

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

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

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe – Chairman, Mr J Earl – Vice Chair, Mr D Seviour, Mr A Brady, Mr C Tye, Mr S West, Mr J Poynton, Mr V Turner
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk 6 members of the public
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mrs A Moir, Mr J Seewooruttun
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
 - a) All present were interested in knowing more about the new tenant for the Walled Garden. The Chair reported that he had spoken with Lord Oxford who had informed him that Sam's Kitchen had submitted the best overall bid. Sam's Kitchen has stated that they would make improvements to the cottage and grounds and were the only bidders who were prepared to take on a long term lease for the cottage as well as the grounds. They plan to grow fruit, vegetables, flowers and provide basic refreshments. The lease stipulates that there will be no takeaway facility or organised functions and must fit in with the ethos and character of the village. A full time nursery man will be employed. Parking has not been addressed yet but is likely to be very similar to current levels. The Talbot and shop should not be greatly affected by the new business. Measures to control noise and movements from the site will be put in the lease.
 - b) Resident asked about parking in Selwood Street. Chair explained that Somerset Highways is now looking into the matter and would probably use white lining similar to that installed by the Parish Council which had been 90% effective when in situ. Cllr Philip Ham has been in contact with Highways and will be following the matter up with them.
5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS** – dated 11 October 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 had visited the Vodaphone HQ in Peasedown and is awaiting their response. Telefonica UK Ltd has entered into an agreement with Vodafone for a new base station at Western Skip Hire, Lime Kiln Hill. Broadband is slowly being installed around the village.
 - b) **Iron Fingerpost painting:** Clerk to chase.
 - c) **Barn Lease:** The Chair and John Earl have met with a surveyor from Cooper and Tanner who will now contact the Diocese surveyors. Chair is trying to find a suitable solicitor as the lease requires considerable changes.
 - d) **Traffic on Selwood Street:** Sub committee to meet with Cllr Philip Ham. The larger 'no parking' signs are in hand.
 - e) **Dangerous wall and missing sign Whatley Quarry/Knapton Hill:** The wall has been referred to Mendip DC and the missing sign is ongoing.
 - f) **Pavillion 'facelift':** There are no funds to do the major works required. A new fundraising committee needs to be formed to move the project forward. Ongoing maintenance is an issue. Better facilities would bring in more revenue. The Chair will write an article for the magazine to encourage suitable volunteers to come forward. Alan Brady has a contact who maybe able to help.
 - g) **Dog waste bin – Rectory Corner:** This is now in situ and the contractor has submitted his bill for £150.
 - h) **Quarry noise:** This has been quieter in the past month. A diary will be kept in future.
 - i) **Old Telephone Exchange:** Work appears to have stopped. A planning application is awaited.

- j) **Overgrown vegetation around the village:** Somerset Highways has cut back most of the vegetation. Jeremy Poynton will write an article for the magazine to encourage householders to maintain their boundary hedges/trees to stop overgrowth onto the highway.
- k) **Prospective Tenant for Walled Garden:** As above.
- l) **Parking on 'S' bend by War Memorial:** This occurs when the village is busy. Sub committee to follow up.
- m) **Standing Order for Settlement Trust:** This has been set up and will start in December.
- n) **Incorrectly placed village signs – Vobster:** Highways has requested that the proposed location of the signs is noted on a map. Steve West had arranged a site inspection with Highways but they cancelled at the last minute. Alan Brady will follow up with his contact from Highways. Clerk will try to arrange another site visit if possible.
- o) **Faded chevron markings – Vobster:** These have been replaced.

7. PLANNING

2016/2552/HSE Replacement of existing garden room with the erection of an oak framed orangery garden room. Laurel Cottage, Little Green. John Earl and Chris Tye will do a site visit.

2016/2558/TCA Proposed works to trees in a conservation area. Mature beech tree – reduce by one third. Birds Cottage, Little Green. Decision to be left to the Planning Officer.

2016/2718/TCA Fell horse chestnut tree in poor condition due to ivy damage. Bridge Cottage, Holes Lane. No objections. Decision to be left to planning officer.

Mendip Decisions

8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - none

9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

10. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Prospective resident of Mells – Poetry writer:** Request to take up a post as poet in residence when they move to Mells. Clerk to respond that they should approach the council when they are in residence.

11. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance as at 28 October 2016 - HSBC £15,110.46. 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 £20.00

Bulbs for war memorial	£15.00
Dog waste bin	£324.14
Wreath and donation	£42.00
Mells with Vobster PCC	£1,600.00
- c) Receipts: £1,000 Mells Park Trust
- d) **Draft budget for 2017-2018:** Clerk to add a further £2,000 towards cost of solicitor and surveyor for the Barn lease. The precept is likely to remain unchanged at £10,000 for 2917/2018.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Pot holes – Fairview:** Alan Brady had spoken to the Highways Inspector regarding the two large pot holes and these have now been filled. John Earl reported another pot hole in Fairview. Alan Brady will report it.
- b) **Badly parked van – Fairview:** This was reported to the Police and is now parking more considerately.
- c) **Overgrown hedges – Fairview:** Mendip DC has been informed and will be making a site visit.
- d) **Dumped cars – Fairview:** Mendip DC are aware of these vehicles and will be making a site visit.
- e) **Speedwatch:** Jeremy Poynton is standing down from Speedwatch because of the difficulties getting volunteers. The Chair and Ros Wallace (former councillor and speedwatch colleague) both forwarded their thanks to Jeremy for his time and dedication to the cause.

- f) **Fly tipping – Murdercombe:** This appears to be on the increase. Mendip DC had originally refused to remove the items as they were too far from the road but now more has been dumped they will be making a site visit to assess.
- g) **Vobster bridge:** Highways has requested photos of the damage. David Seviour will take photos and send to the Clerk.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 13 December 2016 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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

Print Name.....