

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 24 August 2015 at Mells Barn**

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1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe - Chair, Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mr C Tye, Mr V Turner, Mr J Earl, Mr S West, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mrs A Moir, Mr J Poynton, Mr A Brady.
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk
 2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** The Countess of Oxford & Asquith
 3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
 4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –** None
 5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING –** dated 14 July 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/broadband:** Alison Moir has met with David Warburton MP who is very keen to move this forward and has indicated he would like to attend a PC meeting when he is available. Over 100 signatures have now been gathered. Alan Brady has also spoken to David Warburton MP and has arranged to meet with Jacob Rees-Mogg MP. All MP's are very keen to see this pushed forward. David Warburton MP also plans to meet with the Minister for Telecommunications.
 - b) **Flooding – Bottom Lane:** No further information.
 - c) **Mells Daffodil Festival:** The Daffodil Committee is a sub-committee of the PCC. PC will write to PCC to clarify the intention of the committee. Chair will liaise with John Earl and Jan Seewooruttun.
 - d) **Fingerpost – Knaptons Hill:** This will be replaced. The give way lines are faint and the give way sign is obscured by vegetation. Chair to write to Avon and Somerset Police.
 - e) **Raised cobblestone:** The cobblestone initially reported has been repaired. It is unknown whether the other cobblestones have also been repaired.
 - f) **Noticeboard requiring varnishing – Little Green:** No further information regarding the varnishing. The catch has become bent.
 - g) **Activity by old BT Exchange – Vobster:** The exchange has been purchased by a local carpenter who will be using it as a store. He is currently undertaking repairs to the roof and sleeps on site at night as the building is not fully secure.
 - h) **Litter bin by the Post Office and dog waste bin by Lutyens shelter:** No further information.
 - i) **Withdrawal of 184 bus service:** A new company is taking over the 184 route but it will terminate at Midsomer Norton allowing connection with the buses to Bath. Six buses a day will run through Mells. Clerk to put new timetable on the website.
 - j) **Streetlight No 1 – Lower Vobster:** Clerk to report again.
 - k) **Removal of gates:** No further information.
 - l) **Pothole – Longfield:** This has been repaired. Another pothole has been noted in Holes Lane approaching Mells Park gate. Clerk to report.
 7. **PLANNING**

New applications
2015/1393/HSE 20 Fairview - New pitched roof on existing extension with extensions front and back to kitchen. No objections.

Mendip Decisions
2015/1272/TCA Land adjacent to Brierley, Little Green – Proposed felling of Ash trees x 3. No TPO is required. No Objections.

Appeals
Erection of four wind turbines (max 80m blade) Torr Works Quarry: The appeal starts at the beginning of September.
 10. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL –** none

11. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Get your parish ready for the Local Plan Part II:** Mendip DC have supplied a questionnaire to guide Parish Councils in preparation for the Local Plan Part II. Parking, mobile phone signal, lack of public seating and gas supply were noted.
- b) **Local Legacy Fund 2015:** Grants of between £5,000 and £30,000 are available for parish and town councils, local voluntary and community organisations, village halls, social enterprises and community interest companies. Closing date 16 October 2015. Details on Mendip DC website.
- c) **Parish Information bulletin:** Passed to Vince Turner.
- d) **Mendip Community Transport – Department of Transport’s Community Transport Minibus Fund:** MCT have been given government funding for two minibuses and are looking for **areas of need** within rural villages where a service could be run to help with shopping trips, doctor trips etc. Chair will pass to Coleford Surgery.
- e) **Barn Lease:** No further information.

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE - none**13. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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|----|------------------------------------|---|---------|
| a) | J Book | Clerk’s salary (July and August) | £558.56 |
| | | Expenses (June – omitted previously, July and August) | £45.70 |
| b) | Grant Thornton – External Auditors | | £120.00 |
| c) | Sally Vince – website hosting | | £305.00 |
- d) **Review of Financial Regulations:** Clerk had circulated current Mells regulations and NALC regulations. A formal motion was passed that the current financial Mells regulations document was fit for purpose. Proposed Chair, seconded John Earl. All in favour.
 - e) **Review of Risk Management Strategy and Risk Register:** Risk regarding councilors visiting resident’s properties to assess planning applications will be added. Proposed Chair, seconded Alison Moir. All in favour.
 - f) **Internal Controls:** Clerk presented a new document which was proposed by the Chair, seconded John Earl. All in favour.

Receipts - none

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 14.1 **Mobile Library service:** This service is no longer running.
- 14.2 **Overhanging bushes – obscured view from Great Elm:** Alan Brady to approach owners.
- 14.3 **Speedwatch:** One member is stepping down but it is hoped that two more members will be joining next month after they have received training.
- 14.4 **Notification of resignation:** Chris Tye informed the council that he would be standing down after the next meeting after 13 years on the council.
- 14.5 **Sports and Recreation Company:** A board meeting will be held soon. Funding is being sought.
- 14.6 **Hansons Quarry Liaison meeting:** There have been 7 noise, 2 dust and 3 blasting complaints. The quarry has twice exceeded its blasting limits but these occasions were not complained about. Over the next 12 years the quarry will be sinking three more levels.
- 14.7 **Wind turbine:** Vince Turner informed the PC that he had been approached by a company who wish to put a community turbine on his land which would generate revenue for the village. The previous proposed wind turbine received a lot of opposition from Leigh on Mendip.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 13 October 2015 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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

Print Name.....