

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 14 April 2015 at Mells Barn**

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1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe - Chair, Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mr C Tye, Mr J Price, Mr J Earl, Mr S West, Mrs A Moir, Mrs J Seewooruttun, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr V Turner
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk
 2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mrs J Mann
 3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
 4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
Chair of Mells Daffodil Committee sought help and support with traffic management solutions for the Daffodil Festival. This year's event was blighted by vehicles parking on the verges and people moving cones and tapes. This caused considerable narrowing of the road width which would have impeded access for emergency vehicles. A lack of stewards as the day progressed compounded the problem. The Police had been consulted prior to the event and were happy with the arrangements but were unable to attend due to resources. Frome Carnival Club was recommended by the Police as they hold the correct accreditations for manning such an event. Another issue arose from the lack of a bridge over the church wall. This resulted in people clambering over the walls and a bottle neck at the church gate as people tried to get through. Cars were seen sliding in one car park and some people were being charged and then told to park on the road. This matter will be investigated.

Chair congratulated the committee on the public participation and attendance figures. Around £16,000 was taken and all food vendors ran out of stock.

Chair of Daffodil Committee will be making traffic management his priority. Possible solutions are to find another car parking field or extending the road closure to the edge of the village.
 5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – dated 10 March 2015 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) **Vobster bus stop post:** Clerk to chase.
 - b) **Overgrown vegetation opposite Brookside Cottage:** Clerk to chase.
 - c) **Mobile Phone signal:** Approximately 100 people have signed the petition in the shop.
 - d) **Overgrown vegetation – Recreation Ground:** Chair will arrange a Board meeting with the Company to discuss ongoing upkeep of the grounds.
 - e) **Moss on pavement – Longfield:** This has been noted as dying back now the weather is warmer
 - f) **Parish Council Elections:** Nine councillors are re-standing. Jon Price and Jane Mann are standing down. There will not be an election but the Parish Council will still receive administration costs. After the election the Parish Council will seek to co-opt two new members.
 - g) **Flooding – Bottom Lane:** Clare Asquith to investigate.
 - h) **Ongoing highway maintenance:** Cllr Harvey Siggs has responded with a full report on how Somerset CC continue their maintenance schemes.

- l) **Pot holes – Selwood Street:** John Earl will take photos of the pot holes and these will be sent to Somerset CC. There is also a pot hole in Bottom Lane by the Post Office. Clerk to report.
- j) **Church of St Andrew – request for further donation:** The Chair proposed and Ros Wallace seconded a further donation of £250. All in favour.
- k) **Streetlight number 11 by war memorial:** This has been repaired.

7. NOMINATIVE TRUSTEES OF MELLS CHARITIES

The Parish Council support the continuation of Monica Jennings, Bryon Axford and Shirley Inch as the Trustees. Chair will ask Trustees to attend the Annual Meeting to give a talk on the work of the charity.

8. PLANNING

New Applications

2015/0746/CNT Continued operation of Waste Transfer Station until 30 March 2030. Chair will visit site. A request will be added for wheel cleaning to be more frequent/vigilant as mud is often seen on Lime Kiln Hill.

2015/0452/FUL Erection of new production buildings with concrete batching plants. Mells Road Works, Vobster Cross. Passed to Ros Wallace and Steve West.

Mendip Decisions

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 – application withdrawn.

2015/0202/LBC The Old Rectory, Gay Street - Internal alterations to the ground floor. Approved.

Appeals

Erection of four wind turbines (max 80m blade) Torr Works Quarry: Appeal set for 2 September and will last 5 days.

9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Public Path Diversion Order Bridleways FR10/97 and FR/1098:** This has now been passed. Notices will be placed in the boards.

10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Parishes Information Bulletin:** Passed to Vince Turner.

11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Mells Post Office Outreach Service:** The Parish Council will write supporting the service in order that funding can be received for the purchase of a used van.
- b) **BT Phone box:** Chair of Daffodil Committee wanted to know the procedure of adopting a phone box as the committee would be interested in using it as a community facility eg. to house a defibrillator or library. The Mells phone box is currently not available for adoption and is fully commissioned. The matter will be revisited if the phone box becomes available for adoption in the future. Chris Tye may know someone who would be willing to paint the phone box and fingerposts.

12. ACCOUNTS

a)	J Book	Clerk's salary (March)		£279.28
	Expenses			
		Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	£ 3.60	
		Phone line rental	£ 5.50	
		Utilities	£ 4.00	
			<hr/>	£13.10
b)	Photocopying costs – Beckington Parish Council			£40.00

- c) Mells Church of England First School – donation towards ‘pod’ £1,000.00
- d) Viscount Asquith’s 1999 Settlement Trust £147.50

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Fingerpost Knaptons Hill:** This has now completely collapsed and is dangerous. Clerk to request whether a STOP sign on the junction opposite can be installed.
- b) **Grit bin:** The shop has now finished using the green grit bin. Chair will talk to the Estate regarding a new location for it and arrange fixing. Clerk to arrange for it to be filled with grit when in situ.
- c) **Raised cobble stone:** Clerk to report cobblestone opposite the old garage by the service entrance to the Talbot.
- d) **Litter on recreation ground:** Moving the bin into the parking area may encourage it to be used more. Chair to investigate.
- e) **Quarry – Lafarge Tarmac:** Lafarge is soon to be taken over by an Irish company. It is hoped that the good works the current company are carrying out will continue eg. orchard/flower planting, reduction of CO₂ by 20%.
- f) **Railway line to Radstock:** Money has been made available for reopening the line to Radstock. There are several hurdles to overcome before this can move forward.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 14 April 2015 at 7.00pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....