

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on Tuesday 11th December 2018 at Mells Barn

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl, - Chair, Cllr S West, Cllr A Brady, Cllr H Leakey, Cllr V Turner, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Cllr E Costelloe, Cllr John Henderson
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk,
Cllr E Drewe – District Councillor **Members of the public:** One
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr D Seviour, Cllr J Seewoorutten Absent: Cllr L Turner
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Resident gave the background to planning application 2018/2686/FUL and explained that the property has never been used under the B1 condition. The Planning Officer has stated that current policy does not allow for changes from B1 to C3. Cllr Drewe advised that he would take the matter to the Planning Board if necessary.
5. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS:**
 - a) **Old Telephone Exchange:** An Enforcement Notice has been served and action will be taken if the work to return it to its original state is not undertaken within the stated period.
 - b) **Mendip District Council staffing levels:** Planning and Enforcement departments are short staffed but most other departments are fully staffed.
 - c) **Mendip District Councils planning applications:** These are currently down by 20% which has considerably reduced the council's income.
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 13 NOVEMBER 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 move this forward in January.
 - b) **Barn Lease:** Edmund Costelloe will ask the solicitor for their account to date.
 - c) **Old Telephone Exchange:** As 5. a)
 - d) **Dumped Car – Fairview:** This has been removed.
 - e) **War memorial upkeep:** Clare Asquith will approach a couple of people to see if they would be willing to undertake the upkeep.
 - f) **Buckland Dinham fingerpost:** Clerk to chase.
 - g) **Broken stile bottom of the hollow – Vobster:** SCC will inspect.
 - h) **Water on the road – Vobster:** Bristol Water has repaired the leak.
 - i) **Activity on site at Park Corner:** As no enforcement action has been raised for this site in the past no action can be taken now unless there is a change of use. The owner of the land is unknown. To be monitored.
8. **HIGHWAY ISSUES:**
 - a) **White lining (road narrowing) on bridge by Vobster Cross:** Clerk has forwarded photos.
 - b) **Overgrowth near Vobster Cross/Vobster Quay:** Clerk will ask Highways to cut the vegetation back.
9. **PLANNING:**
 - a) **New applications:**

2018/2686/FUL Change of use of first floor room from office (B1) to residential (C3) – Laurel Barn, Little Green. PC recommends approval as the area is now surplus to requirements and the owner’s circumstances have changed.

b) **Mendip decisions:**

2018/2476/TCA Works to apple tree that has grown with a heavily unbalanced crown – Laburnum House, Top Lane – Approved

2015/1789/LBC & 2015/1787/FUL Refurbishment and extension of cottage, including the replacement of thatched roof with new roof structure covered in tiles, and the removal and replacement of internal walls and first floor structure (part retrospective) – The Cottage, Little Green - Refused.

10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Changes to Highways winter service – gritting:** SCC has agreed to continue to fill grit bins on a request only basis for this winter as they acknowledge the short notice and lack of budgetary availability for some Parish Councils. Clerk to be given locations of grit bins so SCC can replenish them.

11. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Information regarding precept:** Deadline date is 17 January.

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Mendip Community Transport - request for donation:** A donation of £100 was approved.
- b) **SALC – L09018 The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and mobile applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018:** The new regulation was noted and Clerk will raise with the website host.
- c) **St Andrews Church:** A grant of £1,600 was approved for the Mells with Vobster Churchyards.
- d) **Barclays Bank:** The account has been dormant for several years and Barclays have advised that they will be closing the account in February if no transactions are received before then. It was agreed to transfer £100.

13. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

a) J Book	Clerk’s Salary & expenses (November)		£264.31
	Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60	
	Phone line rental	5.50	
	Utilities	<u>4.00</u>	
		£13.10	
	HMRC PAYE (Period 9)		£33.20
	Citizens Advice Mendip – donation		£100.00
	Life Education Bus – donation		£100.00

Approved - all in favour

- b) **Receipts:** None
- c) **Preliminary budget discussion:** Clerk has made some small adjustments to the budget.
- d) **Preliminary precept discussion:** A small increase is likely as SCC is continually withdrawing more services.

14. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA/ITEMS TO REPORT

- a) **Faulty street light – Fairview:** Alan Brady has reported it to SCC.
- b) **Fly tipping:** This is an ongoing issue and in some areas large signs have been put up.
- c) **Water on road – Knaptons Hill:** This is due to run off water from the site. To be monitored.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 8th JANUARY 2019 at 7.15pm

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....