

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
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A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 6 April 2010 at Mells Barn.

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

The Clerk was in attendance.

- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Lady Asquith, Ms Abi Blanche-Martin, Mrs J Mann, Lord Oxford and Mr C Tye.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

- 4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 2 March 2010 had been circulated. It was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Police Community Support Officer's Steering Committee:** The Clerk updated the Council from the PCSO's report.
- b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Steve West had attended a meeting of the Tarmac Quarry Group and advised that grants were available for stiles and kissing gates and the Ramblers Association would fit these free of charge. Councillors to submit suggested locations to Clerk.
- c) **Wheelie bin stickers:** PCSO Yvonne Mears would advise when these were available.
- d) **SpeedWatch:** David Thomson had advised the Chairman of problems with the scheme's administration.
- e) **White Bridge improvements:** John Mann was currently working on new designs in conjunction with Raymond Asquith.
- f) **Erosion of footpath from Top Lane to White Bridge:** Deferred in the absence of Chris Tye.
- g) **War Memorial plinth:** The Chairman to contact Raymond Asquith about its ownership and suggested that the Parish Council might contribute to the costs of its repair which could be quite simple.
- h) **Grit bin for Upper Vobster:** The Clerk passed brochures with grit bins to the Vice Chair who would contact her with a choice of bin and the preferred location.
- i) **Large scale maps for councillors:** Mendip DC had advised that paper maps were not available to this scale but that online maps relating to current planning applications were available via its website.
- j) **Recreation Ground:** The Chairman reported that the nominated directors had been sent the relevant documents and that details would be forwarded to the solicitors.
- k) **Eroded stonework in Lutyens shelter :** Clare Asquith advised that the Estate was aware of the problem and would deal with the repair in due course.
- l) **Rubbish bin:** Martin Moore had been asked to provide a quote.

- m) **Nomination for trustee of Mells & Vobster Community Trust:** The Clerk had written to the Secretary of the Trust advising her that John Candy was willing to be nominated by Mells Parish Council.
- n) **Dumping of timber on riverbank:** The Clerk had contacted Lime Kiln Hill Quarry on this issue.
- o) **Dumping on Conduit Road:** The Clerk had asked Mendip DC to remove the carcass.

7. PLANNING

- a) **Erection of dwelling with parking (DEL), 49 Longfield, Mells:** The parish recommended that the decision on revised outline planning permission be left to the Planning Department.
- b) **Change of use of units 3 & 4 from B2 (general industrial) to sale of motor vehicles, Landrover UK, Lakeside Park, Mells:** Parish recommended approval but suggested that a subdued communal sign would be more in keeping with the rural nature of the site than the current individual signs.
- c) **Replacement windows in southern elevation, Mells Tithe Barn Mells:** listed building consent approved with conditions.

8. LETTERS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Somerset Aggregates consultation paper:** Noted.

9. LETTERS FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL None

10. LETTERS AND REPORTS

- a) Request for subscription to Community Council for Somerset (£30 recommended minimum): it was resolved to discontinue membership as it did not represent value for money.
- b) Request for grant from Victim Support Avon and Somerset: it was resolved not to support this organisation.
- c) Request for affiliation fee (£138.74) for SALC: it was resolved to pay this fee.

11. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

- a) It was agreed to adopt the revised draft standing orders

12. INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW

- a) The Parish Council reviewed the effectiveness of its system of internal audit and found it adequate for its purpose.
- b) The Parish Council reviewed the effectiveness of its system of internal control and found it adequate for its purpose
- c) The Parish Council verified the continued existence of tangible assets shown in the Register.

13. ANNUAL AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2010

- a) The Clerk advised that the Audit papers for the year to 31 March 2010 had been received.
- b) Notice of Appointment of Date for Exercise of Electors' Rights to be posted by 16 April.
- c) Annual Return to be sent to auditors by 1 June.
- d) Angela West had agreed to carry out the internal audit.

14. ACCOUNTS

a)	Mendip Citizens Advice Bureau (Grant)	£ 100.00
b)	Age Concern, Frome (Grant)	£ 50.00
c)	Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement (Recreation Ground Rent 25/03/10 – 23/06/10)	£ 125.00
d)	Mells Barn Management Committee (Hire of Barn for 2009 PC meetings)	£ 200.00
e)	JK Costelloe (Clerk's salary – (Feb) paid by standing order)	£ 259.20
	(Expenses (Sept, Oct, Nov 2009))	£ 0.60
	(Expenses (Dec 09, Jan, Feb 2010))	
	Phone calls	£ 0.85
	Stationery (2 printer cartridges + 1 Crown Binder)	£ 95.90
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		£ 97.35

It was agreed to pay the above accounts.

15. RECEIPTS

a)	Barclays Instant Access Saver (Interest 7 Dec '09-7 Mar'10)	£ 1.27
b)	Mendip District Council (Precept 01/04/2010 – 31/03/2011)	£ 9,000.00

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Helen Wynter and Steve West had a productive meeting with the Manager of Western Skip Hire over the installation of White Noise to cut down sound levels from reversing lorries. They would continue to monitor the situation.
- b) The Clerk was asked to contact David McClew re footpath clearance. It was understood that the Council would be unlikely to receive a footpath grant this year although the Clerk would request one from the Footpaths Officer.
- c) Due to the forthcoming General Election the date of the Annual Parish Meeting and subsequent Parish Council meeting had been changed to Tuesday 11 May.
- d) The Parish Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday 24 August had been changed to Tuesday 17 August.
- e) Monica Jennings submitted an account for new plants and was thanked for maintaining the War Memorial Garden.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Following Annual Parish Meeting, Tuesday 11 May, 7.00 p.m. in Mells Barn.