

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 14 January 2020 at Mells Barn**

01.01.20 PRESENT: Mr J Earl – Chair, Mr E Costelloe, Mr D Seviour (arrived 19:30), Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr A Brady, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr John Henderson, Mr V Turner, Mrs H Leakey, Mr S West
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk 1 members of the public

02.01.20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Alison Barkshire – District Councillor **Absent:** Mr L Turner

03.01.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

04.01.20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- i. **Road Sweeper:** Western Skip Hire has recently purchased a road sweeper with a full time driver. Mr Martin had been asked to attend PC meeting to discuss the possibility of using its services to clean the village. Mr Martin reported that he had surveyed most of the village and noted that there were only a few kerbs with most edges being verges/banks with accumulated debris at their base. An initial tidy up would be expensive. Contaminated waste would be disposed of at £80/tonne and the driver costs £48/hr. Conduit Road is often almost impassable. The Estate has spoken to the new tenant farmer and it is hoped they will keep on top of the mud etc. Everyone was in favour of the village being cleaned but concerns were raised about how the costs could escalate. It was agreed a trial run would take place in February when the debris is drier and would be cheaper to dispose of.
- ii. **SCC/3677/2019:** Variation of Condition 1 of 2015/0746/CNT to allow continued operation of Western Skip Hire to 30 March 2025: No objections. Mr Martin reported that he maybe submitting an application later this year to extend the working area but would consult with the PC prior to submission.

05.01.20 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

- i. **Unitary Council:** Somerset County Council is pushing for a single unitary authority whereas the Districts wanting a more collaborative model. Cllr Barkshire hopes to have more information next month.
- ii. **Climate Change event:** Somerset Climate Action Network is holding four drop in events around the county entitled 'There is no PLAN(ET)B'. The nearest event is at the Mendip District Council offices in Shepton Mallet on 15 February, 10.00am-4.00pm.
- iii **Local Plan Part 2:** The Planning Inspector has reviewed the local Plan Part 2 and requires Mendip DC to provide 505 houses in the north east part of Mendip. Over the next 5 years there is also a requirement to increase the number of houses provided each year across Mendip to 604 from the previous 420. This is Government dictat and does have implications for the identified 5 year forward supply. To be discussed further at the February meeting.

06.01.20 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: None available

07.01.20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING AND NOTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING
(no formal meeting or minutes of the Parish Council took place in December due to the meeting being incorrectly advertised) – dated 12th November 2019 and 10th December 2019 had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

- 08.01.20 WESTERN SKIP HIRE – ROAD SWEEPER:** As 04.01.20 & 17.01.20 iv.
- 09.01.20 TREES IN HOLES LANE:** Three trees have come down in quick succession. The Estate will look at getting a tree survey done.
- 10.01.20 CONDITION OF GRASS TRIANGLE – BOTTOM LANE:** This area is constantly being churned up by parking vehicles. Blocking off the area would cause further parking problems and may discourage visitors to the shop so it was agreed that plastic matting should be placed in the area to reduce further erosion. Estate to assess.
- 11.01.20 UPDATED STANDING ORDERS FOR APPROVAL:** Resident queried whether it was law to have Standing Orders. Clerk to investigate.
- 12.01.20 MATTERS ARISING**
- i. **Superfast broadband:** Truespeed is holding a public meeting in The Talbot on 15 January. Subject to sufficient interest being shown at this meeting, Truespeed will then canvass the village. John Earl will put together a list of all the businesses, large and small, in the village who may not be aware of the proposal.
 - ii. **Old Telephone Exchange:** Clerk to chase.
 - iii. **Recreation Ground overnight car park signage:** These have now been delivered and require installation.
 - iv. **Overgrown hedges – Top Lane:** These have not been cut back. Clerk to chase.
 - v. **Overgrown trees – Longfield:** The Estate has cut back the tree by number 25 and Mendip trimmed a few branches off the tree by number 28 in December.
- 13.01.20 HIGHWAYS ISSUES**
- i. **Speed management on School Hill:** Clerk to chase.
 - ii. **Vehicles parking in front of Vobster Inn:** A van is double parking near the junction which is making it dangerous for vehicles trying to negotiate the junction. Clerk to refer to PCSO.
- 14.01.20 PLANNING**
- New Applications:
- 2019/2861/HSE:** Erection of porch to front elevation – 7 Fairview: No objections.
- SCC/3677/2019:** Variation of Condition 1 of 2015/0746/CNT to allow continued operation of Western Skip Hire: No objections.
- 2020/0032/TCA:** Fell beech 1 and remove crown beech 2 - Selwood House, Selwood Street – for tree officer
- Mendip Decisions
- 2019/1983/VRC:** Application to vary Condition 2 (drawings) of planning approval 2018/3092/FUL to change from log cabin to a wood clad static caravan – Vobster Inn: Approved.
- 15.01.20 CORRESPONDENCE**
- i. **Step up for safer streets:** A grant of £5,000 is available for projects that support local communities to increase road safety and become safer, better places to live and to increase improvements in road safety to reduce accidents and casualty figures in Avon & Somerset. Clerk to contact school.
 - ii. **Mendip Community Transport – request for a donation:** It was agreed to double the normal contribution to £200.

