

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

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on  
Tuesday 9 June 2015 at Mells Barn**

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1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe - Chair, Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mr C Tye, Mr J Earl, Mr S West, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mrs A Moir, Mr V Turner **In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk
  2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** The Countess of Oxford & Asquith
  3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
  4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – North Somerset Railway Project**  
George Bailey, Director and Olly Wise, Operations Director explained that the Company was set up a while ago but funding to start the project has only just been put into place. Mells Road is key to the project's success as they wish to deploy operations from there as it is the only flat section of rail along the planned route from Frome to Radstock. The Company plan to restore Mells Road station and build a new station at Conduit Road called Mells Station. A new station behind the Cheese and Grain would be called Frome Market. The Company is currently contacting all stakeholders to inform them of progress to date and future plans. Initially the Company plans to run DMU trains as they are fairly cheap to run and are reliable. They would like to run some steam trains in the future. The major objective is to run community transport although there will be an element of tourism. Before any work can be undertaken a Transport & Works Order needs to be approved and this is currently being put together. Councillors asked many questions and thanked the company for their presentation. The PC will respond to any formal proposals when they are submitted.
  5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – dated 12 May 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) **Mobile Phone signal:** Chair will send copies of the letters sent to the mobile phone companies and their responses to David Warburton MP. Alison Moir will also forward petition to David Warburton MP.
    - b) **Overgrown vegetation – Recreation Ground/moving of litter bin:** Jan Seewooruttun has moved the bin. Chair will circulate dates for the working party to clear the vegetation.
    - c) **Flooding – Bottom Lane:** No further information.
    - d) **Mells Daffodil Festival:** Clerk to contact committee regarding outcome of talks with the Carnival Committee who provided the stewards on the day.
    - e) **Fingerpost – Knaptons Hill:** Clerk has requested replacement of sign. The replacement will not be a fingerpost as Highways no longer replace or repair them. Clerk to contact Jon Price who expressed an interest in quoting for painting the village fingerposts.
    - f) **Raised cobblestone:** No further information.
    - g) **Noticeboard by Post Office:** A new lock has been put on one of the doors.
    - h) **Co-option of two councillors:** No enquiries have been received yet.
    - i) **Flooding – Vobster Cross/Hatchet Hill:** Highways had already identified this area as a flood risk and have forwarded it to their Flood Risk Team. The scheme will compete for future funding.
    - j) **Activity by old BT Exchange – Vobster:** No further information. Chair to contact Cllr Drewe again.
  7. **PLANNING**
    - New Applications  
2015/1272/TCA Proposed felling of three ash trees - Land adjacent to Brierley, Little Green. Chair will assess.
    - Appeals  
Erection of four wind turbines (max 80m blade) Torr Works Quarry: No further information.
  8. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL** - none  
*Clerk: Joy Book, 5 The Cooperage, Frome BA11 1JX,  
Tel: 07704 584953, Email: jbo@blueyonder.co.uk*

**9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL - none**

- a) **Parish Information Bulletin** – passed to Vince Turner.

**10. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) **Request for new litter bin by the shop and dog waste bin by Lutyens shelter:** The bin by the shop frequently overflows and has rotted at the bottom. Clerk to find a suitable, possibly larger, replacement. PC will fund half the cost of the litter bin. Clerk will ask Shop Committee to gain permission from the Estate for the siting of the dog waste bin. PC will fully fund this bin.
- b) **Church of St Andrews:** Thank you letter for donation.
- c) **Mells Barn – request for lease extension:** John Earl presented a draft letter for the PC to approve and send to the Diocese of Bath & Wells. All in favour.

**11. ACCOUNTS TO 9 JUNE 2016 - £23,654.62****12. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a)	J Book	Clerk's salary (May)		£279.28
	Expenses			
		Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	£ 3.60	
		Phone line rental	£ 5.50	
		Utilities	£ 4.00	
		Stamps x 3 large envelope	<u>£ 5.06</u>	
			£18.16	
		Rapid Entry Locksmiths Ltd – noticeboard lock		£85.00
		Alan Aked – internal audit		£50.00

Proposed Ros Wallace seconded Jan Seewooruttun

- b) Receipts  
£168.03 VAT refund has been credited to account.

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) **Agricultural vehicles speeding through village:** Large farm vehicles are speeding up along Bottom Lane when they see that the road ahead is clear to avoid causing a hold up. Unfortunately, this proves dangerous should another vehicle suddenly come into view. One farm vehicle has had to brake abruptly leaving long skid marks on the road. Vince Turner reported that the Police have been involved and some vehicles now have to go up Lime Kiln Hill and back down Knaptons Hill. Situation will be monitored.
- b) **Tree in Longfield:** The hanging bough has been removed and the tree next to it has been tidied up.
- c) **Little Green - Noticeboard:** Alison Moir reported that this noticeboard requires varnishing. Clerk to contact Clare Asquith to see if the Estate handyman will do it.
- d) **Apologies:** Chris Tye offered his apologies for the next meeting.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday 14 July 2015 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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

Print Name.....