

**MELLS PARISH COUNCIL**  
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on  
Tuesday 13 June 2017 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe – Chairman, Mr J Earl – Vice Chair, Mrs J Seewooruttun, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr J Poynton, Mr S West  
**In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk Two members of the public
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mrs A Moir, Mr V Turner, Mr C Tye, Mr D Seviour
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Resident raised the issue of broadband speed in Vobster. Chairman responded that this was an issue in many place in the country and that the government is trying to resolve it. It is unlikely to be resolved for the more rural areas for the foreseeable future. Some areas of Mells do have access to fast broadband.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MONTHLY MEETING DATED 9 MAY 2017 & ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DATED 9 MAY 2017** 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:** As above.
  - b) **Barn Lease:** The Barn and Diocesan solicitors have not been in contact with each other yet.
  - c) **Traffic on Selwood Street:** Mells Open Gardens had brought a significant number of cars to the village and parking issues had been kept to a minimum by using the field by Wadbury barns. This field would be the Estate's preferred option for a car park and has more space available than the previously proposed Fairfield car park. The visibility splay is also much better for drivers coming out of the car park. John Earl will look into having suitable car parking signs made. When the car parks are fully operational, the Rambling Association will be contacted to request that they use the free car parking.  
  
Clerk to contact Cllr Philip Ham to request that he follows up on the passing place markings on Selwood Street.
  - d) **Old Telephone Exchange:** There appears to be further activity on the site. Clerk to follow up with Enforcement and Cllr Drewe.
  - e) **Adoption of BT telephone kiosk:** Clerk has purchased glass panes and delivered them to the contractor. Clare Asquith asked if the school could produce drawings etc to put in the phone box as a means of advertising the school. It was agreed that this could be done in the interim whilst a more permanent use for the box is established.
  - f) **Faded give way lines – Mells Park crossroads:** These were not repainted when other relining works were carried out in the area so are probably deemed adequate for now.
  - g) **Dog waste bin – Rectory Corner:** No further information.
  - h) **Bridge – Station Road:** No response has been received from SCC.
  - i) **Layby near Vobster bus stop – littering:** The layby has been cleared of rubbish.
  - j) **Path by Reading Rooms:** The area has been cleared.
  - k) **Recreation Ground car park/Fairview car parks:** The Recreation Ground car park works are nearing completion with the tarmacking planned for 14 June. Bollards need to be purchased to protect the tractor shed area. Jan Seewooruttun is obtaining a quote. An ongoing maintenance programme for weed/vegetation removal needs to be put into place to avoid deterioration of the surfaces. Clerk to contact Jon Goode. Grass cuttings from Longfield are being left on the field. Jan Seewooruttun will speak to those responsible.
  - l) **NHS – Free health checks for residents:** Clerk confirmed that Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August has been booked. The bus will be situated outside the shop. Clerk to put details in the shop, magazine and on the website.
  - m) **Holes Lane/road to Whatley Quarry junction:** SCC has responded that they could put an advanced give way sign, with a 100yds plate underneath and would consider reflective flag signs opposite the give way line (left pointing to Mells and right pointing to Frome) with the weight restriction logo. Clerk has requested that the above works are carried out.

- n) **Dumped cars – Fairview:** An 'awareness notice' has been placed on both cars by Mendip DC.
- o) **Reading Rooms – Vobster:** Clerk has reported the activity to Enforcement.

## 7. PLANNING

### New applications

**2017/1259/HSE** Hatherleigh Cottage, Somers Hill to Mells Green – Proposed new single storey rear extension. No objections.

**2017/1391/HSE** Rose Cottage, Little Green – Proposed extension and alterations to dwelling – For approval.

**2017/1355/FUL** Siting of 2 no shepherd huts on existing yurts holiday let site – Vobster Inn, Soho Cottage to Vobster Inn. Applicant explained that the yurts had been very popular and were bringing business to the area. All sewage will go into the existing septic tank which has plenty of capacity - For approval.

### Mendip Decisions

**2017/0441/FUL** Land at Mells Road, Kilmersdon. Change of use from agricultural to Class B8 storage. This application has been withdrawn

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - none

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL - none

## 10. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Evercreech Explorer Scouts:** Scouts from all over the region attend this group, including from Mells. Request for donation towards camping equipment. It was agreed to give a £200 donation.

## 11. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance as at 28 May 2017 – £20,089.29. Barclays £5,191.63.

a)	J Book Clerk's Salary & expenses (March)		£246.49
	Travel to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60	
	Phone line rental	5.50	
	Utilities	4.00	
		<u>13.10</u>	
	HMRC PAYE (Period 3)		£38.40
	Glass for phone box (5 x large, 5 x small)		£47.10
	Alan Aked – internal audit		£50.00
	Sally Vince – website hosting etc 2015-2017		£510.00
	Came & Co – Recreation Ground insurance		£733.55
	Jon Goode – footpath strimming		£30.00
	Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement Trust - Rec Ground Rent (by standing order)		£165.00

- b) Receipts: None

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Parish magazine:** Clerk to submit PC meeting dates for publication.
- b) **Open Gardens:** 491 tickets had been sold and approximately £3,400 had been received. Many more people attended than last year and the Chairman extended his thanks to the new organiser.
- c) **Vobster bridge:** This has been hit again by a large lorry. Clerk to write to the pipeworks.
- d) **Recycling centre in Frome:** It is becoming increasingly difficult for residents to attend and offload their household rubbish, especially if in a large vehicle.

## 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 11 July 2017 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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

Print Name.....