16.01.20 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance as at 28 December 2019 - HSBC £12,212.18 Balance as at 20 December 2019 - Barclays £5,313.47.

i. **Payment of accounts:**

Clerk's salary & expenses (November)		£244.51
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Trip to Mells (@45p/mile) x 2	£7.20	
Phone line rental x 2	£11.00	
Utilities x 2	<u>£8.00</u>	
	£26.20	
HMRC PAYE (Period 9)		£53.00
HMRC PAYE (Period 10)		£53.00
Somerset Forge Ltd – new finial for fingerpost		£384.00

ii. **Receipts:** None. Clerk reported that the Mells Park Solar Array community grant had not been received this year. Clerk to investigate.

iii. **Setting of budget for 2020/2021:** The defibrillator is currently located in The Talbot office and is not accessible 24/7. Parking would also be an issue for anyone in need of its use. It was agreed that the PC take on its responsibility and would look into costs of insuring and maintaining it. The defib would be better located outside the shop which would be visible and easily accessible. Clerk to contact Buckland Dinham who have recently installed one. Costs to be added to the budget.

iv. **Setting of precept for 2020/21:** All in favour of keeping the precept at the same level of £11,500 to maintain reserves enabling the PC to support future projects to improve the village.

17.01.20 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

i. **Co-option of councillor:** Due to non attendance at meetings since the election in May, Langdon Turner is now disqualified from being a councillor. Clerk will start the co-option process.

ii. **Website:** The information on the website is being reduced so it becomes a dedicated PC website with links to the village website/Mells Matters. It is looking outdated and quotes have been received for £1,500 and £800-£1,000 to re-design it. Clare Asquith will approach two website designers within the village for quotes.

iii. **Drain cover – Mendip Road, Vobster:** It has been noticed that since Highways replaced the drain cover during a repair, leaves and debris are accumulating much quicker around it. The previous cover was curved. Clerk will ask Highways if alternative covers are available.

iv. **Cost of Sweeper:** After more thought had been given to the matter, concerns regarding the possible spiralling costs were raised again and that the debris at the side of the road (sticks and mud) were not considered to be contaminated waste. Therefore there would not be a need for it be disposed as such. It was also felt that it would cost Western Skip Hire very little extra to do a few more roads every few weeks as a gesture of good will. A letter will be composed to this effect.

v. **Resignation of councillor:** Edmund Costelloe announced that he would be resigning at the May meeting from the PC and would also giving up his directorialship of the Company. A new director is being sought who should be from the parish council.

vi. **184 Bus:** Several people had been stranded in Midsomer Norton recently. Advised to write to the bus company.

vii. **Vobster bus shelter:** Two people have offered to look at the shelter but no quotes have been received to date.

viii. **Footpath issues:** The wooden finger post at the top of the footpath from White Bridge to Top Road is on the ground. SCC will replace. Approximately 100m along the path that leads

to Branch Farm from Longfield the stile broken and dangerous. The footplate on the stile behind the Manor is sloping and very slippery. The Estate will be removing both stiles.

18.01.20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 11th February 2020 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....