgrading of part of bridleway FR10/98:** No comment. This work has already been carried out.

8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

a) Parishes Information Bulletin x 2 – for Vince Turner

9. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

a) **SALC – Transparency code for Parish Councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000:** The Parish Council will not be subject to external audit at present as turnover is less than £25,000. The Parish Council will be required to publish the Council's activities, spending and governance on the website.

10. RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS POLICY

Subject to the removal of 'or at the start of'(Para 2.1) the policy was proposed by Ros Wallace and seconded by John Earl for approval and acceptance. All in favour.

11. ACCOUNTS TO JANUARY 2015

Clerk to look into reducing website costs by possibly carrying out some of the tasks herself.

12. ACCOUNTS

a)	J Book	Clerk's salary (December)	£288.57
		(and non consolidated payment)	
		Clerk's Salary (January)	£278.28

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

b)	Viscount Asquith 1999 Settlement Trust	£147.50
c)	Mendip Community Transport – donation	£100.00
d)	Mells with Vobster PCC – churchyard grant	£1,600.00
e)	HMRC PAYE (Period 10)	£3.60
f)	HMRC PAYE (Period 11)	£1.00

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Revd Weymont is retiring after 17 years. Chair to write on behalf of the Parish Council.
- b) **Elections for Parish Councillors:** Take place 7 May. Details will be put in the press, parish magazine and on the parish noticeboards.
- c) **Noticeboard by Post Office:** The glass in both doors has been smashed. Chris Tye to remove doors and take to Roman Glass for fixing.
- d) **Top Lane – road narrowing:** The road is quite narrow by Lavender House due to overgrown vegetation. Chris Tye to speak to resident.
- e) **Village maintenance:** Current contractor is looking to cut back on doing work around the village. Jon Price knows someone who maybe interested. Clerk to draw up a schedule of works that are required in the village annually.
- f) **Dog bin:** The bin on the playing field is overflowing. Clerk to arrange for it to be emptied.
- g) **Flooding – Bottom Lane:** This remains flooded with standing water for a long time after rainfall has ceased. Clerk to arrange for Highways to inspect with the possibility of channelling being dug.
- h) **Emailing of agendas and minutes:** From January 2015, it will be legally acceptable for agendas to be sent by email. Ros Wallace proposed and Jon Price seconded that in future all agendas and copies of minutes would be sent out via email. All in favour.
- i) **Pot holes – Upper Vobster:** Ros Wallace will email Clerk pictures of the pot holes to forward to Highways.
- j) **Pot holes – Selwood Street:** Some pot holes have been repaired but others remain untouched and are quite deep. John Earl to email Clerk details to forward to Highways.
- k) **Parking – Selwood Street:** Due to the success of the Walled Gardens and Talbot, parking is causing problems. Item to be put on the next agenda for further discussion.
- l) **Footpath clearance:** Rob Symes has agreed to cut the footpaths for the coming year for £310. Approved.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 10 March 2015 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....