

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

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on  
Tuesday 8 December 2015 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe - Chair, Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mr J Earl, Mr S West, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr A Brady, Mr C Tye, Mr J Poynton, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr V Turner  
No members of the public **In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mrs A Moir,
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -** None
5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING –** dated 10 November 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:** Leigh on Mendip Parish Council has written to Coleford and Mells PC to ask if they would join them in lobbying the DCMS and MP for useable mobile phone coverage in the area. Clerk to offer support.
  - b) **Fingerpost painting:** Clerk has contacted 8 parish councils asking if they could recommend a contractor who would be willing to undertake this work. One response had been received which was a request to pass on the name of the contractor if one was found.
  - c) **Raised cobblestone:** Several have been repaired. This is an ongoing problem and misplaced cobblestones will be reported as and when they occur.
  - d) **Noticeboard requiring varnishing – Little Green:** Awaiting response from handyman. Clerk to chase.
  - e) **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:** Bin liners are £55 + VAT + £20 delivery. All in favour. Clerk to order. Clerk to contact handyman again regarding fixings for new bins.
  - f) **Streetlight No 1 – Lower Vobster:** The contractor has been issued with a works order.
  - g) **Removal of gates – corner of Fairview and Church Field:** Clerk has reported to Mendip DC and will chase the matter up.
  - h) **Barn Lease:** Chair has written a follow up letter requesting action as soon as possible.
  - i) **Traffic on Selwood Street:** The temporary passing place at the bottom of New Street had worked well and the Estate are looking into putting some no parking signs on the Walled Garden wall but are not keen to have posts or permanent markings on the road at this stage. To ease the parking situation in general, the Estate propose offering the Recreation Ground which is leased to the Company. The terms of the lease are being looked into to see if this is feasible. The Chair reported that the Company would have no issue with the Recreation Ground car park being used. Jan Seewooruttun commented that during the week this would be acceptable but it may cause a problem at the weekends when it is being used for sporting activities. Parking 'P' signs could be erected near the turning off the road into Longfield. The Estate will look into the terms of lease for the Walled Gardens and The Talbot as their usage has changed over the years.
  - j) **Streetlight – Fairview:** Contractor has been instructed to place a shield around the offending light. Residents have noticed an increase in parked cars on the road. Although there are signs saying 'parking for residents only' these are not enforceable and the drivers have the right to park on the highway.
7. **PLANNING**

New applications

**2015/2850/HSE:** Proposed first floor rear extension. Virginia Cottage, Upper Vobster Road. Ros Wallace and Steve West will assess.

**2015/1789/LBC & 2015/1787/FUL:** Refurbishment and extension of cottage. The Cottage, Little Green. Recommend approval

**2015/2560/HSE:** Ems Cottage, Top Lane – Recommend approval

Mendip Decisions

**2015/2258/TCA:** Proposed felling of Ash tree and sycamore tree. Sunnyside, Little Green – No objection

**2015/2518/TCA:** Proposed pruning of Lawson cypress – reduce height by 10-15ft and trim. Old Prospect Farm, Top Lane – No objection

**2015/2365/TCA:** Proposed felling of an ash tree – No objection

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 - none**

**11. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL**

a) Parishes Information Bulletin

**12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE - none**

**13. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) J Book Clerk's salary (October) £279.28

Expenses

Trip to Mells (@45p/mile) £3.60

Phone line rental £5.50

Utilities £1.00

£13.10

£292.38

b) Mells Barn – hire for meetings £200.00

c) **Preliminary budget for 2016/2017:** Chair proposed keeping the precept at £10,000. All in favour. Clerk to inform Mendip DC.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

14.1 **Contractor for footpath and gully clearance:** Clerk to put advert on the noticeboards and in shop. Payment would be by agreement.

14.2 **Police speed bike:** The Police have agreed to have the presence of a speed bike on Holes Lane but a date cannot be given.

14.3 **Mells Mobile Phone Mast:** The Estate would offer some land if approached. However the Whatley Quarry site has a good line of sight for the surrounding villages and would be an ideal site for a mast. Clerk to write to Hansons to see if they would be willing to place a mast on their land.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday 12 January 2016 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 7.55pm.

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

Print Name.....