

**MELLS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)**

**Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on**  
**Tuesday 11 May 2021**

**01.05.21 PRESENT:**

Cllr John Earl – Chair, Cllr Edmund Costelloe, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr David Seviour, Cllr Helen Leakey, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Cllr John Henderson, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr Steve West

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

**Members of the public:** One

**02.05.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Jeremy Poynton                   **Absent:** Cllr VinceTurner

**03.05.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**04.05.21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None

**05.05.21 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES HELD ON 9 MARCH 2021**

Previously circulated. The minutes were then approved and signed by the Chair.

**06.05.21 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:**

As Annual Parish Meeting.

**07.05.21 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:** None

**08.05.21 MATTERS ARISING**

**i. Superfast Broadband:**

Voneous are pushing forward with installing their system which should be completed by the end of July.

**ii. Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane:**

Cllr Earl will put together some sketches to submit to Highways. Cobbles would be costly but in keeping with the local area. The access plate would need to remain accessible.

**iii. Website:**

The new website is now live. The Clerk now has control over the site and will be able to upload news items, minutes etc promptly.

**iv. Telephone box – painting:**

It was felt that the quotes received were rather a lot for an item that currently does not have a specific use. Clerk to write to the school to see if they still wish to use the box.

**v. New Community Trust:**

Cllr Henderson has slightly changed the proposal which the Clerk will forward to Ian Strachan at the quarry to open up discussions with them. The quarry is receptive to local groups and organisations approaching them directly for funding.

There is £90k in the Restoration Fund to reinstate the local area once the quarry has closed but this cannot be accessed until then. The quarry is planning a new funding stream for local organisations to submit their proposals for consideration. Cllr Henderson will attend the quarry meeting next week to find out more about this new fund.

**vi. Footway by quarry:**

Cllr Seewooruttun has met with the quarry to discuss where the footpath could run and this is now being looked into.

**vii. Improvements to Vobster Cross bus shelter:**

No response from Highways. Clerk to chase.

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

Cllr Asquith reported that the path has recently been cut back and appears to be the required width of 1.5m. Concerns were still raised about having the barbed wire on the side of the footpath rather than the field and whether this means of fencing was required at this location as there is no livestock in the field. Cllr Asquith will speak to the owner.

**10.05.21 HIGHWAY ISSUES:**

**i. Flooding by Vobster Quays:**

Highways has responded – *“Having given this site further consideration it is likely that the works required will fall outside our revenue works programme (General Maintenance) and will have to be included in our Capital works programme (Structural maintenance / improvement). The works will possibly include new drainage and raising the existing road level. I can confirm that we have put this site forward for inclusion in our 2022/2023 drainage improvements programme, should budgets allow I will try to include this site in this financial years programme. As previously mentioned due to the topography of this area and the adjacent field run-off water naturally falls from East -West. It’s possible that improvement works could potentially increase the water discharge at a greater rate than it is naturally doing so at present, for this reason we will have to consult with the adjacent landowner, this may influence how the works are designed.”*

**11.05.21 PLANNING**

**i. New Applications:**

**2021/0862/HSE:** Erection of front porch and single storey rear extension – 14 Longfield – no objections. The proposal is similar to others that have been built in Longfield.

**ii. Planning decisions:** None

**iii. Other planning matters:**

**Quarry applications:**

It is understood that there will be another application for the re-opening of Bartletts Quarry. Noise from the quarry is more evident at present. Quarrying standards and work practices appear to have slipped over the past few years. Members of the residents’ quarry group have requested monitoring equipment at their premises which will be assessed by an independent monitoring service.

**12.05.21 CORRESPONDENCE:**

Thank you from Mells Nursery for donation towards Forest Schools project.

**13.05.21 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**i. Payment of Accounts:**

Clerk’s Salary (April)		£253.25
Phone line rental	5.50	
Utilities	4.00	
Travel expenses	<u>3.60</u>	
		13.10
HMRC PAYE (Period 2)		£63.40
Creation of new website, design and hosting		£1,200.00
Sally Vince – final invoice for website hosting etc		£140.00
Information Commissioners Office – Annual renewal		£40.00
Zurich – annual insurance		£402.16

- ii. **Receipts:** Precept £11,500
- iii. **Annual Governance Part 2 Exemption Certificate 2020/2021 – approval and signing:**  
Previously circulated. All in favour of signing this certificate as the PC's gross income and expenditure is below £25,000. Clerk will forward to the external auditor.
- iv. **Approval and signing of Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021 – approval and signing:**  
Previously circulated. All in favour of approving the above. Chair and Clerk signed and dated form.
- v. **Approval and signing of Section 2 Accounting Statements for 2020:**  
Previously circulated. All in favour of approving the above. Chair and Clerk signed and dated form.

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

- i. **Abandoned vehicle – Chantry Lane:**  
This now has a MDC notice for its removal.
- ii. **Councillor resignation:**  
Cllr Costelloe reported that he will be tendering his resignation after the June meeting and will meet up with John Earl to discuss the leases etc. Going forwards, he would always be happy to help where possible.
- iii. **Parish Council 'Cup':**  
Cllr Asquith has found an engraved cup which seems to indicate it was previously used as an award from the PC. No one has any recollection of this.
- iv. **Dog bin by church:**  
Contractors will only empty a bin if it is less than a certain distance from the road, believed to be 10 metres so this location would not be suitable.
- v. **Broadband – Vobster/Newbury:**  
This is now at the planning stage but there is a 3-4 month delay.
- vi. **Litter bin for bus shelter – Vobster Cross:**  
The layby is frequently littered. Cllr Seviour asked whether a bin attached to the bus shelter may alleviate the problem. Clerk will contact Neighbourhood services to see if the location is suitable for emptying before purchasing a bin.
- vii. **Please drive carefully sign: The**

**15.05.21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

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

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

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