

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 8 March 2016 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr J Earl – Stand in Chair, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr A Brady, Mr J Poynton, Mr S West
No members of the public **In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr E Costelloe, Mr V Turner, Mr C Tye, Mrs A Moir
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -** None
5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – dated 9 February 2016 had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Stand in Chair.
6. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Mobile Phone signal/broadband:** Alan Brady reported that £150m had been allocated to rural masts several years ago but as of a year ago only £6m had been spent. A reporter from the Standard has arranged to meet David Warburton MP to highlight the issue. The Estate are putting together a bid to the Parish Council to put a mast on Estate land. Several other Parish Councils in the area are looking into the possibility of installing a mast.
 - b) **Fingerpost painting and re-seating of fingerpost, Rashwood Lane footpath, Gay Street:** Jeremy Poynton will look at what is required to re-seat the post as Highways maybe inclined to remove it and replace it with a modern sign if they are involved.
 - c) **Noticeboard requiring varnishing – Little Green:** Contractor will do this when the weather is more stable.
 - 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:** Contractor has quoted £150 for installing the two dog waste bins and weight the litter bin by the shop. Work to be carried out as soon as possible. An increase in dog mess in the field has been noted.
 - e) **Barn Lease:** The church PCC are happy for the lease to be renewed but are looking to substantially increase the rent.
 - f) **Traffic on Selwood Street:** The sub-committee have met to discuss the issue and have a plan. To be presented at the April meeting.
 - g) **Streetlight – Fairview:** This has been fitted with a hood to deflect the light.
 - h) **Contractor for footpath and gully clearance:** Clerk has contacted the Landscape Group and asked them to contact the Chairman.
 - i) **30mph sign and post – Top Lane:** This work has not been carried out. Clerk to chase.
 - j) **Charity dissolution:** Jan Seewooruttun presented evidence that she had sent a dissolution form to the Charity Commission in December 2015.
 - k) **Clean for the Queen Campaign:** Arranged for Saturday 9 April starting at 10.00am at the shop. A risk assessment has been undertaken. Clerk to circulate the guidance notes. Equipment will be provided. The Estate holds regular litter picks around the village.
 - l) **Mells Park Trust – Annual Community Grant:** Deferred to April meeting.
 - m) **Parish Council website:** Jeremy Poynton and Clerk have looked at the site for out of date information. Clerk to submit correct information to website host along with a couple of suggestions to improve usability.
 - n) **Whatley Quarry concerns:** Steve West agreed to contact the Enforcement Officer at Somerset CC to discuss the noise issues. Clare Asquith will contact the quarry direct. Steve West reported that normal operating level for quarries is up to Level 9 which Whatley operates well under (Level 30-40 would be required to cause local damage). The quarry used to have rubber lined dumper trucks and they are looking into lining the trucks again.
 - o) **Estate matters – dumped fridges and gatepost by Manor Gates footpath:** Clare Asquith reported that it costs £80 for a business to take a fridge to the tip and asked whether the Parish Council would either cover this cost or find someone to take the fridges to the tip. Alan Brady knows someone who may be able to assist.
 - p) **Hapsford Mill site visit:** Only three councillors are available to attend on the suggested date. Clerk to request an alternative date.

- q) **Signatories for HSBC account:** Clerk has obtained the mandate forms for completion.
 r) **Co-option of one councillor:** Clerk to put information into magazine and shop and in the noticeboards. Co-option to take place at the May meeting.

7. UPDATING OF EMERGENCY PLAN

Clerk has received some information from the Somerset Civil Contingencies Unit and will use this to update the Mells plan.

8. PLANNING

New applications

2016/0234/HSE Internal alterations, convert existing garage to study, erect new garage and store. The Rectory, Gay Street. Jan Seewooruttun and John Earl recommended approval of this application.

2016/0389/HSE Rear, first-floor bathroom extension over existing kitchen. St Edmunds Farmhouse, Vobster Hill Vobster. Steve West and John Earl which assess the plans and arrange a site visit if necessary.

Mendip Decisions

2015/2985/CLP Application for a Lawful Development Certificate to replace the existing conservatory with new single storey lean-to extension to form garden room and utility. 13 Longfield – Approved.

9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - none

10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) Parishes Information Bulletin

11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Commemorative Queen's 90th birthday medals for schools and councils: Clare Asquith will pass the information to the school.

12. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| a) | Clerk's Salary (February) | | £279.28 |
| b) | Expenses Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile) | 3.60 | |
| | Phone line rental | 5.50 | |
| | Utilities | <u>4.00</u> | |
| | | | £13.10 |
| c) | Mendip Community Transport – donation | | £100.00 |
| d) | <u>Receipts:</u> None | | |

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Hedge cutting:** Alan Brady reported that a considerable amount of debris had been left on the pavements and roads after recent hedge cutting. This was reported to Somerset CC. Within 24 hours the debris had been removed.
- b) **Unreadable highway signs:** Alan Brady reported that there is money being made available to improve the legibility of signage.
- c) **Dogs worrying cats on Recreation Field:** There has been an increase in dogs worrying and chasing cats on the field. One cat has been killed. The councillors were very sympathetic but felt there was no action that could be taken at this time. Jan Seewooruttun has been in contact with the Police and dog warden.
- d) **Vice Chair:** Clerk asked councillors to consider taking on this role.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 12 April 2016 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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

Print Name.....

