

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 11 November 2014 at Mells Barn**

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1. **PRESENT:** Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr J Earl, Mr S West, Mrs A Moir, Mrs J Mann, Mr C Tye, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr V Turner, Mr J Price
One member of the public **In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk
 2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr E Costelloe – Chairman
 3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
 4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - Resident wished to discuss the bus timetable and mobile phone signal in Mells. Discussed under Item 6.e) and 6.f)
 5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – dated 17 October 2014 had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Vice Chair. Proposed John Earl seconded Alison Moir.
 6. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Vobster Bus Stop:** The post has been replaced. Clerk has contacted First Group for the sign to be replaced.
 - b) **Overgrown vegetation opposite Primrose Cottage, Lower Vobster:** Buses are having to move out into the middle of the road to avoid the vegetation. Clerk to chase.
 - c) **Compacted gravel hump:** Chris Tye to inspect and report to Clerk who will chase.
 - d) **Bus Timetable – Frome ‘BUG’ meeting:** Clerk has received a response from Somerset Highways who are unable to give further funding but has received no response from the First Group. Clerk advised resident to attend the Frome Bus User Group (BUG) meeting on Wednesday 19 November. A suggestion has been made by Frome BUG that it maybe beneficial for the rural villages to form their own group as their requirements differ from the town.
 - e) **Mobile phone signal:** The government is looking to apply pressure on mobile companies to allow the public to roam freely between providers. This may not resolve all reception issues as signals would drop whilst the transfer between masts took place. Chris Tye reporter that booster signal boxes do allow users of Vodaphone and O2 in Mells to have a signal around their house and garden. David Heath MP would support the PC pursuing further action. Clerk has written to 7 surrounding parish councils asking about the mobile reception in their area. To date, only Buckland Dinham has responded and reported that reception in their area is generally acceptable but they have concerns about the broadband speeds. It was agreed to wait until next month to see if more responses are received before making a decision on how to proceed.
 - f) **Mells Park Estate – Community Benefits Payments:** The original email stated that this was an ‘annual’ grant. Clerk to establish whether this is correct and for how long the grant would be distributed as typically grants of this kind are given for up to 25 years. Ros Wallace reported that the Trust could accept the grant but explained that the Trust was unlikely to be running in 10 years due to the funds being insufficient for it to continue that long. It was unanimously agreed that the PC should accept the money and a specification of how the money should be spent would be decided.
 - g) **Finger posts – repainting:** For discussion at the next meeting.
 - h) **Telephone box – Mells Green – repainting:** For discussion at the next meeting.
 - i) **Overgrown vegetation/Car park signs – Recreation Ground:** Clerk has been unable to contact Rob Symes who has been away. Chris Tye will advise Rob on what work is required.
 7. **PLANNING**

2014/2080/OTS Land at Hillcrest, Somers Hill to Mells Green – outline planning permission for erection of dwelling house: John Earl and Ros Wallace met with the applicant on site. Large garden had adequate space for new property. Recommended approval of ‘outline’ planning.

2014/2193/TCA Prospect Cottage, Top Lane: Felling of Thuja tree in conservation area - no objections.

2014/2138/OTS: Acrewood, Little Green: Application for outline planning permission (with some matters reserved) for one detached dwelling sought for layout, scale and access. Concerns were

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raised about the access to this site. Chris Tye/John Earl/Clare Asquith and Jan Seewooruttun will assess the application.

Mendip Decisions

2014/1115/FUL Erection of ancillary building and associated works – Vobster Quay Diving Centre – approved with 4 conditions.

Appeal

Erection of four wind turbines (max 80m blade) Torr Works Quarry. Clerk is waiting for a draft appeal letter to be forwarded which will be the basis of Mells PC objection. Final date for submissions to Planning Inspectorate is 16 December.

8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) **Proposed changes to Mobile Library Service:** Somerset CC is proposing to remove the Mells Mobile Library service in August 2015 as it is less than 3 miles (in a straight line) from the nearest library. Clerk to write that this is disappointing and would be very difficult for non car users/*elderly* to get Frome Library with the current 2-3 hourly bus service.
- b) **Notice of Public Path Order FR10/59 – 2 Underhill Cottages:** The Order was made on 6 November 2014.

9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Parishes Information Bulletin:** Handed to Vince Turner
- b) **Publication of 'A Neighbourhood Plan for Frome':** Consultation running between Monday 10th November and Tuesday 23 December.

10. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Mendip Community Transport – request for donation:** For consideration.

11. MEETING DATES FOR 2015

Clerk submitted proposed dates. The May meeting date will be confirmed at a later stage as it needs to be held within a certain time period after the elections.

12. CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL GRANTS/DONATIONS

Traditionally the PC has given consideration to donations when approached. Consideration will be given to having set annual donations to a couple of chosen organisations which would possibly benefit all residents. Councillors to submit suggestions at the next meeting.

13. PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR 2015

Clerk had previously circulated a draft budget based on a precept of £9,000. Mendip DC have informed that costs for a contested election could be as much as £2,000. Budget and precept to be finalised at the next meeting.

NEW SIGNATORIES FOR ACCOUNT - Ros Wallace and John Earl to be added to the account.

14. ACCOUNTS

a)	J Book	Clerk's salary (October)	£273.27
b)	Expenses		
		Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	£ 3.60
		Phone line rental	£ 5.50
		Utilities	£ 4.00
		Stamps & labels	<u>£58.41</u>
			£71.51

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Whatley Quarry noise:** Complaints have been received about the increased activity at the quarry, especially at night. Steve West advised complainants to phone the quarry direct and have the complaint logged.
- b) **Mells School - request for donation:** Deferred to next meeting.
- c) **Moss on pavement Longfield:** Clerk to arrange for its removal.
- d) **Dog waste bins:** These have been installed and Clerk has arranged for them to be emptied.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 9 December 2014 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.10pm.