

# MELLS PARISH COUNCIL (mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Minutes of the remote meeting held via Zoom of Mells Parish Council on Tuesday 9 February 2021

### 01.02.21 PRESENT:

Cllr J Earl – Chair, Cllr E Costelloe, Cllr Seewooruttun, Cllr D Seviour, Cllr H Leakey, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith

**In Attendance:** Joy Book – Clerk, Cllr Alison Barkshire – District Councillor

**Members of the public:** None

### 02.02.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr V Turner, Cllr S West, Cllr John Henderson

### 03.02.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

### 04.02.21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

### 05.02.21 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2020

Previously circulated. The minutes were approved and pp'd by the Clerk.

### 06.02.21 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

- i. **Loss of income:** MDC is predicting a shortfall of between £1.2 and £2.6 million which they hope to cover by making savings and using reserves. MDC is currently maintaining all their services. The failure of Central Government to cover the COVID costs fully or increase any central grant leaves only one available option which is to increase council tax.
- ii. **Somerset Unitary Council:** It is still unknown what format the consultation will take.
- iii. **Elections:** These are still planned for May.

### 07.02.21 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

None submitted

### 08.02.21 MATTERS ARISING

- i. **Superfast Broadband:** Openreach is no longer being considered. Voneous has started installing its system throughout the village and hopes to be completed by mid April. Outlying farms will not be included in the installation. Subscribers will not be able to sign up to other providers initially unlike the service proposed by Openreach.
- ii. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane:** Plans will be drawn up to submit to Highways prior to a site visit when they are permitted. Cllr Earl suggested making half of it a parking area with cobbles to match the wall with a kerb to stop cars parking on the remaining grassed area.
- iii. **Website:** A webhosting package has been purchased and a website is being constructed. Cllrs Earl and Asquith to approve photos for it.
- iv. **Telephone box – painting:** Cllr Asquith will ask the contractors currently working for the Estate for a quote.
- v. **New Community Trust:** To be carried forward to the next meeting.
- vi. **Footway by quarry:** A meeting to discuss the proposal has not taken place yet.
- vii. **Play area extension:** Awaiting amended proposal.
- viii. **Improvements to Vobster Cross bus shelter:** Clerk to check whether the area in front of the bus shelter is owned by Highways and if they would be prepared to carry out any works to improve it. Clerk will also investigate the cost of the licence required to work on the Highway.

**ix. Footpath narrowing by Lavender Cottage:**

The defined footpath is very narrow and the barbed wire fencing makes it unpleasant for walkers. There appears to be two footpaths in the vicinity and there was uncertainty whether the narrow path follows the authorised footpath route or not. Cllr Barkshire to follow up.

**09.02.21 HIGHWAY ISSUES:**

**i. Flooding by Vobster Quays:** Highways is trying to establish who owns the field. Clerk to make enquiries.

**10.02.21 PLANNING**

**i. New Applications:**

**2021/0111/HSE:** Construction of new rear extension following the demolition of single storey rear extension and summerhouse – Glebe Cottage, Longfield – no objections

**2021/0089/TA:** Lilac – fell, Cypress hedge – fell section to achieve minimum 6m clearance to Ashcroft (6 stems), Birch – fell, Sorbus – fell – The Old Forge, Little Green – for Tree Officer

**ii. Planning decisions:**

**SCC/3748/2020:** Application under S106A of the Town & Planning Act 1990 for the modification of the Torr Works Section 106 Agreement to enable the recommencement of carboniferous limestone extraction at Bartletts Quarry, Nunney - REFUSED

**SCC/3742/2020: Removal of Condition 2 of Schedule B of planning permission 2016/0025/CNT to enable extraction of carboniferous limestone to recommence within Bartletts Quarry prior to the permanent cessation of extraction at Torr Works Quarry – REFUSED**

The accumulative effect of the impact of Bartletts re-opening and Torr continue to work at the same time was considered to be too great on the local communities.

Cllr Costelloe wishes to set up a meeting with all the local parish councils. Clerk to arrange.

**iii. Other planning matters:** None

**11.02.21 CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**12.02.21 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**i. Payment of Accounts:**

Clerk's Salary (January)		£253.45
Phone line rental	5.50	
Utilities	<u>4.00</u>	
	£9.50	
HMRC PAYE (Period 11)		£63.20
Mendip Citizens Advice Bureau		£200.00
TSOHost – website hosting		£86.26

**ii. Receipts:** None

**iii. Barclays mandate:** Cllr Earl cannot get an appointment at the bank to complete the documentation until the restrictions lift. HSBC has requested information and threatened to close the account by 29 March 2021 if not received. This appears to be causing widespread concern when googled to investigate the request further. Document has been sent off. Clerk will contact bank to confirm its receipt.

**13.02.21 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

**i. Skateboard/cycle park:**

The lockdown restrictions have highlighted that there is very little for youngsters in the area to do and a resident wondered if any land would be available for a skate or cycle park. Cllr Leakey will ask for an outline of what they propose before it is looked into further.

**14.02.21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.15pm which will be held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm. Details of how to join the meeting will be available on the next agenda.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_