

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on Tuesday 14th May 2019 at Mells Barn

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl, - Chair, Cllr E Costelloe, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr H Leakey, John Henderson, Cllr S West, Cllr V Turner
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk,
Members of the public: 1 + PCSO Amanda Ware
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr J Seewooruttun, Cllr D Seviour, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith **ABSENT:** Cllr L Turner
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** PCSO Mandy Ware explained that she covers Frome Rural South which covers the A361 near Frome across to Leighton, Bruton with Mells and Vobster being the boundary of her patch. She works the area with PSCO Ryan Mockeridge and PC Chris Willis. PSCO Ware is passionate about the villages she covers and likes to be seen around them as often as possible, visiting cafes etc. She would be happy to be approached at any time even if the matter doesn't seem to be necessarily Police related as she maybe able to pass the enquiry on to one of the multi agencies that the Police liaise with.

Resident asked whether there was an active Speedwatch Team and whether their watches covered Longfield. At present, most watches are in the vicinity of Mells Park Gates as speeding is very prevalent there. The Speedwatch Team mostly consists of mothers from the school who frequently walk that way. The Police motorcycle has been seen on several occasions in Longfield. PSCO Ware asked to be informed of where and when the watches would be undertaken so the Police can support them where possible.
5. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS:** No reports received.
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 9th APRIL 2019:** Minutes had been circulated previously 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:** The Chair and John MacDonald had met with Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) to present a list of questions. CDS has promised to come back with a response in the next few days. There are several options which maybe possible if funding can be secured. Firstly, an aerial system which could feed businesses near the Post Office. Masts costs approx £3,000 each. Another system costs around £30,000 and the costs would be shared with the village. Truespeed is still an option, despite the low numbers, if funding could be secured. CDS reported that Superfast broadband should be available around the village within 4 years anyway. John MacDonald will follow up.
 - b) **Old Telephone Exchange:** The new District Councillor, Alison Barkshire has been made aware of the issue. No further action can be taken until after the end of June if a planning application has not materialised.
 - c) **Climate change initiative – Solar Panels:** No further information.

8. HIGHWAY ISSUES:

- a) **Condition of road – Lime Kiln Hill:** This has been better recently but the weather has been drier.
- b) **Fingerpost finial:** Steve West will measure the post diameter. Clerk will look into sourcing a replacement.
- c) **Conduit Bridge road surface:** The road surface is getting worse daily. Highways has arranged an inspection. The adoption of the road is still going through the legal process.
- d) **Speeding traffic – Upper Vobster:** Resident had emailed her concerns regarding vehicles speeding into Upper Vobster. The PC will monitor the situation as it is a no through road so it is unlikely Highways will take any action without firm evidence.

10. PLANNING:

- a) **New applications:** None
- b) **Mendip decisions:**
 - 2019/0440/LBC & 2019/0439/HSE:** Proposed conservation rooflights, internal alterations and detached tandem garage – 1-2 Hollycroft, Fairview. Approved.
 - 2019/0376/HSE:** Proposed first floor extension to rear elevation – Bridge Cottage. Approved.

11. CODE OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY PUBLICITY:

Clerk had recently become aware of this code. Councillors felt it was not applicable to the Parish Council so it would therefore not be adopted.

12. CORRESPONDENCE: None**13. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Balances as at April 2019: HSBC - £17,712.56. Barclays £5,305.52

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| a) | J Book | Clerk's Salary & expenses (April) | | £224.71 |
| | | Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile) | 3.60 | |
| | | Phone line rental | 5.50 | |
| | | Utilities | <u>4.00</u> | |
| | | | £13.10 | |
| | | HMRC PAYE (Period 2) | | £72.80 |
| | | SALC affiliation fee | | £170.04 |
| | | Somerset Forge Ltd – repair of fingerpost | | £336.00 |
| | | Zurich – annual insurance | | £388.47 |
| | | Approved - all in favour | | |
| b) | Receipts: | Precept - £11,500. VAT Refund - £266.90 | | |
| c) | Approval by PC to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015: | Clerk explained that a Certificate of Exemption can be submitted by a Parish Council if it meets all the criteria (including a gross income and expenditure for the year being below £25,000). All were in favour of submitting a Certificate of Exemption. The Chair and clerk then signed the certificate which will be forwarded to the external auditors. The accounts are currently with an independent auditor for an internal audit. | | |
| c) | Approval of Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019: | Previously circulated. All approved and duly signed by the Chair and Clerk/RFO. | | |
| d) | Approval of Section 2 Accounting Statements for 2018/2019: | Previously circulated. All approved and duly signed by the Chair and Clerk/RFO. | | |

- e) **NALC Clerk annual salary increase:** Clerk presented the latest Clerk salary scale produced by NALC. Clerk is on LC1 Pt 20. The hourly rate would therefore increase from £9.81 to £10.16. An annual increase of £128.16. All in favour.
- f) **Annual insurance:** It was agreed to continue with Zurich whose premium (£388.47) was competitive with a quote from Came & Company.

John Henderson raised the issue of the high value of assets. Clerk explained that the external auditors requested, several years ago that the purchase price of an item, not the depreciated value, should be shown on the AGAR forms. Clerk and Chair will look into providing an up to date costings list for all assets.

13. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA/ITEMS TO REPORT

- i. **Fly tipping:** PCSO Ware would be happy to receive reports of where the fly tipping is occurring. Although not a Police matter, recurring tipping would be monitored and could result in a prosecution. She recommended an app 'FIXMYSTREET.COM' which can take a photo of the fly tipping which can then be forwarded to the Police. Residents are advised to check that anyone they use to dispose of their waste has a Waste Disposal Licence as they could be fined if there is any documentary evidence amongst tipping that can be traced back to them. Clerk to send schedule of meetings to PCSO Ware who hopes to attend meetings when possible in the future.
- ii. **Shop:** The shop is holding a celebration to commemorate its 10 years in business in June.
- iii. **Road closure:** The road near Babington House is due to be closed for several weeks for unknown works.
- iv. **Whatley Quarry:** Steve West attends the liaison meetings. Four noise complaints have been received since the last meeting. The quarry is looking for alternative sites although at present they are going deeper and moving around 5.5 million tonnes a year. Asham quarry has around 160,000 million tonnes available. The quarry is also trying to move more stone by rail reduce the number of lorries on the road.
- v. **Apologies:** John Henderson offered his apologies for the next meeting.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 11th JUNE 2019 at 7.15pm

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....