

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 13 October 2015 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe - Chair, Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mr V Turner, Mr J Earl, Mr S West, Mrs J Seewooruttun, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mrs A Moir, Mr A Brady
5 members of the public **In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr C Tye, Mr J Poynton, Cllr E Drewe
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
 - a) **Fussells Old Ironworks:** Architect, Richard Swann, explained that the old ironworks are a Scheduled Ancient Monument which has become very unstable. The provisional plan for the site is to stabilise the ironworks but not reinstate the building, to convert the office building to a dwelling and install a turbine.
 - The dwelling would be for a manager who would be responsible for the running of the turbine. There is likely to be restricted residency to cover the day to day management of the turbine.
 - Fences have been erected around the site for safety reasons as some of the walls have become very unstable.
 - The owners wish to protect the archaeology and ecology of the site.
 - The bats will be rehoused to a suitable area of the site.
 - The footpath around the site will remain as it is.
 - Vehicular access would be via the current access and limited to just the dwelling traffic once the development stage has been completed.
 - Several trees will need to be felled as they are liable to uproot in bad weather and therefore cause further damage to the brickwork. Jon Price is in contact with Bo Walsh, MDC Tree Department.
 - The sluice gates are currently damaged but will be repaired. Flooding further up the river would be controlled by the sluice gates and should improve the current flooding situation.

The approximate timescale from planning permission to a fully functioning site would be around 2 years.

PC is supportive of the plans as they seem sympathetic and asked to be kept informed of any developments.
5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – dated 25 August 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:** Alan Brady is hoping to speak with Jacob Rees-Mogg MP. Donna Fletcher, Vodafone would be very willing to back the Council. Legislation has now been passed that mobile phone providers must now share masts.
 - b) **Flooding – Bottom Lane:** This has been passed to Humberts.
 - c) **Mells Daffodil Festival:** Email received from the chairman of the committee explaining the issues. The scaffolding company had let the down the organisers at the last minute. Illegal parking on the road had caused considerable problems. Drivers were directed to the field by volunteers but were frequently ignored and parked in other areas of the village. If an outside organisation is employed to direct the traffic this would significantly reduce the income to the village which was the original objective. A suggestion has been made that the next event should be ticketed. Using the cricket ground for the main fair with stalls in the street would be the best solution. Unless more volunteers are found the fair is likely to cease.
 - d) **Fingerpost – Knaptons Hill:** It is proving very difficult to find a contractor who is willing to paint the fingerposts. Clerk to ask other local parishes.
 - e) **Raised cobblestone:** Several cobblestones are raised at the entrance to New Street. Clerk to report.
 - f) **Noticeboard requiring varnishing – Little Green:** Clerk to pass specification to Clare Asquith to pass to contractor.

- g) **Replacement of the Litter bin by the Post Office and the bin by the duck pond, dog waste bin by Lutyens shelter and damaged dog waste bin Manor/Church fields:** Clerk to purchase bins and pass specification for fixing to Clare Asquith to pass to contractor.
- h) **Streetlight No 1 – Lower Vobster:** Clerk to report again. The bin in Lower Vobster has had the internal removed. Ros Wallace to measure and send picture to Clerk who will try to source a replacement.
- k) **Removal of gates: Gate has not been replaced.** Clare Asquith to chase.
- l) **Barn lease:** No further information.
- m) **Overhanging bushes – obscured view from Great Elm:** These have been cut back.
- n) **Pot Hole – Holes Lane:** This has been filled.

7. PLANNING

New applications

2015/2128/HSE Internal alterations, convert existing garage into study, erect new garage and store – The Rectory, Gay Street

Mendip Decisions

2015/1954/APP Mells Road Works, Vobster Cross – Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (foul end surface water and concrete waste water) on planning permission

2015/0452/FUL – Approved.

2015/1393/HSE: 20 Fairview – new pitched roof on existing extension, with extensions front and back to kitchen - Approved

Appeals

Erection of four wind turbines (max 80m blade) Torr Works Quarry: Enquiry has taken place and the result will be known in January.

10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Collection of de-icing material:** Vince Turner will try to pick up 10 x 20kg bags of grit for distribution around the village.

11. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Parishes Information Bulletin** – passed to Vince Turner

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Mells Rural Internet:** Alan Brady to follow up.
- b) **Invitation to North Somerset Railway Company AGM:** Details noted.

13. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

a)	J Book	Clerk's salary (September)		£279.28
	Expenses	September		
		Trip to Mells (@45p/mile)	£3.60	
		Phone line rental	£5.50	
		Utilities	£1.00	
		12 x 2 nd class & large letter stamps	<u>£13.96</u>	
			£27.06	<u>£306.34</u>
b)	Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement Trust			£147.50
c)	RBL – Wreath and £25 donation			£42.00
d)	Accounts to 13 October 2015			
	<u>Receipts</u> - £0.65 interest on Barclays account			

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **184 service:** The new service is running very well with connections in Midsomer Norton having a minimal wait.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 10 November 2015 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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

Print Name.....