

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 13 March 2018 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr J Earl - Chair, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr S West, Mr A Brady, Mr V Turner, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr D Seviour,

In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk. 1 member of the public – prospective co-optee
2. **CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR**
Two applications had been received. One candidate had not confirmed that they wished to be considered on this occasion. Therefore, Langdon Turner, who was present, was invited to say a few words. All were in favour of co-opting Langdon Turner and he was welcomed to the PC. Clerk issued a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interests form and will forward all other necessary documentation to Langdon Turner in due course.
3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr J Poynton – granted 6 months dispensation, Mrs A Valentine, Mr E Costelloe
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None
5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 13 FEBRUARY 2018** had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.
7. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS** - None
8. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Mobile Phone signal/broadband:** The Chair reported that he could now get 4G in the field behind the church but was still unable to get a phone signal. Clerk to find out when the mast will be live.
 - b) **Barn Lease:** Ed Costelloe has written a firm letter to the solicitors to push this forward.
 - c) **Old Telephone Exchange:** No further information. Rubber sheeting has now been placed around the building. Clerk to ask Enforcement whether the notice has been served.
 - d) **Bus stop near Stone Ash Farm:** No response from Libra. Clerk to follow up.
 - e) **Flytipping:** This has not been removed and more has been added. Alan Brady will contact MDC.
9. **HIGHWAY ISSUES**
 - a) **Babington Bridge:** White lining and a road narrows sign have recently been installed. A car was noted being retrieved from a ditch a bit further along the road this evening.
 - b) **Bridge beyond CPM:** No further information.
 - c) **Lime Kiln Hill:** 30mph repeater signs have been put on the road. The 30mph sign is currently obscured by vegetation. Clerk to arrange for the vegetation to be cut back
 - d) **Slippery path (moss) – towards Recreation Ground:** The trees have been cut back but the moss is still on the path. Clerk to chase Highways.
 - e) **Speeding – Vobster-Frome road (Holes Lane):** Parishioner is looking into putting together a Speedwatch team. Clerk to pass on Jeremy Poynton’s details. Clare Asquith to contact the school.
 - f) **Lime Kiln Hill – Mud on the road:** This has been very bad recently. The tractor appears to be spreading the mud rather than clearing/washing it away. There is a wheel wash on site but this does not appear to be being used. Alan Brady will contact the manager.
 - g) **White lines – Vobster Inn:** Clerk has asked Highways to inspect.

- h) **Bottom Lane – flooding:** Rain water does not appear to be able to make its way to the stream so accumulates on the road. Clerk to contact Highways to investigate the cause and if required clear the gullies.

10. **DAMAGED FINGERPOST BY WAR MEMORIAL:** Clerk has received 3 quotes. Ranging from £200 - £5,950 (exc VAT). Clerk to ask for further details of the works covered in the cheapest quote. It was agreed that this quote would be accepted subject to the proposed repairs being suitable.

11. **PLANNING** - None

12. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL** - none

13. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL** – none

14. **OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) **Letter from Edmund Costelloe:** Thank for gift on resignation from being Chair
- b) **Life Education:** Thank you for donation of £100.
- c) **Mells with Vobster PCC:** Thank you for grant of £1,600 for churchyard upkeep.
- d) **Email - speeding on Longfield:** Jeremy Poynton is concerned about the speeding along Longfield. The majority of drivers respect the speed and those that do not, would probably ignore any new signage. A SLOW sign is already in situ and it was felt that this was adequate. To be monitored.
- e) **Thank you card:** Ros Wallace thanked everyone for the gift that she received when she left the PC. She has recently retired from full time retirement and used the money to purchase some new items for her recently acquired campervan.
- f) **Email – grass area in front of Post Office:** Concerns have been raised regarding the grassed area and verges by the Post Office which are being adversely affected by cars parking on them due to the recent wet weather. There was some discussion over the number of vehicles that park in that area to use the shop/ cafe however it was considered that the indiscriminate parking acts as a traffic calming system for cars travelling through the village. To be monitored.

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

Balance as at 28 February 2018 – £7,245.71. Barclays £5,192.54.

a)	J Book Clerk's Salary (Feb) & expenses (Jan & Feb)		£246.29
	Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60	
	Phone line rental	5.50	
	Utilities	4.00	
		<u>£13.10 x 2</u>	
	HMRC PAYE (Period 12)		£38.60

Approved - all in favour

- b) **Receipts:** £0.91 interest

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) **Increase in theft:** Rural theft seems to be on the increase over the past month, especially in Mells. Batteries, a whole shed and diesel have been taken from Mells recently. Clare Asquith reported that she had been unable to get hold of the police by phone so no crime number had been issued. Alan Brady had spoken to the Beat Manager at the shop the other day and asked whether they come more regularly to the village. David Seviour will compile a list of all the recent thefts and present it to the police who are attending with their van on 24th March in Coleford. Clerk to obtain Beat Manager's email address and circulate.
- b) **Slippery cobbles – entrance to The Talbot:** Alan Brady reported that a couple of people have slipped on the cobbles. The Estate does not need to give permission to lay matting of some sort to prevent this.
- c) **Post Office – Coleford:** This is closing Friday 16th March and the Nunney shop is likely to be closing in May.
- d) **Daffodil Day:** This ran much smoother last year and the police were happy with the traffic control.

- e) **Quarry Liaison meeting:** Steve West will attend and asked whether there were any issues that he could report. Clare Asquith has noted that the lorry noise on site is never inaudible at night and can be quite intrusive dependent on weather.
- f) **Water on Station Road:** The water appears to be being pumped from a resident's cellar. The road had to be closed in the cold weather due to the water freezing causing treacherous conditions. Clerk to report to Highways.
- g) **New Give Way signs:** Park Corner and Knapton Hill/junction with the quarry have both recently had new signs installed on the junctions.
- h) **Apologies:** Clare Asquith offered her apologies for the April meeting.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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

Print Name.....