

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 11 February 2020 at Mells Barn**

- 01.02.20 PRESENT:** Mr J Earl – Chair, Mrs J Seewooruttun, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mrs H Leakey, Mr S West
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk, Cllr Alison Barkshire – District Councillor
Members of the public: 1
- 02.02.20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr John Henderson, Mr A Brady, Mr E Costelloe, Mr D Seviour
Absent: Mr V Turner
- 03.02.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
- 04.02.20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Resident raised concerns that the proposed pollarding of the ancient beech at Selwood House was too drastic and likely to kill a tree of that age. A more gentle trim of 10% would benefit the tree. The Chair reported that the PC normally leave tree matters to the Planning Officer as they do not have the required knowledge to pass comment. Clare Asquith will make enquiries. Resident will speak to Bo Walsh the planning officer.
- 05.02.20 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:**
- i. **The Old Telephone Exchange:** MDC has changed its policy regarding giving information regarding active enforcement investigations. No information will now be given due to data protection. Cllr Barkshire will follow this up with Enforcement.
 - ii. **Local Plan:** Mendip now falls short of the new recommended housing stock and is considering where the additional housing will be located, thought to be mainly in the NE of the district ie. Rode, Norton St Philip and Beckington. Midsomer Norton is also likely to undergo further development but the schools there are already at capacity.
 - iii. **Drop in Climate Emergency event:** At MDC’s premises 15 February.
 - iv. **Unitary Council:** SCC would like to be unitary, MDC would like a more collaborative approach. The PC are opposed to the councils being unitary.
- 06.02.20 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:** None available
- 07.02.20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 14 JANUARY 2020** had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.
- 08.02.20 ANNUAL REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS.** All documents had previously been circulated and no changes were made. For review in one year.
(Financial Regulations, Risk Management Strategy, Social Media Policy and Recording at Meetings Policy)
- 09.01.20 MATTERS ARISING**
- i. **Superfast broadband:** Only one person had attended the open meeting in The Talbot. Truespeed is currently finishing a project in Wells and will then be in a position to concentrate more on Mells in the next couple of weeks. The Chair and John MacDonald have put together a list of all the businesses in the parish which will be passed to Truespeed. They also plan to meet with Truespeed to discuss the way forward.

- ii. **Old Telephone Exchange:** Investigation is ongoing.
- iii. **Overgrown hedges – Top Lane:** Resident has responded to letter informing the PC that the hedges have been cut back at their request and were not considered an obstruction. PC acknowledged that an error had been made in not noting that the hedges had previously been cut back. Clerk to write.
- iv. **Trees in Holes Lane:** Another tree has come down. The trees are regularly inspected.
- v. **Western Skip Hire – road sweeper:** Steve West reported that he had spoken to the quarry and they would be willing for GoPlant to sweep the roads for an hour every Saturday with the debris being dumped at the quarry so long as it is not contaminated waste. Clerk to contact GoPlant to arrange. Steve West will confirm with quarry regarding the disposal.
- vi. **Standing Orders:** These are not a legal requirement but the PC would prefer to have guidelines to work to if the need arose. The Chair signed and dated the previously circulated Standing Orders.
- vii. **Defibrillator:** The Estate is happy for the defibrillator to be moved to the shop wall although a position on the side would be preferable. The shop has also confirmed it is happy for the device to be relocated. Clerk reported that if it is in a safe place and maintained on a regular basis the PC's public liability insurance would cover it. There is currently no insurance for defibrillator damage within the PC insurance policy. If this was required the insurance company would require the reinstatement value. This will be investigated.
- viii. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane:** Clerk to look into costs for the matting.
- ix. **Co-option of councillor:** Clerk has informed MDC and it is being advertised on the website, in the magazine and on the noticeboards. Planned co-option to take place at the April meeting.
- x. **Drain cover – Mendip Road, Vobster:** Steve West had met with the Area Superintendent who informed him that the drain cover was now the standard design which is safer for cyclists and therefore it would not be replaced. **Highways eventually agreed to dig a channel around it to alleviate leaves getting caught in it.**
- xi. **Footpath issues:** The broken stiles have now been removed and fencing to contain the livestock installed. It was reported that if footpaths are not entered onto an OS within the next 5 years they would lose their status as a footpath.
- xii. **Vobster bus shelter:** The Clerk has finally found someone willing to undertake this work.

10.01.20 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

- i. **Speed management on School Hill:** This has now been passed to Sara Davis at Highways.
- ii. **Vehicles parking in front of Vobster Inn:** This is still occurring. The local PCSO is monitoring.
- iii. **Step up for Safer Streets:** The school has passed the information to their Senior Lead Team to consider.

11.01.20 PLANNING

New Applications:

2020/0197/HSE: Single storey extension on the side elevation, relocating front door to original location and a first floor extension on the rear elevation above garage and living room – 1 Egypt Cottages, Top Lane - No objections

2020/0150/CLP: Application for a lawful development certificate for the proposed installation of underground pipes and cables – Valley House, Elm Lane – No objections

Mendip Decisions

2019/2734/TCA: Remove to thin group, retaining alder and ash, remove single stem of coppice group, crown-lift to 4m of common alder and thin crown by up to 15% - Riverside, Holes Lane – No objections

2019/2731/TCA: T1-7 Leylandii, T8 sycamore – remove 2 lateral north facing branches, thin and reduce crown to reduce excessive leaf fall. Area to west of Almshouses to be replanted with low height ornamental fruit trees (x3) and grass – The Firs, Top Lane – No objections

12.02.20 CORRESPONDENCE

- i. **Royal Condolence Books:** The Parochial Church Councils have been advised by the Diocese to plan ahead with parish councils regarding the eventual passing of a member of the royal family especially HM the Queen and HRH Prince Phillip. It was agreed to purchase to condolence books at a cost of £43.42/book.

13.01.20 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance as at 28 January 2020 - HSBC £11,901.57 Balance as at 20 December 2019 - Barclays £5,313.47.

- i. **Payment of accounts:**

Clerk's salary & expenses (January)		£196.71
Trip to Mells (@45p/mile)	£3.60	
Phone line rental	£5.50	
Utilities	<u>£4.00</u>	
	£13.10	
HMRC PAYE (Period 11)		£100.80
Mendip Community Transport		£200.00
- ii. **Receipts:** None
- iii. **Mells Park Estate – Solar Community Grant:** Clerk has invoiced Mells Park.

14.01.20 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA - None

15.01.20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 10th March 2020 at 7.00pm in Mells Barn to include Annual Parish Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed..... Date.....

Print Name.....