

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 14 July 2015 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe - Chair, Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mr J Earl, Mr S West, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mrs A Moir, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith **In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr C Tye, Mr V Turner
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –** None
5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING –** dated 9 June 2015 had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.
6. **CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS**
Three applications for the two positions on the Council had been received. Two of the applicants were present at the meeting and were invited to give a short presentation about their skills and experience. A paper ballot was held and the results were counted by the Clerk as the Returning Officer. The Chair then announced that Mr Jeremy Poynton and Mr Alan Brady would be joining the Council.
7. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Mobile Phone signal:** All the south west MP's have met to discuss the various issues in the area and broadband and mobile signals being on the agenda.
 - b) **Overgrown vegetation – Recreation Ground:** Councillors had met one evening with trimmers and rakes to clear the grounds. Special thanks were extended to Vince Turner who came along with a tractor and cleared a substantial area around the edge of the field. Clerk to write to the netball team leaders thanking them for clearing the tennis courts and remarking the netball pitch. Chris Tye is sourcing a couple of litter bin signs to put on the large rubbish bin to make the bin more obvious to users of the recreation ground.
 - c) **Flooding – Bottom Lane:** Clare Asquith has passed this matter to Christopher Jerram, Chesterton Humberts.
 - d) **Mells Daffodil Festival:** No response from the committee. Clerk to chase.
 - e) **Fingerpost – Knaptons Hill:** The road and junction are very deceptive and a couple of cars have gone into the hedge not realising there is a T junction. The give way sign is currently covered with vegetation. Clerk to inform Highways. Clerk will also request that a STOP sign is installed on the junction and ask for reinstatement of the white lines.
 - f) **Raised cobblestone:** This has not been replaced. Clerk to chase.
 - g) **Noticeboard – Little Green:** Clare Asquith will make enquiries.
 - h) **Activity by old BT Exchange – Vobster:** Alison Moir to make enquiries. Clerk to follow up with Cllr Drewe.
 - i) **Litter bin by the Post Office and dog waste bin by Lutyens shelter:** Clerk has sent Shop Committee details of various bins and is awaiting a response. Position of the dog waste bin to be approved by the Estate.
8. **WITHDRAWAL OF 184 BUS SERVICE**
Chair had attended a FAVBUG meeting at the Cheese and Grain 9 July. A protest was arranged to block the buses in the centre of Frome for 5 minutes on 11 July. The local MP's have been briefed and need to work together. Somerset County Council do not have any extra funding available.

9. PLANNING

New applications

2015/1393/HSE 20 Fairview - New pitched roof on existing extension with extensions front and back to kitchen. Jan Seewooruttun and John Earl will assess.

Mendip and County Decisions

2015/0815/HSE Greystones, Top Lane – To convert existing ground floor garage to a kitchen with bedroom and en suite over. Construct a new detached garage with additional access – APPROVED.

2015/0452/FUL Mellis Road Works, Vobster Cross – Erection of 2 new production buildings with concrete batching plants – APPROVED

2015/0748/CNT Continued operation of waste transfer station until 30 March 2020 – GRANTED.

Appeals

Erection of four wind turbines (max 80m blade) Torr Works Quarry: A leading QC has been employed to help with the appeal which is due to take place at the beginning of September. Organisers of the campaign have asked for donations towards costs.

10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

a) **Adopt a Path scheme:** Somerset CC is asking residents to 'Adopt a Path' which entails the adoptee regularly walking it and pruning back vegetation. Secateurs and gloves are provided.

11. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL - none

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE - none

13. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

a)	J Book	Clerk's salary (June)	£279.28
----	--------	-----------------------	---------

b)	Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement Trust		£147.50
----	--	--	---------

Proposed Ros Wallace seconded Steve West

c) Receipts - none

d) External Auditor's report:-

'Independence of Internal Auditor: - It appears that the internal auditor may have been involved in completing the figures for the annual return. This could affect his/her independence. The internal auditor should not be requested to undertake tasks that may compromise his/her independence, such as completing section 1 of the annual return.'

Clerk explained that she pencils in the figures for the internal auditor to check. If correct the internal auditor rubs out the pencil and writes in the figures in pen. This procedure has been carried out previously for years and had never been questioned before.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) **Withdrawal of bus service:** Clare Asquith asked whether it would be feasible to run a minibus should the service be withdrawn. This was deemed too expensive but other methods of transport eg. car sharing, Slinky Bus would be looked into should the bus service be stopped.

a) **Speedwatch:** Jeremy Poynton reported that the local quarry lorries are very good at sticking to the speed limit. Holes Lane regularly has traffic travelling at 40mph. Longfield has random speeding. Very few vehicles speed by the school but this could be due to the timing of the watch. A Police presence has been requested. Speedwatch signs will be put up when suitable locations can be found. The presence of regular high viz jackets on the roads has improved speeding.

b) **Streetlight – Lower Vobster:** No 1 streetlight by Primrose Cottage has not worked since it was converted to LED. Clerk to report.

- c) **Whatley Quarry Liaison meeting:** Steve West will attend the next meeting and asked for any comments. Chair reported that there seemed to be an increase in activity and noise in the evenings up to 10.00pm.
- d) **Gates:** A gate has been removed from the footpath that goes towards the church in Fairview. A gate has also been put into the fence in New Street by the garages. The Estate will investigate.
- e) **Pothole:** Clerk to report large pothole in Longfield.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 11 August 2015 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed..... Date.....

Print Name.....