

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

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on  
Tuesday 12 September 2017 at Mells Barn**

**PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe – Chairman, Mr J Earl – Vice Chair, Mr J Poynton, Mr S West, Mr V Turner, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr A Brady, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mrs A Moir

**In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk.

No members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr C Tye, Mr D Seviour
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None
3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 8 AUGUST 2017** had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.
6. **MATTERS ARISING**
  - a) **Mobile Phone signal/broadband:** Clerk to write to David Warburton MP (cc District and County Councillors) to move mobile phone project forward. Those, who have superfast broadband, initially saw an improvement in their speeds but they appear to have dropped slightly recently. Clerk to write to BT (cc MP).
  - b) **Barn Lease:** Chair will chase solicitor.
  - c) **Traffic on Selwood Street and car parking:** Signs have been manufactured. Clare Asquith has received an estimate of £450 for the installation of the posts etc. All in favour. Alterations are required to some of the posts that have been purchased. Clare Asquith and Steve West to meet to discuss. The 'No Parking' signs erected in Longfield are very large but appear to be alleviating the issue of parking leading to poor visibility when exiting the site. The ownership of the land on the corner is uncertain. Clare Asquith will look into this.
  - d) **Old Telephone Exchange:** David Woodridge, Senior Planning Enforcement Officer, has recently taken over this case. The owner of the site has submitted an application which is currently invalid due to lack of submitted information. The application is not for residential, holiday let or permanent residency.
  - e) **Dog waste bin – Rectory Corner:** Bin is still in its original position.
  - f) **Bridge – Station Road:** Chris Betty, Senior Traffic Officer, will visit the site when next in the area.
  - g) **Dumped cars – Fairview:** MDC are chasing the Enforcement Officer as they agree the cars have been there too long.
  - h) **Dangerous dogs:** No further reports of any incidences.
  - i) **Erection of new production building with concrete batching plant – Mells Road Works:** Several councillors had met with members of the works to discuss the application. The new building will enable the works to restrict their hours of work. The noise from the current works was barely noticeable from immediately outside the building. Councillors were content to give approval of the application. CPM will request that lorry drivers do not drive through Vobster.
  - j) **Overhanging hedge – Top Road:** Owner is aware that the hedge is overgrown but says it acts as an unofficial traffic calming measure. They do understand that they have obligations and will arrange to cut back.
7. **PLANNING**
  - a) New applications

**2017/2180/HSE** Proposed single storey side extension to form car port and sun room – Cherry Tree Cottage, Upper Vobster Road. Chair and John Earl to assess. Clerk to request an extension as documents were not received until over two weeks after the date on the letter.

**2017/2418/TCA** Fell tulip tree – Selwood House, Selwood Road – Content for Planning Officer to decide

**2017/2251/TCA** Works to 1 x ash tree, 3 x ash fell – Brook Cottage, Top Lane – Content for Planning Officer to decide

- b) Mendip Decisions  
**2017/1656/HSE & 2017/1657/LBC** New single storey outbuilding to be constructed in existing enclosed courtyard – Rectory Stables, Gay Street – Approved
- c) **Cottages to rent at Branch Farm:** The Estate will investigate.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL – none**

**9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL - none**

**10. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) **NHS Health Bus future dates:** Clerk to query why bus did not appear to turn up.
- b) **Carter Jonas – transfer from Humberts:** Humberts has transferred the responsibility of Viscount Asquith's Settlement Trust to Carter Jonas.
- c) **Oil Club:** Another company already offers this service within Mells.

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

Balance as at 28 August 2017 – £17,322.25. Barclays £5,191.63.

a)	J Book Clerk's Salary & expenses (August)		£246.29
	Travel to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60	
	Phone line rental	5.50	
	Utilities	<u>4.00</u>	
		<u>13.10</u>	
	HMRC PAYE (Period 6)		£38.60
	Signmaker – Parking signs		£762.00
	Approved - all in favour.		

- b) Receipts: None
- c) External Audit: The accounts for 2016-2017 have been approved. The auditor comments that the Internal Auditor has inadvertently indicated that petty cash was used during the year.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) **Dispensation:** Jeremy Poynton requested a 6 month dispensation for personal reasons. All agreed.
- b) **Walled Garden:** The officer has delayed making his decision.
- c) **Barn – large puddle:** It has been decided not to fill the dip in the car park before its planned resurfacing due to the additional costs this would involve.
- d) **New pharmacy in Coleford:** The stipulation that if you live within one mile of the new pharmacy you must use it will have a serious knock on effect to the pharmacy at the surgery.
- e) **War memorial:** An application has been made to the Mells and Vobster Trust to clean the memorial. Ownership of the memorial needs to be established before this project can progress. It is understood that the memorial was built on Estate land with public funds. Clerk will ask contractor to cut back the hedge before the Remembrance service.
- f) **Remembrance Wreath:** Clerk will order and arrange delivery to the Chair. A £25 donation for the British Legion would be made. All in favour.
- g) **VAT claim:** John Earl, on behalf of the Barn committee, asked whether it would be possible for the Parish Council to reclaim the VAT on works it is proposing for the Barn. Clerk reported that there are regulations regarding this matter which would be circulated.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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

Print Name.....