

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on Tuesday 9th April 2019 at Mells Barn

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl, - Chair, Cllr E Costelloe, Cllr J Seewoorutten, Cllr Alan Brady
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk, **Members of the public:** None
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr H Leakey, John Henderson, Cllr D Seviour, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith Cllr S West
Absent: Cllr L Turner, Cllr V Turner
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
5. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS:** No reports received.
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 12th MARCH 2019:** 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) **Superfast Broadband to Mells:** Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) were awarded government funding to provide the roll out of superfast broadband to the two counties. CDS employed Gigaclear as their contractor who then sub-contracted to Carillion. Carillion subsequently went into administration which has caused Gigaclear to fall behind with their schedule.

Truespeed has seriously miscalculated the costs of bringing their system into Mells. Even if the take up number for the service had been sufficient it would be highly unlikely they could have afforded the cost of the installation. CDS cannot currently contract out Mells to another company as there are already two parties that have expressed an interest in the roll out to the parish. Until they are not considered viable options, no further action can be taken.
 - b) **Old Telephone Exchange:** An email from the Enforcement Officer dated 25 March informed the PC that the owner had appointed two professionals to look into a planning application and building control. The Officer said he would follow up at the end of March if an application had not been received. A subsequent email dated 29 March states that the owner has personal circumstances which are causing a delay and an application would now be submitted by 1 June which the Officer has agreed to. The PC expressed concerns at this further delay and will forward photos of the current state of the exchange. Clerk to cc Cllr Edward Drewe. JE to take the photos.
 - c) **Blocked drain – Rectory Corner:** This has been cleared.
8. **HIGHWAY ISSUES:**
 - a) **Condition of road – Lime Kiln Hill:** The condition of the road has been slightly better but still has days when it is unacceptable. To be monitored.
 - b) **Fingerposts:** Steve West to provide a photo of the type of finial so Clerk can source a suitable replacement.

Alan Brady reported that two vehicles had collided on Vobster Cross bridge recently. Both drivers claim that they did not see the vehicle coming in the other direction. The corner of Top Lane has also been shut twice in the past month due to accidents.

9. CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE, FROME TOWN COUNCIL – SOLAR PANELS:

A company called 'IDDEA' is offering 14 solar panels for the discounted price of £3,750 if there is sufficient interest in an area. They would be happy to visit the parish to do a presentation.

10. PLANNING:

a) New applications:

2019/0440/LBC & 2019/0439/HSE: Proposed conservation rooflights, internal alterations and detached tandem garage – 1-2 Hollycroft, Fairview – No objections.

2019/0573/LBC & 2019/0572/HSE: Demolition of existing porch, replace with stone porch, reinstatement of ground floor doorways, replacement fenestration, raising of outshut roof, removal of existing stairway, insertion of first floor bathroom, modification of existing external doorway to form new window and creation of new external door and formation of new access – Lily Batch Cottage, Longfield – No objections

b) **Mendip decisions: None**

2019/0158/HSE: Two storey rear and side extension forming an annexe – Rock Cottage, Upper Vobster Road - Approved

11. CORRESPONDENCE: None

12. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balances as at 28 March 201: HSBC - £6,968.07. Barclays £5,305.52

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|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| a) J Book | Clerk's Salary & expenses (March) | | £264.31 |
| | Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile) | 3.60 | |
| | Phone line rental | 5.50 | |
| | Utilities | <u>4.00</u> | |
| | | £13.10 | |
| | HMRC PAYE (Period 1) | | £33.20 |
| | Mendip Community Speedwatch – 3 winter coats | | £96.00 |
| | Approved - all in favour | | |
| b) | Receipts: Clerk has submitted a VAT refund claim for £266.90 | | |
| c) | End of year total for 2018/2019: £11,657.79 | | |

13. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA/ITEMS TO REPORT

- Parish Council elections – 3 May:** The Statement of Nominated Persons has been published and there are 11 on the list. The number is uncontested so there will not be an election.
- Conduit Bridge road surface:** Clerk to inform Highways that the road surface is very rippled and requires attention. It is particularly dangerous for the cyclists who leave the cycle path at this point to visit the village.
- Area Gas Inspector:** Alan Brady reported that they were investigating the possibility of installation of a gas supply in the future.
- Apologies:** Jan Seewooruttun gave her apologies for the May meeting.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 14th MAY 2019 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 7.55 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....