

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the remote meeting held via Zoom of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 14 July 2020**

- 01.07.20 PRESENT:** Cllr J Earl – Chair, Cllr J Seewooruttun, Cllr John Henderson, Cllr E Costelloe, Cllr E Costelloe, Cllr H Leakey, Cllr D Seviour, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith,
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk, Cllr Alison Barkshire – District Councillor
Members of the public: None
- 02.07.20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr V Turner, Cllr S West,
- 03.07.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
- 04.07.20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
- 05.07.20 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:**
- i. **Unitary Authority:** Cllr Barkshire reported that Somerset CC are pushing hard for this. Sharing resources from the District Councils would financially benefit the county council which is currently struggling. Concerns have been raised that this is not a good time to be looking into making such a large restructure of the councils and that money may be moved to the wrong areas.
- 06.07.20 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:** None submitted.
- 07.07.20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 9 JUNE 2020** had previously been circulated. The minutes were agreed and pp’d by the Clerk.
- 08.07.20 MATTERS ARISING**
- i. **Superfast broadband:** Two residents are researching the various options available. Anyone interested in a scheme should contact Lisa Stachan for further information. Another company, Fibreweb, has come forward. It is currently a small scale operator but cheaper than Truespeed. Truespeed will be approached to see if it is possible to sign up to a slower, but cheaper service. A lot of residents are happy to continue using the system that is already in place, albeit rather slow. Whatley Quarry is being approached as having them onboard would greatly increase the likelihood of a faster system being brought to the village.
- ii. **Old Telephone Exchange:** Now the matter is with the legal team, it is hoped that an enforcement notice will be served. This will stop the clock on the 10 year period where an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness can be applied for.
- iii. **Road sweeper:** No further information.
- iv. **Defibrillator:** This has now been fixed to the shop wall and has been insured against theft and damage. Cabinet fitting - £75. Supplying electricity to the cabinet - £206.40. Approved for payment at the next meeting.
- v. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane:** The area is currently flat and not causing a problem but something does need to be done as the area becomes very muddy and uneven in bad weather. Matting and other options to protect the area are still being looked into.
- vi. **Co-option of councillor:** To be carried over until face to face meetings can take place.
- vii. **Entrance to the Barn:** No further information.
- viii. **Website:** The Chair will try to establish who designed the village website.

- ix. **Alternative uses for telephone box:** The school is currently not open to ask if they have any plans for the box.
- x. **Registration with Information Commissioners' Office:** The PC is now registered with the ICO.
- xi. **Litter bin for Recreation Ground:** A 12 month contract with Witts has been signed. The amount of rubbish that is disposed off will be monitored to see if the bin is the correct size for the usage it is getting. Clerk will look into setting up either a direct debit or BACS payment as Witts do not accept cheques.
- xii. **District and County Councils proposed re-organisation:** David Fothergill, Leader of Somerset County Council has responded '*... I can assure you and your members that there is absolutely no intention to increase the burden to parish councils unless they want to take more on.*' He continues that the advantages of having a unitary council is that the PC would only have one place to go to pass on issues rather than being passed 'pillar to post' between the two as present. Clerk will approach some Wiltshire PC's to see how they were affected when Wiltshire became unitary.

09.07.20 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

- i. **Speed management on School Hill:** No further information.

10.07.20 PLANNING

New Applications:

2020/0870/FUL: Change of use to equestrian and the erection of a barn for equestrian and agricultural use – Virginia Cottage, Upper Vobster Road – No objections.

Mendip Decisions: None

11.07.20 CORRESPONDENCE - None

12.07.20 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance as at 28 June 2020 - HSBC £19,342.75. Balance as at 19 June 2020 - Barclays £5,316.76.

i. **Payment of accounts:**

Clerk's Salary (June)		£246.55
Phone line rental x 2	5.50	
Utilities x 2	<u>4.00</u>	
		£9.50
HMRC PAYE (Period 4)		£61.60
SALC annual affiliation fee		£167.19
Registration with Information Commissioners' Office		£40.00
Mells Sport and Recreation Company Ltd – Annual insurance		£812.89
All in favour. Cheques previously posted to Chair to sign.		

- ii. **Receipts:** Barclays interest - £1.43.

13.07.20 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. **30mph signs:** Alan Brady has cleaned more sign around the village.
- ii. **Litter by pond:** The bins by the pond require more frequent emptying as litter is accumulating in the area. Clerk to contact Somerset Waste. It is hoped that the situation will also improve when people start to travel further afield instead of just visiting local beauty spots like Mells and Nunney.
- iii. **Parking:** Parking by the shop and on the bend at the start of the walk down the valley to the old iron works is still a problem. Clerk reported that a bus driver had contacted her and

reported that it was becoming increasingly difficult, and sometimes dangerous, to negotiate vehicles. The driver is going to speak to the police.

- iv. **Wooden footpath post – Rashwood Lane footpath, Gay Street:** The post has dislodged. Clerk to find a contractor to replace it.

14.07.20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 11th August 2020 at **7.15pm** in Mells Barn unless restrictions remain in place, alternatively the meeting will be held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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

Print Name.....