

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on Tuesday 13th November 2018 at Mells Barn

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl, - Chair, Cllr J Seewoorutten, Cllr S West, Cllr A Brady, Cllr H Leakey, Cllr D Seviour
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk **Members of the public:** None
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Cllr E Costelloe, Cllr John Henderson. Absent: Cllr V Turner, Cllr L Turner
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
5. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS:** None
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 9 OCTOBER 2018.** Minutes had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.
7. **ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.**
 - a) **Broadband – Truespeed:** The Chair will follow this up in the next month.
 - b) **Barn Lease:** No further progress as new ideas are being explored. The Barn committee are in discussion with the Estate regarding possible works for the paddock.
 - c) **Old Telephone Exchange:** Clerk to contact Cllr Drewe.
 - d) **General Data Protection Regulations - approval:** Previously circulated. All in favour of approving. A copy will be put on the website.
 - e) **Dumped Car – Fairview:** Clerk to chase.
 - f) **War memorial upkeep:** The war memorial is owned by the Estate and it is believed that the Parish Council own the steps. This needs to be confirmed. Future upkeep costs would need to be taken into account in the budget if this is the case.
 - g) **Buckland Dinham fingerpost:** Somerset Forge will be contacting the Chair to arrange for its collection.
 - h) **Recreation Ground signage/postcode change:** Royal Mail will only change an active postcode if the property is occupied and has a delivery point that is accessible for delivery of mail at all times. Jan Seewooruttun will ask the football club to give out the alternative postcode and whether they would consider putting out an A frame sign on match days to help visitors to find the site.
 - i) **Broken stile bottom of the hollow – Vobster:** Clare Haskins, SCC will inspect when she is next in the area.
 - j) **Water on the road – Vobster:** Bristol Water have visited the site twice and claim that there is insufficient water for them to test to check what the source is. David Seviour will contact them again and arrange to meet them on site.
8. **REVIEW OF:**
Financial Regulations, Risk Management Strategy, Social Media Policy and Recording at Meetings Policy: All previously circulated. No changes from last year. All approved. For review again in one year.

9. HIGHWAY ISSUES:

- a) **White lining (road narrowing) on bridge by Vobster Cross:** Clerk had given incorrect location details to Highways. David Seviour will take a photo of the bridge to show the correct location for the markings.

10. PLANNING:

- a) **New applications:**
2018/2476/TCA Works to apple tree that has grown with a heavily unbalanced crown – Laburnum House, Top Lane – Content for the Planning Officer to decide.
- b) **Mendip decisions:**
2018/0784/APP Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 18 bat monitoring strategy on planning consent 2017/1060/FUL – approved.
- c) **Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO):** To await further information from Mells Matter.

11. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Changes to Highways winter service – gritting:** In order to cut costs, Somerset CC are reducing the number of roads they will be gritting by 180 miles. There will no longer be any gritting through Mells and the surrounding villages. A map of the gritting routes can be found on our website www.mellsparishcouncil.org.uk. Somerset CC will also not be re-filling any grit bins so the responsibility now lies with the Parish Council. Rock salt can be ordered from SCC for £4.74/25kg (collected) or £197.54/tonne (delivered). Clerk to contact Vince Turner to establish whether he still holds some stock of rock salt. Clerk also to put article into the magazine.

12. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL – none

13. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Life Education – request for donation:** A donation of £100 was approved.
- b) **British Legion Poppy Appeal – thank you for donation:** Acknowledged.
- c) **Mendip Citizens Advice – request for donation:** 11 new clients with 19 problems were seen from the Mells parish last year. A donation of £100 was approved.

14. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balances as at October 2018 – £11,558.95. Barclays £5,200.31

a) J Book	Clerk's Salary & expenses (October)		£264.41
	Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60	
	Phone line rental	5.50	
	Utilities	<u>4.00</u>	
		£13.10	
	HMRC PAYE (Period 8)		£33.20
	Glasdon – replacement bin for shop		£341.44
	British Legion Poppy Appeal – wreath and donation		£42.00

Approved - all in favour

- b) **Receipts:** None
- c) **Preliminary budget discussion:** Clerk presented a draft budget which included the possible costs of a contested election (£2,000) and requested consideration be given to any other items which may require expenditure in the next financial year.
- d) **Preliminary precept discussion:** This will be more fully discussed once the budget has been set at the next meeting.

15. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA/ITEMS TO REPORT

- a) **Closure of road through Buckland Dinham:** Alan Brady wondered if the Speedwatch Team could monitor traffic through the village whilst this closure is in place as it has already been noted that there has been an increase of traffic speeding through the village. Jan Seewooruttun reported that Speedwatch has lost several volunteers so there is a limited number of people available and the team can only currently monitor traffic on Holes Lane where they try to monitor once a week.
- b) **Mells new PCSO:** Amanda Ware has joined Ryan Mockridge to cover Mells. The police currently have concerns about door to door scammers and suspicious vans in the area which have resulted in several theft from farms. Any suspicious activity should be reported immediately to the police via 999.
- c) **Signage:** Alan Brady has straightened the 30mph Great Elm sign and has cleaned several signs around the village.
- d) **Quarry liaison meetings:** Steve West has attended various quarry meetings. Hanson has 6 more years of supplying Hinckley. Hanson's production has slightly decreased due to another source also providing for the site. Seven blast complaints have been received. Tarmac has finally been granted permission to continue work for another 12 years after waiting 3 years for the permission to be granted.
- e) **Activity on site at Park Corner:** A couple of caravans have appeared on the site recently. Clerk to establish who owns this site.
- f) **Apologies for next meeting:** David Seviour and Jan Seewooruttun offered their apologies for the next meeting.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 11TH DECEMBER 2018 at 7.15pm

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....