

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 11 April 2017 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe – Chairman, Mr J Earl – Vice Chair, Mr C Tye, Mr S West, Mr V Turner, Mrs J Seewooruttun, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr D Seviour, Mr A Brady
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk, Cllr Edward Drewe – District Councillor

One member of the public

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mrs A Moir, Mr J Poynton
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Walled Garden – Chris Tye and Clare Asquith declared a personal interest.
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – PCSO Shelley Day has recently taken over Mells parish as part of her area (Frome Rural South). Beat Manager is PC Matt Thomas. They are hoping to have more presence in the rural areas when fully staffed. The front office for the Police is in Frome Library which is open during normal office hours. Yeovil custody centre has now closed with the nearest centres now being Bridgwater or Keynsham. Police forces are now borderless so they can draw on the resources of adjoining forces for help when required. Next PACT (Police and Community Together) meeting is on 11 May. PCSO Day is holding a Beat Surgery in the café on 20 May.

The councillors reported that the biggest issues in the area are fly tipping and accidents by the bridge at Vobster Cross. PCSO informed the PC that all accidents should be reported to the Police as without a record no action will be taken. PCSO Day was thanked for her attendance and indicated she would try to attend meetings when on duty and not detained by Police matters.

District Councillor report

- i. **Old telephone exchange:** Mendip DC has asked for a planning application to be submitted for the works that have been carried out/planned which has not been received yet. The site is being used for storage and has extended further than the boundary of the original exchange. Concerns were raised that if no action is taken by enforcement, a Certificate of Lawfulness would be applied for after the recognised period. Cllr Drewe reported that there are now four enforcement officers but approximately half of their time is spent on fly tipping issues.
- ii. **Station Road – Bridge:** Somerset CC had had difficulties locating the bridge but were now fully informed of its location. The bridge needs to be removed and the road straightened at that point to ease access for the large lorries using the road. Pressure needs to be applied from the local parishes, County and District Councillors. Clerk to contact Coleford/Kilmersdon parishes for support.
- iii. **Railway:** Cllr Drewe is attending a meeting to discuss the possibility of a railway to and from the Pipeworks. The plan would be for raw materials to be brought in and the finished products to be shipped out by train to a central distribution point for lorries to collect for onward delivery. It is understood that the Pipeworks wish to extend to 24 hr/day production.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Mobile Phone signal/broadband:** Work in the area appears to be starting. O2 has been sending texts saying that 4G is imminent.
- b) **Barn Lease:** The Chair will chase the surveyor.
- c) **Traffic on Selwood Street:** Chris Tye has not received any response from Cllr Ham. Cllr Drewe has spoken to him and there is currently nothing to report. Cllr Drewe will follow up. [Clerk to find emails](#). Clare Asquith pressed for the Recreation Ground car park to be cleared so it can be utilised as a public car park. Jan Seewooruttun warned that this may be an issue on match days. Correct signage would be purchased and placed at strategic places around the village however temporary signage would initially need to be put in place. Clerk to contact contractor regarding clearance of the vegetation. Chris Tye/John Earl/Alan Brady will get quotes for a permanent surface. Steve West will approach the quarries to see if they would be willing to supply hardcore.

- d) **Old Telephone Exchange:** As above.
- e) **Adoption of BT telephone kiosk:** Adoption is now complete. Clerk to contact contractor to paint phone box. A glass pane has been smashed. Chair to source correct glass for replacement. The box may be used as an information centre but would need to be locked.
- f) **Faded give way lines – Mells Park crossroads:** No further information.
- g) **Dog waste bin – Rectory Corner:** Clare Asquith to chase contractor.
- h) **Trustee nomination:** Ros Wallace has confirmed she would be delighted to continue as a trustee for another term.
- i) **Bridge – Station Road:** As above.
- j) **Litter pick report:** Several councillors and parishioners have offered to help.
- k) **Layby near Vobster bus stop – littering:** No response from Highways.
- l) **Path by Reading Rooms:** Clare Asquith to follow up with the Estate.

6. PLANNING

2017/0441/FUL Land at Mells Road, Kilmersdon. Change of use from agricultural to Class B8 storage. Councillors were unsure of the exact location of the site and the proposed use so were asked to inspect the application and submit comments as soon as possible.

Walled Gardens: Concerns were raised that the information received at previous PC meetings did not accord with the submissions to Mendip DC. PC has not commented on the latest submission.

Mendip Decisions - None

7. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - none

8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Progress on Local Plan Part II – Local Green Spaces and Sports Provision:** Jeremy Poynton is assessing areas around the parish.

9. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE - None

10. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance as at 28 March 2017 – £11,436.64. Balance as at December 2016 - Barclays £5,191.63.

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| a) | J Book Clerk's Salary & expenses (March) | | £279.28 |
| | Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile) | 3.60 | |
| | Phone line rental | 5.50 | |
| | Utilities | 4.00 | |
| | | <u>13.10</u> | |
| | T R McCarthy – fingerpost painting (x 11) | | £880.00 |
| | HMRC PAYE (Period 1) | | £37.20 |
- b) Receipts: Precept £10,000 should be credited to account on 10 April.
 - c) VAT refund: Clerk has submitted to VAT refund for £143.02.
 - d) Clerk's salary: NALC approved salary increases for 2017-2018 last year which come into effect April 2017. Increase £2.87/month. Approved.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 12.1 **Quarry noise:** Clare Asquith reported that this had been troublesome during the night. Steve West will investigate.
- 12.2 **Mells Daffodil Festival:** The Walled Garden may run a 'pop up' café for the day.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Tuesday 9 May 7.00pm followed by monthly meeting
Tuesday 13 June 2017 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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

Print Name.....