

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 12 April 2016 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe – Chairman, Mr V Turner, Mr C Tye, Mr J Earl, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr A Brady, Mr J Poynton
No members of the public **In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mrs A Moir, Mr S West
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -** None
5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – dated 8 March 2016 had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.
6. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Mobile Phone signal/broadband:** Alan Brady has spoken to David Warburton’s secretary who informed him that several serious complaints have been received from small businesses in the area. David Warburton is trying to get several local MP’s together to push this matter forward. Fibre cables have been seen being laid in Mells. Clerk to check when Mells is scheduled for superfast broadband.
 - b) **Fingerpost painting and re-seating of fingerpost, Rashwood Lane footpath, Gay Street:** Chris Tye will purchase a metal post holder and reseal post. Chris Tye had found a contractor who was willing to repaint the posts for £250-£300 per post but were unwilling to carry out the work due to the regulations that have to be met. Clerk to obtain a list of approved contractors from Somerset CC.
 - c) **Noticeboard requiring varnishing – Little Green:** No further information.
 - 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:** The shop has approved payment for these items to be installed to get the work completed. However, the Parish Council agreed to reimburse £250 towards the costs.
 - e) **Barn Lease:** John Earl reported that English Heritage are in principle content with the plans but do not want the window obscured. The plans are being modified to incorporate a glass panel. It was hoped that the works would be carried out in January/February 2017 but this is likely to be put back.

Chairman read out the relevant parts of the current 1964 lease. The Barn is currently charged £1/annum by the Diocese. St Andrew’s PCC have been consulted and they have responded that they would like to see a percentage of the Barn’s net income being donated to the Church. The Barn currently makes a small profit each year which they put towards the upkeep and future improvements of the Barn as per the current lease. Chairman asked for permission to instruct a solicitor and surveyor to look at the complexities of the lease – granted.
 - f) **Traffic on Selwood Street:** Chris Tye presented plans of two passing places in Selwood Street. One opposite the entrance to New Street and the other by the Walled Garden. Signs similar in design to the Walled Garden would be placed on the wall. Permission will be sought from the Estate on the design and wording of the signs.
 - g) **Contractor for footpath and gully clearance – village handyman:** Clerk will contact handyman with a view to appointing them.
 - h) **30mph sign and post – Top Lane:** This work has been carried out.
 - i) **Recreation Ground Charity dissolution:** The charity has been taken over by the company.
 - j) **Clean for the Queen Campaign:** Twelve residents and parish councillors collected 19 bags of rubbish.
 - k) **Mells Park Trust – Annual Community Grant:** Deferred.
 - l) **Parish Council website:** A few more changes to the site have been noted. Clerk will arrange for the amendments to be made.

- m) **Whatley Quarry concerns:** More residents in the village are being affected by the noise levels which appear to have increased, especially vehicular noises in the night. Whatley PC are meeting with the quarry and Clerk will see if a representative from Mells PC can join this meeting.
- n) **Estate matters – dumped fridges and gatepost by Manor Gates footpath:** These appear to have been removed. Clare Asquith will arrange for the gate post to be repaired.
- o) **Hapsford Mill site visit:** No further information.
- p) **Co-option of one councillor:** Two people have approached the Clerk. One has submitted a formal application.
- q) **Vice Chair:** Jan Seewooruttun proposed and Clare Asquith seconded John Earl. All in favour. John Earl accepted the position.

Chris Tye reported that there is still some flytipping at Murdercombe. Clerk to report.

Chairman reported that there are stones falling out of a wall as you come from Egford for the first 150 metres. Clerk to report.

8. PLANNING

New applications

2016/0500/FUL Erection of 2 no holiday let 'yurt' buildings and shower rooms at rear of Vobster Inn. Vobster Inn, Soho Cottage, Vobster. For refusal. Very prominent position. Current style of yurt is unacceptable. Log cabins would be preferable.

2016/0496/FUL Conversion of existing outbuilding to form a holiday letting room. Vobster Inn Soho Cottage To Vobster Inn. For approval.

2016/0458/HSE Demolition of existing lean-to extension, erection of 2 new two-storey extensions, changes to garden boundary wall and gate positions. Chantwood Mells Green Mells. For approval.

2016/0660/HSE Proposed new 1.5 storey side extension to existing detached dwelling. New windows throughout and new cladding to house. Moon Cottage (formally Needwood), Top Lane. Documents given to John Earl.

Mendip Decisions

2.016/0232/TCA Proposed felling of a eucalyptus in a conservation area. The Rectory, Gay Street. No TPO required. No objections.

2016/0389/HSE Rear, first-floor bathroom extension over existing kitchen. St Edmunds Farmhouse, Vobster Hill Vobster. Approved.

2016/0234/HSE Internal alterations, convert existing garage to study, erect new garage and store. The Rectory, Gay Street. Approved.

9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - none

10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) Parishes Information Bulletin x 2 – passed to Vince Turner

11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **NHS England & email from Practice Manager, Mendip Country Practice – Application offering unforeseen benefits in the vicinity of Highbury Street BA3 5NJ and Anchor Road BA3 5PB by Unicare Pharmacy Ltd:** Chairman will write objecting to the application.
- b) **Mendip Community Transport:** Thank you for donation.

12. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

a)	J Book	Clerk's Salary (March)		£279.28
		Expenses	Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60
			Phone line rental	5.50
			Utilities	<u>4.00</u>
				£13.10
		Wellers Hedleys Solicitors – Mells Recreation Ground		£381.00
		Mells Barn Management Committee Hire of Barn 2015		£200.00
		Humberts – Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement Trust		£147.50

- b) Receipts:

Bank interest:	£0.65
Precept	£10,000
Council Tax Allocation Support Grant	£804.78

c) **Final year end total for 2015/2016:** £14,631.54.

VAT Refund: Clerk has submitted a claim for £219.74.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Speedwatch:** There has not been very active recently due to the weather.
- b) **Selling of antiques:** Complaints have been received about the selling of antiques on Selwood Street. The goods frequently obstruct the pavement and look untidy. Clerk to write to occupier.
- c) **Dog waste:** This has increased around the village. Clerk to write an article for the magazine.
- d) **Telephone exchange:** A dwarf wall has been erected very close to the highway. Clerk to write to Highways to ask whether permission was granted for it.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Tuesday 24 May 2016 at **7.00pm** in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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

Print Name.....