

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
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A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on Tuesday 12 July 2011 at Mells Barn.

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

The Clerk was in attendance.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Ms Abi Blanche-Martin and from the Mendip District Councillor.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Jane Mann declared an interest in Item 6(a)..

4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 14 June 2011 had been circulated. It was resolved that the minutes be adopted with the date at the top of the first page amended to 14 June. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a) **Police Community Support Officer's Steering Committee:** PCSO Yvonne Mears had advised that investigations into the Mells Village Shop break-in were continuing with no indication of a link to other incidents in the village. Police had carried out initial checks following reports that travellers had set up camp at Mells Road Station but stated that it was a private matter between the landowners and the travellers.
- b) **Quarry Liaison Committee:** Deferred in Steve West's absence.
- c) **Footpath across Mells Green:** Becky Askew had asked the Parish Council for financial help as, although Hanson is providing the stone, machinery and labour for laying the path and Mells Estate is contributing fencing materials, funding for fencing labour is still outstanding. As Becky Askew is hoping to raise some funds from the school and nursery school it was suggested that she recontacted the Parish Council once the final outstanding figure was known (probably in the autumn).
- d) **White Bridge:** John Mann and Rachel Pearce of Somerset County Council had agreed specifications which included a wider deck and a higher handrail. Drawings of the revised elevation were circulated. It was agreed that John Mann could finalise these specifications in conjunction with Rachel Pearce. Once final drawings had been agreed a village consultation would be arranged.
- e) **Recreation Ground/tennis courts surface:** The Chairman had discussed the poor state of the courts' surface with the Supporters' Club who advised that the maintenance team were at full stretch looking after the pitches and as the tennis courts were not used they had no plans nor resources to clear it. Peter Lowth, who has the necessary training and equipment, volunteered to spray off the weeds at no cost to the Parish Council. The Clerk to insert a notice in the parish magazine, once the spraying had taken effect, reminding residents that the two tennis courts are available to them free of charge.
- f) **Millennium Oaks:** The constricting tree ties had been removed.

6. PLANNING

- a) **Variation of condition 3 on planning permission to extend opening hours from 19.00 hours to 22.30 hours, Mells Village Shop:** Parish recommended approval.
- b) **Proposed felling of three trees in a conservation area (proposed replacement planting), Hazlewood, Top Lane, Mells:** Parish recommended approval.
- c) **Planning contravention notice at junction to Mells Down Farm, access track to Jericho, Mells:** The Senior Enforcement Officer at Mendip DC had written to British Rail (the probable owners of the site) and to the current occupiers to advise them of a suspected breach of planning control, namely the change of use of the land to residential without planning permission. The Chairman to urge the Mendip District Councillor to pursue the case and to write to Mendip stressing that vigorous action must be taken in view of the air of permanence which pervades the site.
- d) **Loft conversion with 2no pitched roof dormers and 1 no Velux roof light to the front elevation and 2no Velux roof lights to the rear elevation, Stoneleigh, Mells Green:** Mendip DC approval with conditions.
- e) **Proposed felling of trees in a conservation area, rear of Almshouses/ground of Lavender House, Top Road, Mells:** with Parish Council.

7. **LETTERS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL:** None.

8. **LETTERS FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL:** None.

9. LETTERS AND REPORTS

- a) **From Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance:** Letter of thanks for the grant of £100 noted.

10. ANNUAL AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

- a) The annual audit had been successfully concluded.
- b) A copy of the Statement of Accounts and the Auditors' Certificate had been published and a notice to that effect had been posted on the notice board for the statutory 14 days.
- c) The Parish Council thanked the Clerk for her work on the annual audit.

11. **FINANCIAL UPDATE APR/MAY/JUNE 2011:** Noted.

12. ACCOUNTS

- a) Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement Trust
(*Recreation Ground rent 24/06/11-28/09/11*) £125.00
- b) Moore Stephens
(*Audit of Parish Council Annual Return to 31 Mar 2011*) £144.00
- c) Somerset Association of Local Councils
(*Councillor Training 7 June 2011*) £ 25.00
- d) JK Costelloe
(*Clerk's salary – (June 2011)*) £ 259.20

(Clerk's expenses (Apr, My & Jun 2011))

Stationery	£ 49.25
Internal auditor gift	£ 16.85
Postage	£ 2.52
Phone calls	£ 4.82

£ 73.44

It was agreed to pay the above accounts.

13. RECEIPTS

- a) Barclays Business Saver Account
(Interest 7 Mar – 5 June 2011) £ 1.27

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) The Clerk had been alerted to the fact that every sewerage treatment system, private or otherwise, will need to be registered with the Environment Agency by the beginning of next year. Clerk to investigate and insert a notice to this effect in the parish magazine.
- b) Chris Tye, Helen Wynter, Monica Jennings and possibly Peter Lowth would attend the planning training session for parish councillors on 20 July at Shepton Mallet.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 30 August, 7.15 p.m. in Mells Barn.