

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
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A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 10 January 2010 at Mells Barn.

- 1. PRESENT:** Lady Asquith, Mr E Costelloe (Chairman), Mrs M Jennings, Mrs J Mann, Mr C Tye, Ms R Wallace (Vice Chair), Mr S West and Miss H Wynter.

The Clerk was in attendance.

- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Abi Blanche-Martin, Lord Oxford and the County/District Councillor.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were declared on behalf of Clare Asquith, Lord Oxford and Jane Mann for item (5).

- 4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 8 December 2009 had been circulated. It was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

5. PRESENTATION BY JOHN MANN ON WHITE BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

- a) The current bridge had been examined and found to be rusty and wobbly but should be good for at least another 3-5 years.
- b) A fairly lightweight replacement structure would not entail expensive replacement of the abutments.
- c) Need to check on current health & safety requirements for bridges as children could fall through existing railings.
- d) Unless any new bridge were placed on exactly the same spot the structure would have to be positioned higher over the river bank.
- e) Hardwood (oak) would have a life span of 20/30 years without maintenance provided abutment contact points were well drained.
- f) Softwood would require painting every 5 years; underside of timber is vulnerable to rot.
- g) Stone too grand and too expensive.
- h) Non galvanised steel would last at least a 15 years without painting
- i) Galvanised steel has a 50/60 year lifespan.
- j) Chopping down the sycamore tree near Brook Cottage would improve the aspect and remove some shade.
- k) A new bridge would cost between £5,000 and £20,000.
- l) Clare Asquith would find out who owns White Bridge.
- m) Jane Mann would supply print outs of possible designs for discussion at the next meeting.

6. MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Police Community Support Officer's Steering Committee:** The Clerk reported on recent developments.
- b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Nothing to report

- c) **Erosion of footpath from Top Lane to White Bridge:** Funding for repair work had been received and Chris Tye would obtain a quotation.
- d) **Duck Pond footbridge:** Repairs had been undertaken.
- e) **Village Shop litter bin:** The Estate wished the litter bin to remain in its present position.
- f) **Warnings signs at Woodlands End/Great Elm finger post:** The Chairman had arranged to see Jeff Bunting on 5 February. Chris Tye would supply photographs illustrating the traffic problem.
- g) **Millenium Oaks:** Clare Asquith reported that replacement oaks had been ordered.
- h) **Lime Kiln Hill noise from reversing lorries:** The Clerk had written to Western Skip Hire suggesting the use of white noise to cut down noise levels for residents.

7. PLANNING

- a) **Proposed felling of a Lawson Cypress in a Conservation Area, Rashwood Cottage, Mells:** No objection from Mendip District Council.
- b) **Change of use of overflow restaurant area to 2 letting rooms and window alterations, Vobster Inn:** Mendip DC approval with conditions.
- c) **Erect house and garage (DEL), 49 Longfield, Mells (outline PP):** Mendip District Council refused outline planning permission

8. LETTERS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL: None

9. LETTERS FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Meeting of Parish Forum 1 February 6.00 p.m. MDC Offices:** Noted.

10. LETTERS AND REPORTS: None

11. RECREATION GROUND

- a) The Chairman had received from the solicitors draft documentation for a company limited by guarantee as well as for charitable status, should this option become desirable for grant obtaining purposes. A minimum of two directors should be appointed as soon as possible and to that end the Chairman had approached two local residents from whom an answer should be forthcoming within the week. A meeting between the Supporters Club committee members and the directors would be arranged. Further directors from the community could be appointed at any time.

12. FINANCIAL UPDATE (Oct, Nov, Dec 2009) Noted.

13. ACCOUNTS

- a) Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement
(*Rec Ground Rent 25/12/09-2403/10*) £ 125.00
- b) JK Costelloe
(*Clerk's salary – (Nov) paid by standing order*) £ 259.20
(*Expenses (Sept, Oct, Nov 2009)*) £ 0.60

It was resolved to pay the above accounts; payment of Clerk's expenses account to be deferred till March.

14. RECEIPTS

- | | | |
|--|---|--------|
| a) Barclays Instant Access Saver | | |
| <i>(Interest to 28 November 2009)</i> | £ | 0.41 |
| <i>(Interest to 21 December 2009)</i> | £ | 0.08 |
| b) Mendip District Council | | |
| <i>(Maintenance Grant for footpath repair)</i> | £ | 150.00 |

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) It was agreed to purchase a new Twinlock Crown minutes binder at a cost of £56.71 or less.
- b) The County/District Councillor had requested feedback on snow clearance:
 - i) Grit bin requested at Upper Vobster near emergency entrance to Vobster Diving School (Chairman to raise with Jeff Bunting.)
 - ii) As Murdercombe was not gritted the road should not have been reopened following the two accidents
 - iii) Little Green/School Hill/Holes Lane triangle should be gritted
 - iv) A special case should be made for gritting hills in villages which would otherwise be cut off from Frome.
- c) Monica Jennings reported that a large piece of stone in the War Memorial plinth had been cracked in the recent frost.
- d) Clerk asked to check if gritting salt were available to the public.
- e) Clare Asquith proposed that each parish councillor be provided with a large scale ordnance survey map of the parish cut into booklet form for easy identification of sites in planning applications. Clerk to investigate.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 2 March, 7.15 p.m. in Mells Barn.

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