

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 14 June 2016 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe – Chairman, Mr J Earl – Vice Chair, Mr C Tye, J Seewooruttun, Mr A Brady, Mr J Poynton, Mr S West, Mr V Turner
No members of the public **In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mrs A Moir, Mr D Seviour
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -** None
5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS –** dated 24 May 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:** Chairman reported that he had recently had a smart meter fitted but it had failed to work due to the lack of a signal. This was reported to Telefonica who have a contract for rectifying the 'black' spots. Not all of the postcode areas reported recently as having superfast broadband actually have it. A local company maybe putting up a mast on their land. David Warburton MP has acknowledged correspondence and is very aware of the issues.
 - b) **Iron Fingerpost painting and re-seating of wooden fingerpost, Rashwood Lane footpath, Gay Street:** Clerk has spoken to the contractor who will assess each individual iron fingerpost and quote accordingly. The wooden fingerpost in Rashwood Lane is still wobbly. There are several other wooden fingerposts around the village that require attention. John Earl will photograph them and give location to Chris Tye to report.
 - c) **Noticeboard requiring varnishing – Little Green:** Contractor to be asked to do this.
 - d) **Replacement of the Litter bin by the Post Office:** Clerk awaiting confirmation of the dimensions of the new bin liner.

Theft by duckpond: Clerk has reported the theft of the two picnic tables, decking from the bridge and attempted theft of diesel from parked contractors' vehicles. The Estate are responsible for the bridge. A local company has offered to replace the benches.
 - e) **Barn Lease:** Chairman will pursue early in July.
 - f) **Traffic on Selwood Street:** John Earl/Chris Tye/Jan Seewooruttun had had a positive meeting with the Estate who agree that two passing places are required and agreed their size and location. Thought is being given as to how to mark them out. Estate will design signs. CT will follow up with the Estate one week before the next meeting.
 - g) **Contractor for footpath and gully clearance – village handyman:** The new contractor has done his first cut and will do future cuts as required. CT to contact him regarding clearing the gully.
 - h) **Mells Park Trust – Annual Community Grant:** This will be used when a suitable project arises.
 - i) **Whatley Quarry concerns:** Noise levels have improved although noise at night varies.
 - j) **Hapsford Mill visit:** Clerk has received owner's availability and will circulate.
 - l) **Dwarf wall by telephone exchange:** No further information.
 - m) **Dangerous wall – Knapton Hill:** No further information.
 - n) **Pavillion 'facelift':** Chris Tye will meet with one of the company directors to discuss the future of the pavilion and invite them to the next meeting. There are two separate issues with the Recreation Ground. The maintenance of the Pavilion and the maintenance of the grounds. The grass cutters for the sports field do not cut around the buildings or outskirts of the field. Jan Seewooruttun reported that someone may be interested in cutting back the remainder of the grass and hedges. Ongoing maintenance could be an issue.

7. **ELECTION MEMBERS FOR THE GRIEVANCE PANEL** Due to Ros Wallace leaving the Parish Council a vacancy has arisen on the panel. John Earl offered to take the position. All in favour.

7. **PLANNING**

Review of Planning Procedure: A recent applicant had raised concerns about the PC's decision. The decision was taken in good faith and reflected the concerns of the Council regarding visibility and permanence. PC stands by its decision.

New applications

2016/1333/LBC Repairs to the existing timber floor and additional sub floor extraction vents. Replacement of existing metal windows and door. Mells C of E Primary School. No objections. Decisions to be left to the planning officer.

2016/1282/FUL Demolition of existing garages and replacement with new garage. St Edmunds House, Vobster Hill. Awaiting documents from Mendip DC.

2016/1157/LBC Alterations to existing internal toilet and kitchen facilities. The Tythe Barn, Selwood Street. As the Parish Council are the leasees of The Barn they have a conflict of interest and therefore cannot comment on this application. Mendip DC to be informed of this.

Mendip Decisions

2016/0991/HSE Proposed ground floor side extension for sunroom, WC and shower. Frogbury Cottage, Upper Vobster Road, Vobster. Approved.

2016/0496/FUL Conversion of existing outbuilding to form a holiday letting room. Approved.

2016/1244/NMA Application for a non material amendment sought for the stone finish to be replaced with natural timber cladding. St Edmunds Farmhouse, Vobster Hill. Approved.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL** - none

10. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL**

- a) **Parishes Information Bulletin:** Passed to Vince Turner
 b) **Withdrawal of Council Tax Support Grant:** Notification that 2016/17 is the last year this grant will be awarded to help Mendip DC reduce its costs.

11. **OTHER CORRESPONDENCE** - none

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

Balance as at 28 April 2016 - HSBC £19,806.76. Balance as at March 2016 - Barclays £5,189.68

a)	J Book	Clerk's Salary (May)		£287.65
		Expenses	Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60
			Phone line rental	5.50
			Utilities	<u>4.00</u>
				£13.10

Goode and Handy – footpath strimming £30.00

Recreational Ground Insurance £703.11

Proposed John Earl Seconded Chris Tye

Chairman explained that in 2008 the PC insurance company had written saying that the Pavilion and tractor shed were insured and have appeared on the insurance schedule. However it has transpired that this is not the case and the insurance company has not been insuring these two buildings. Insurance cover has now been put in place but the PC and Recreation Ground company will pursue the insurance company regarding their conflicting statements and request repayment of the premiums paid incorrectly over the past 7 years. Company to investigate whether play areas are covered. John Earl will forward the Clerk details of The Barn's insurance.

Weller Hedley solicitors invoice: Clerk to request evidential documents from solicitor regarding previous payments.

- b) **Receipts:** None

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) **Footpaths Officer – Vobster:** Ros Wallace had previously undertaken this role. Clerk to ask if she would like to continue monitoring the paths.

- b) **Open Gardens Day:** This had been very successful, raising £2,500.
- c) **Recycling at The Talbot:** Alan Brady to enquire.
- d) **Road accident:** Alan Brady has contacted Somerset Highways to report the long vegetation that is obscuring visibility on the junction.
- e) **Flytipping:** Alan Brady's contact will remove metal items.
- f) **Whatley Quarry road junction with Knapton Hill:** Clerk to request replacement sign as the junction is not very evident without it.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 12 July 2016 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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

Print Name.....