

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**A meeting of Mells Parish Council took place on
Tuesday 21 January 2014 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe – Chair, Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mrs M Jennings, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Miss H Wynter, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr C Tye, Mr V Turner, Mr John Earl
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mrs J Mann, Mr S West
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **MINUTES OF MEETING** held on 10 December 2013 had previously been circulated. Subject to one amendment It was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.
5. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Recreation Ground Charitable Status:** No further information.
 - b) **Gully bottom of Line Kiln Hill:** This has been cleared.
 - c) **Bridge – Tynts Hill:** Chris Tye has dug a gully which has alleviated some of the problem. Still awaiting action from Highways.
 - d) **Bridge - by Duck Pond:** This was cleared by the Environment Agency although it is the responsibility of the Highways Department.
 - e) **Blocked drain by Vobster Inn:** The drain was jetted within 48 hours of reporting the problem. Further work is required as there is either a large blockage or a pipe collapse. This will be carried out in the next financial year.
6. **PLANNING**
2014/004 – The Beeches, Top Lane, Proposed pruning of an ash tree – no objections.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL** - None
8. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL**
 - a) *Mendip Local Plan Examination – Inspector’s Matters and Guidance notes.* Mells have not made representation regarding the Local Plan so this was for information only. Clerk reported that the submitted Local Plan has an additional 505 houses added to the original figure with the inference that these will be built in rural areas.
9. **OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**
 - a) *Victim Support* – Donation declined. Clerk to reply that the Parish Council would be supportive of contributing to extra policing.
 - b) *Somerset Waste Partnership – Proposed closure of Coleford Recycling site.* Chair to write disapproving of this course of action.
10. **FINANCIAL UPDATE – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER/JANUARY**
Total amount for both accounts is £11,612.50. All present were content with the accounts as presented.
11. **ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS**
 - a) J Book Clerk’s salary (December) £218.67

Expenses (December)	
1 trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	£ 3.60
Phone line rental	£ 5.50
Utilities	£ 4.00
	£13.10
b) HMRC PAYE - Period 10	£54.60
c) Grant for Mells with Vobster Churchyards	£1,600.00
d) Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement Trust	£147.50
<i>Proposed Ros Wallace Seconded Helen Wynter</i>	

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) *Dumped rubbish - Cundict Lane:* Clerk to report to Mendip DC.
- b) *Gap in hedge – Top Lane:* It has been noted that a couple of hedges have fallen down leaving large gaps that give no protection should a car veer off the road. Clerk to report to Highways,
- c) *Noticeboard:* This has not been varnished yet. Claire Asquith to action. One of the doors has swollen in the recent bad weather.
- d) *Trees – Churchyard:* Several trees have come down in the churchyard causing damage to several gravestones. Concerns were raised that information had been received that the churchyard was not covered by the church insurance. Chair to write to clarify.
- e) *Recent spate of burglaries:* There has been an increase in burglaries especially from farms. The Parish Council receive monthly reports from the PCSO but these do not seem to reflect the extent of what is reported locally. The Police have met with around 20 people who have been affected recently.
- f) *Trees by Reading Rooms:* Estate to assess.
- g) *Grit – School Hill:* Clerk to ask Highways to deposit a pile of grit at the top of School Lane by the phone box.
- h) *Sign – Top Lane:* The brown Mells information sign was damaged and has since disappeared. Claire Asquith to consult with The Talbot and the shop regarding what information they would like on the replacement sign.
- i) *Tennis courts:* The vegetation is currently in abeyance. The pavilion is in disrepair and currently has several roof tiles missing.
- j) *Pot holes:* There are various potholes around the village. Some have recently been filled, some have been marked for attention and some seem to have been overlooked. Clerk to contact Highways regarding the large pothole by the main entrance to the Mells estate.
- k) *Parking by the shop:* This was very bad on Sunday 19 January. It was possibly the result of an organised walk. Clerk to write to the Rambling Association asking their walkers to park more considerately in future.
- l) *Litter - Beer cans:* There has been an increase of cans littering the village. Councillors to be vigilant.
- m) *Wire over stone tiles – Bus shelter:* This has been lifted off and requires replacing. Estate will attend to this.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 11 March at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....

MINUTES\2014\21JANUARY2014