

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 9 February 2016 at Mells Barn**

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1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe - Chair, Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mr J Earl, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr C Tye, Mrs A Moir, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr V Turner
No members of the public **In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk
 2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr A Brady, Mr J Poynton, Mr S West
 3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
 4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -** None
 5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – dated 8 December 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 has spoken to O2 and Vodaphone who are jointly looking into installing a mast in the area. The quarry and estate have confirmed, in principle, that they would be willing to consider a site for a mast subject to location.
 - b) **Fingerpost painting:** A company has quoted £1,600 for the refurbishment of one fingerpost in another parish. This is much higher than expected. Chris Tye knows a couple of people who he will approach.
 - c) **Noticeboard requiring varnishing – Little Green:** Clare Asquith will contact a painter.
 - d) **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:** Bins have been delivered to the contractor. Urgent installation of the dog waste bin by Manor/Church Fields is required as dog walkers are leaving bags around the area of the damaged bin.
 - e) **Streetlight No 1 – Lower Vobster:** This is now working.
 - f) **Removal of gates – corner of Fairview and Church Field:** These have been replaced.
 - g) **Barn Lease:** English Heritage were unhappy with the window being obscured so the proposed plans for the toilets have had to be changed. If the works cannot be carried out The Barn will be unable to continue to attract its current high end hire and therefore would not be viable.
 - h) **Traffic on Selwood Street:** Chris Tye/Clare Asquith, John Earl and Jan Seewooruttun agreed to form a sub-committee to take this forward. Solutions to be considered are a passing place and installation of signage.
 - i) **Streetlight – Fairview:** Clerk to chase.
 - j) **Contractor for footpath and gully clearance:** Clerk to contact The Landscape Group.
 - k) **Blocked drain Murdercombe:** This has been cleared.
 - l) **30mph sign and post – Top Lane:** Highways will inspect and take remedial action.
 7. **CHANGES TO STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**
Clerk had previously circulated changes to Standing Orders as recommended by NALC. All were in favour of accepting the proposed relevant changes. The changes to the Financial Regulations have not been released by NALC.
 8. **CHARITY DISSOLUTION**
The Parish Council had recently received notification from the Charity Commission that it had not received an annual return for several years for the Mells Recreation Ground Charity. Investigations showed that the Parish Council are the Trustees of the Charity although no minutes going back decades show any evidence of this. The original lease has now been assigned to the Company. The Company Director will contact the Charity Commission to find out the way forward. It is likely that the Company will take over the charity.
 9. **PLANNING**
New applications
2015/2850/HSE: Proposed first floor rear extension. Virginia Cottage, Upper Vobster Road. For approval.

2015/3034/TCA Felling of 5 Ash trees and replace with Beech hedge. Drums Hill Cottage Rashwood Lane. For approval.

2016/0234/HSE Internal alterations, convert existing garage to study, erect new garage and store. The Rectory, Gay Street. Jan Seewooruttun and John Earl will assess when the full plans are received.

Mendip Decisions

2015/2560/HSE Ems Cottage, Top Lane. Conversion of existing double garage into additional living area. Approved.

Appeals

Erection of four wind turbines (max 80m blade) Torr Works Quarry: Appeal has been turned down. Very grateful thanks were extended to the local campaigners. The outcome of the appeal has set a precedent for other turbines in the area.

10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - none

11. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) Parishes Information Bulletin – Passed to Vince Turner
- b) Heritage at Risk Register – no known buildings
- c) Clean for the Queen Campaign (Queen's 90th birthday celebrations): Event planned for Saturday 9th April between 10.00am-1.00pm. Ros Wallace/Jan Seewooruttun agreed to co-ordinate and will advertise in the shop, magazine, noticeboards and inform the school.

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Mendip Community Transport – request for donation: It was agreed a donation of £100 would be made. All in favour.

13. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

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| J Book | Clerk's Salary (December) | | £279.28 |
| | (January) | | £279.28 |
| Expenses | Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile) | 3.60 x 1 | |
| | Phone line rental | 5.50 x 2 | |
| | Utilities | <u>4.00 x 2</u> | |
| | | £22.60 | |
| | Litter bin for shop & 2 x dog waste bins | | £778.57 |
| | (£252.01 to be refunded by shop) | | |
| | 3 x bin liners | | £249.12 |
| | SALC councillor training | | £20.00 |
| | Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement Trust | | £147.50 |

b) Receipts:

- i. **Mells Park Trust – Annual Community Grant:** £1,000 received. Consideration will be given to how the grant can be used.
- ii. **Bank interest:** £0.65
- c) **External Audit for Smaller Authorities:** It was agreed that the PC would not opt out of the SAAA scheme. The PC fits Group 3 – ie. Opted in authorities with neither income or expenditure exceeding £25k.
- d) **Council Tax Support Grant for 2016/2017:** Mendip DC has confirmed that this will be £804.78.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 14.1 **Dumped fridges:** These are on Estate land. Estate will remove.
- 14.2 **Website:** Various information on the website is out of date. Clerk to ask Jeremy Poynton to undertake the task of updating.
- 14.3 **Councillor resignation:** Ros Wallace tendered her resignation after 26 years on the council. The Chair thanked Ros and said that the Parish Council were very fortunate to have someone who worked so hard for the local community and who was a true pleasure to work with. Clare Asquith added had contributed greatly to the harmonious character of the Parish Council. Ros will continue her work for the Mells & Vobster Trust and Speedwatch.
- 14.4 **Whatley Quarry:** Whatley Parish Council has received many complaints about noise and vibrations from the quarry. Noise has been noted twice recently before 6.00am and all through the night from lorries driving around. Clerk to look at quarry operating hours.

- 14.5 **Fussell site:** Clerk to arrange site visit.
- 14.6 **Gatepost by Manor Gates footpath:** Estate will make safe.
- 14.7 **Road verges being churned by vans – Longfield:** This is not a safety issue. No action.
- 14.8 **Signatories for HSBC account:** John Earl and Clare Asquith agreed to become signatories on the account. Clerk to obtain forms.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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

Print Name.....