

**MELLS PARISH COUNCIL**  
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on  
Tuesday 10 March 2015 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mr C Tye, Mr J Price, Mr J Earl, Mr S West, Mrs A Moir, Cllr E Drew – District Councillor  
**In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mrs J Mann, Mr E Costelloe, Mrs J Seewooruttun, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr V Turner
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None
5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – dated 20 January 2015 had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. Proposed by John Earl and seconded by Alison Moir. The minutes were then signed by the Vice Chair.

Report from Cllr Edward Drew

- a) **Local Plan:** Mendip DC's five year supply of affordable housing figures has been challenged by a national developer. There is a variance nationally in the numbers required. The challenge will delay Part II of the plan being put together. Planning Inspectors have refused large applications based on the current adopted Local Plan despite the challenge. It has been noted that over the past few year development in rural areas has dropped off. The more popular areas for development is currently in the outskirts of towns.
- b) **Council Tax:** This will remain the same this year and is likely to be held next year too. This has been facilitated by letting the leisure facilities across Mendip.
- c) **Highway maintenance:** Chris Tye raised the issue of costly projects being undertaken to rectify an issue but no obvious ongoing maintenance plans are then put in place to ensure the repairs are maintained so the problems do not re-occur. Clerk will write to Cllr Harvey Siggs, Cabinet member.

**6. MATTERS ARISING**

- a) **Vobster bus stop sign:** Clerk to chase. First Bus has received funding from Somerset CC which will ensure the continuance of the 184 service for the foreseeable future.
- b) **Overgrown vegetation opposite Primrose Cottage, Lower Vobster:** Vegetation is actually more outside Brookside Cottage. Clerk to contact Highways.
- c) **Mobile phone signal:** Letters written to MP's and phone companies. David Heath MP raised the issue in the House of Commons in January. O2 and Vodaphone have responded but gave no indication that they have plans to install a booster mast. Clerk has received a copy of a letter sent to Leigh-on-Mendip PC requesting comments on a proposal to install a 25m high lattice tower mobile phone base on land west of Church Street, Coleford. The scheme would be part of the Government's Mobile Infrastructure Project, a publicly funded initiative that seeks to remove 'not-spots' in rural areas where mobile phone coverage is currently non-existent.
- d) **Finger posts – repainting:** It is proving difficult to find a contractor and it was decided to put back the decision until the new PC is in place in May. The fingerpost on the junction of Halecombe Quarry and Knaptons Hill has been knocked and is now at an angle. Ros Wallace to send position of post on map to Clerk. Clerk to report to Highways.
- e) **Telephone box – Mells Green – repainting:** As above.

- f) **Overgrown vegetation – Recreation Ground:** Quote received. £1,070 to clear the tennis court area and £280 for around the Pavillion. Ongoing maintenance £210/visit March-October. Concerns were raised that the PC would spend this money to bring the site up to a good standard but the standard would then relapse if a regular maintenance plan wasn't put into place. PC is not in a position to fund the monthly costs. Ros Wallace will ask Chair to take concerns to the Company.
- g) **Moss on pavement – Longfield:** No further information.
- h) **Street cleaning:** Mendip's contractor will be in Mells/Great Elm week commencing 2 March.
- i) **Overgrown vegetation by wall of Almshouses:** Inspected by Chris Tye. No current action is required. Highways will inspect vegetation in Top Lane opposite the Post Office.
- j) **Parish Council Elections:** Clerk distributed nomination papers to councillors. Jane Mann has decided not to stand again.
- k) **Noticeboard by Post Office:** The glass has been replaced. Invoice to be paid at this meeting.
- l) **Website costs:** Clerk can take on the responsibility for website but PC would have to find a new host. Current web host is very prompt with putting up information. It was agreed to continue with the present arrangements and to monitor future price increases and service.
- m) **Dog bin emptying:** Bin by recreation ground has been emptied. The bin on Fairfield is not well used and bags have been noted as be left nearby. Clerk to write article for parish magazine.
- n) **Flooding – Bottom Lane:** Highways have agreed to inspect. Chris Tye suggested that the Estate should be contacted as the problem is possibly due to the Estate land being higher so the water pools and cannot soakaway. Clerk to contact Estate.
- o) **Pot holes – Upper Vobster and Selwood Street:** The larger pot holes in Upper Vobster have been filled. Highways will inspect Selwood Street but have commented that they do not appear to be of sufficient depth or diameter to currently warrant repair. John Earl to take more photos.
- p) **Parking – Selwood Street:** This has improved although this was attributed to it being winter.

## 7. PLANNING

### New Applications

**2015/0140 & 2015/0143** Tynts Hill House, Rashwood Lane - Conversion and extension of a garage and potting shed to provide 2 bedrooms, a bathroom and a playroom. PC had no objections. Mendip DC have approved this application.

**2015/0193/HSE** Greystones, Top Lane - To convert existing ground floor garage to a kitchen with bedroom and en suite over. Construct a new detached garage with additional access. No objections. Scale, design and appearance of conversion is in keeping.

**2015/0202/LBC** The Old Rectory, Gay Street - Internal alterations to the ground floor. Existing pantry fitted out as WC, new door opening between rear and front rooms in position of existing store cupboard, removal of door and architraves (to be reused for new door connection) and new lightweight partition, new partition to create new kitchen cupboard recess, new structural opening between new kitchen and existing dining room. Decision left to Planning Officer.

### Mendip Decisions

**2014/2683/LBC Mells Primary School** – Internal alteration of a new partition wall and extra sound insulation – withdrawn

### Appeals

Erection of four wind turbines (max 80m blade) Torr Works Quarry: No further information.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL**

- a) Outcome of review and consultation on mobile library service – Somerset have confirmed that Mells will lose their mobile library service.
- b) Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit – Request for 3 nominees who can be contacted in time of emergency. Jon Price, John Earl and Steve West agreed to be contacts and filled in the consent form.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL**

- a) Parishes Information Bulletin

**10. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Church of St Andrew – Thank you for grant and request for further financial help. Deferred to new financial year (April).
- b) Mendip Community Transport – Thank you for donation.

**11. ACCOUNTS TO MARCH 2015**

The preliminary carry forward balance for 2015/16 is £11,080.33.

**12. ACCOUNTS**

a) J Book	Clerk's salary (December)		£278.28
	Expenses		
	Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	£ 3.60	
	Phone line rental	£ 5.50	
	Utilities	£ 4.00	
	2 x Large envelope stamps	£ 3.18	
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		£16.28	
b)	HMRC PAYE (Period 12)		£1.00
c)	Roman Glass – repair of noticeboard		£147.18
	Proposed Chris Tye		
	Seconded Jon Price		

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) **Streetlight number 11 by war memorial:** This has not worked for several months. Clerk has reported it to Somerset CC.
- b) **Speedwatch:** This is now up and running and is monitoring traffic twice a week. The team will be very active during National Speed Awareness Week in April.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday 14 April 2015 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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

Print Name.....