

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 11 October 2016 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe – Chairman, Mr J Earl – Vice Chair, Mr D Seviour, J Seewooruttun, Mr A Brady, Mr C Tye (left 8,00pm), The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mrs A Moir, Mr S West
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk 5 members of the public
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr J Poynton, Mr V Turner
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –**
 - a) **Mells Community Project:** Resident requested support for a bulb planting project. Various other organisations have been approached and support the project. The proposed sites are the war memorial, playground and another yet to be decided. The Parish Council were supportive of the project but permission from the respective landowners would need to be granted before any planting could take place.
 - b) **New tenant – Walled Garden:** Concerns were raised about the potential new tenant of the Walled Garden. Resident had heard that a café chain had expressed an interest in taking on the property which could exacerbate the parking situation in Selwood Street. The tenancy agreement is a matter for the Estate and resident was advised to contact the agent at Humberts. Clare Asquith reported that larger 'no parking' signs would be placed on the wall as the current signs were far too small. A discussion followed about having a car park but it has been shown that people will not walk very far to their destination. The temporary Church Close car park which is used for the marathon or the Recreation Ground car park were suggested. The latter is already made available and is under used.
 - c) **Parking on 'S' bend by War Memorial:** Concerns were raised about the safety on this bend when cars are parked on it. An H bar would help alleviate the problem. Sub committee to pursue.
5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS –** dated 9 August 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:** A mobile phone company is in conversation with the Recreation Ground Committee regarding placing a mast in the village for a one off contribution to the village.
 - b) **Iron Fingerpost painting:** Contractor will be painting the first post this month.
 - c) **Barn Lease:** Chairman and John Earl will meet with Cooper and Tanner in the next few weeks. Chairman requested permission to approach Harris & Harris Solicitors to find out what their terms are. All in favour.
 - d) **Traffic on Selwood Street:** The Parish Council had painted zig zag lines which had been 95% successful in deterring people from parking there. Somerset CC has subsequently blacked the lines out. Chairman has been in contact with Cllr Ham, County Councillor and Highways. Highways has suggested yellow lines on the other side of the road or creating what looks like a disabled bay with a white line between. Yellow lines are not suitable for the conservation area and they would force cars to park the other side of the road which would be counter intuitive. The Parish Council are hopeful that some action will be taken now that Somerset CC are engaged. The PC Sub Committee will keep the pressure on Highways/Cllr Ham for a resolution to be found.
 - e) **Dangerous wall and missing sign Whatley Quarry/Knapton Hill:** Highways have removed some stones from the road and referred the matter to Mendip DC Building Control. No further information regarding the sign.
 - f) **Pavillion 'facelift':** £1,500 has been donated by the Daffodil Committee and has been spent on electrical works and other immediately necessary repairs.
 - g) **Dog waste bin – Rectory Corner:** Clerk to order bin. John Earl to arrange fixing with the contractor.

- h) **Quarry noise:** This was very noisy over the summer but seems to have quietened down. Vehicle noise remains evident. Steve West said he would investigate.
- i) **Old Telephone Exchange:** Enforcement has considered issuing a Temporary Stop Notice but has been assured that a planning application is being submitted and works will stop until the outcome of the application.
- j) **Overgrown vegetation around the village:** Highways has been notified of the vegetation on Top Lane and will arrange an inspection. Alan Brady reported that the vegetation by the old railway bridge heading towards Kilmersdon/Vobster Cross is in need of attention. Clerk to report to Highways.
- k) **Fly tipping/Frome Recycling Centre opening times:** Cllr Ham supports the proposal to change the opening times to being later at both ends of the day to accommodate people who work. However, Somerset Waste Partnership have written and will not be changing the times at present based on the figures they hold but would re-consider the times in the future if demand reflects the need to change.
- l) **Car park at The Talbot:** This is considerably more tidy.
- m) **Kerbstones by the war memorial:** These were re-set but have been knocked out of place again.

7. **REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY AND RECORDING OF MEETINGS POLICY** All the documents had previously been circulated. No amendments were noted. For review in one year.

8. **HUMBERTS RENT REVIEW AMENITY LAND BEHIND THE BARN AND RECREATION GROUND** The rent for the land behind the barn is set to increase by 33% and will therefore rise to £100. The Barn committee are happy to accept this increase. The Recreation Ground 5 year rent review has been confirmed as being 12.22%. The new annual rent will be £660. All in favour of accepting. Humberts have sent a standing order form for the quarterly payments. It was proposed by Clare Asquith and seconded by Alison Moir that a standing order be set up subject to the Clerk checking that this was legally acceptable for a Parish Council.

