

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 9 January 2018 at Mells Barn**

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1. **PRESENT:** The Countess of Oxford & Asquith – Temporary Chair, Mr E Costelloe, Mr S West, Mr A Brady, Mr V Turner, Mr J Earl
Cllr Edward Drewe – District Councillor
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk. No members of the public
 2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr J Poynton – granted dispensation, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr D Seviour, Mrs A Valentine
 3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None
 4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None
 5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 12 DECEMBER 2017** had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.
 6. **Councillor Edward Drewe's report:**
 - a) **Central government funding:** This is being withdrawn and MDC is looking into investments (£40 million, possibly up to £100 million) which give a net profit of 3.5-4%. MDC is fortunate that it has good reserves and will not be putting up its part of the council tax this year.
 - b) **Licensing:** This has been moved back to MDC control (after being outsourced to Capita) due to central government stipulating it must be undertaken within the district it applies to. Several other services have been transferred back to MDC from Capita.
 - c) **Wells Christmas market:** This was very successful and there are plans to increase the size of it next year.
 - d) **Old telephone exchange:** A planning application has been submitted but it is currently inadequate and therefore cannot be processed as it stands. Cllr Drewe is pushing for an Enforcement Notice to be issued.
 - e) **North Somerset Railway:** Discussions are being undertaken with CPM regarding the possible use of a railway for transporting goods.
 - f) **Council houses:** MDC are looking at building council houses in towns that will not be subject to future 'right to buy' schemes. Affordable homes in villages are often empty due to their lack of local facilities eg. shops, public transport which make them an unattractive proposal for those seeking such accommodation.
 7. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Mobile Phone signal/broadband:** No further information.
 - b) **Barn Lease:** Edmund Costelloe is now pushing for action from the PC solicitor, Diocese solicitor and surveyors.
 - c) **Traffic/speeding on Selwood Street:** Chris Betty from Highways is attending site on 16 January to discuss the issues. Mr Betty will be asked whether a change of priority on the Lime Kiln Hill/Great Elm junction could be considered as this would slow traffic coming into the village from the hill.
 - d) **Old Telephone Exchange:** As 6. d).
 - e) **Babington Bridge – Station Road:** Chris Betty from Highways is attending site on 16 January to discuss the issues. Highways have been informed about the flooding further along this road.
 - f) **Dumped cars – Fairview:** These were removed on 2 January.
 - g) **VAT re-claim for works on the Barn:** No further information.
 - h) **Tree across river – Lime Kiln quarry land:** Clerk has reported to the quarry.
 - i) **Lime Kiln Hill – mud on the road:** This has notably improved.
 - j) **Footpath overgrowth – White bridge to Top Lane:** Contractor will attend to this.

8. PLANNING

- a) New applications
2017/2126/LBC repair/replace roof, repair bedrooms and living rooms following fire – Hill View, Mells Green. No objections. Cottage will be re-built exactly as it was previously using many of the original materials.
- b) Mendip Decisions
2017/1060/FUL & 2017/1061/LBC Reinstatement of residential use of Valley House with Alterations and Extensions. Reinstallation of Hydropower plant in adjacent structures. Conservation of walls, structures and culverts to scheduled ancient monument within setting of Listed Building. Valley House, Lower Works. Approved with many conditions.

9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - none**10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL – none****11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE - none****PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Balance as at 28 December 2017 – £5,965.73. Barclays £5,191.63.

a)	J Book Clerk's Salary & expenses (December)		£246.49
	Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60	
	Phone line rental	5.50	
	Utilities	<u>4.00</u>	
		£13.10	
	HMRC PAYE (Period 10)		£38.40
	Grant for St Andrews Church		£1,600.00
	Mendip Community Transport donation		£100.00
	SALC affiliation fee		£163.21

Approved - all in favour

- b) Receipts: £1,000 Mells Park Trust – solar array
c) VAT refund: Clerk has submitted a claim for £1,680.85.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Co-option**: Notices have been placed on the website, noticeboards and in the shop.
b) **Building works at Notts Pine**: A new unit is being built which was approved about a year ago.
c) **Whatley quarry junction**: A new post has been installed on the junction. It is hoped that the new signage will be in situ soon.
d) **Retiring Chairman**: A presentation will be made to Edmund Costelloe at the next meeting to formally thank him for his excellent Chairmanship over his 12 years in the chair.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 13th February 2018 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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

Print Name.....