9. PLANNING

Mendip Decisions

2016/1959/TCA Proposed works to trees in a conservation area. Thuja x 3 fell, hornbeam remove canopy back by 2 metres from the barn roof. Selwood House, Selwood Street. Approved.

2016/1333/LBC Repairs to the existing timber floor and additional sub floor extraction vents, and the replacement of double doors. Mells C of E Primary School. Approved.

2016/1869/APP Application for approval of details reserved by condition 4 (materials and finishes and samples of materials) on 2016/0500/FUL. The Annexe, Vobster Inn. Approved.

2016/1501/TCA Proposed works to trees in a conservation area. Beech fell, beech reshape crown by up to 3 metres. Tyntshill Cottage, Gay Street. Approved.

10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

a) **Mobile Library Service withdrawal – Vobster Cross:** This service is being withdrawn due to insufficient numbers.

11. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

a) **Parish Information Bulletin:** passed to Alan Brady

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

a) **Church of St Andrew - Request for grant for churchyards:** A grant of £1,600 was approved.

b) **Barclays Bank - Interest rate change:** Notification of interest rate drop from 1 December 2016.

c) **NHS England - Dudley Taylor Pharmacies Ltd and Unicare Pharmacy Ltd – copies of letters:** To be filed.

d) **NHS England - Copies of letters - Unicare Pharmacy Ltd:** To be filed.

e) **SALC - Capping consultation:** Consultation to cap future precept increases to 2% or £5 whichever is the greater unless a referendum is carried out at the councils expense. No action.

13. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance as at 28 September 2016 - HSBC £16,062.20. Balance as at September 2016 - Barclays £5,190.98

a) J Book	Clerk's Salary & expenses (September)	£295.17
	Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60

Phone line rental	5.50
Utilities	<u>4.00</u>
	£13.10

b)	Goode and Handy – footpath strimming	£30.00
c)	T R McCarthy – noticeboard re-varnishing	£25.00
d)	Humberts – Viscount Asquith’s 1999 Settlement Trust	£165.00
e)	Grant Thornton – external auditor	£120.00
f)	John Earl – Paint	£28.47

Proposed: John Earl Seconded: Alison Moir

g) Receipts: £0.65

h) External Auditor’s report: The accounts for 2015/2016 have been approved. Auditor notes that a separate minute entry had not been made for the approval of Sections 1 and 2. Clerk has noted this and will ensure this is correct for next year.

i) Accounts to October 2016: Accounts are in line with the budget.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 14.1 **War memorial hedge and wreath**: Clerk to arrange for the hedge to be cut before the service and order a wreath. A £25 donation will be made to the British Royal Legion.
- 14.2 **Large pot holes – Fairview**: Alan Brady has reported the two potholes in Fairview to Highways. The first one has a water main under it which leaks so the water company needs to be contacted if a long term solution is to be found.
- 14.3 **Tarmac meeting**: Steve West attended the recent meeting. They will be putting in for a lengthy extension to 2034 so they can dig down to sea level. They are also considering changing the fund for re-development from 1p to 2p per tonne and change the terms so money can be given to the community annually (approx. £15,000). There is currently £95,000 in the fund. Leigh on Mendip would get the larger percentage of any available money.
- 14.4 **Vobster bridge**: Some of the wall has been knocked into the river. Clerk to ask Highways to inspect and repair.
- 14.5 **Vobster Village Hall Trust**: Steve West reported that the trust are looking at ways of improving the village. Suggestions are to improve the noticeboards and bus shelter (both owned by the PC).
- 14.6 **Speeding – top of Vobster**: This is unlikely to be improved greatly by any measures put in place.
- 14.7 **Vobster village signs**: The village signs do not reflect the true boundaries of the village. Clerk to request that they are moved to the Diving Centre, Station Road and to opposite the old telephone exchange at Vobster Cross. The Parish Council are willing to make a contribution to the costs. Request to be copied to County and District Councillors.
- 14.8 **Faded Chevron signs – Vobster**: Clerk to report to Highways.
- 14.9 **Dumped cars – Fairview**: Two cars have been dumped in the alleyway between numbers 7 and 8. One has been there 7 years. Another vehicle was there for 4 years before being removed. Clerk to contact MDC who is believed to be the landowner.
- 14.10 **Cars parking on grassed area – Fairview**: Clerk to contact Mendip/Aster to raise the issue.
- 14.11 **Position of Chairman**: Edmund Costelloe will shortly be moving to Nunney and proposed that he stand down as Chairman in December but was willing to continue as a councillor until the end of his term. John Earl asked if the Chairman would be willing to continue for one more year in the role to enable a successor to shadow the role as the majority of the councillors are relatively new to the role. The Chairman thanked the councillors for their support and agreed in principle that he would be willing to continue for a short period.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 8 November 2016 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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

Print Name.....