

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 10 November 2015 at Mells Barn**

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1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe - Chair, Ms R Wallace – Vice Chair, Mr J Earl, Mr S West, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mrs A Moir, Mr A Brady, Mr C Tye, Mr J Poynton
3 members of the public **In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk
 2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr V Turner
 3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
 4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
 - a) **Somerset Wildlife Trust:** Ellie Higgins and Lila Morris explained the research the Trust has carried out in and around Mells. The survey has discovered that 12% of the Great Horseshoe bat population live in Mells. Following their research they have mapped out where the rich grasses and woodland habitats are and whether they are linked together or fragmented. It is hoped that the fragmented land can be joined to encourage wildlife to move around more freely and spread to new area by encouraging landowners to manage hedges and land that they have identified as being suitable habitat for the various wildlife in the area. The Trust is realistic about what can be achieved and are looking for reasonable solutions. The Trust would be very interested to hear from local residents regarding sightings of hedgehogs and bats and ideas that would improve the area for wildlife. Clerk to forward email address of group who were recently involved with the wind turbines. Trust to email copy of the map presented to the meeting.
 5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – dated 13 October 2015 had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.
 6. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Mobile Phone signal/broadband:** The proposal for a mast between Mells and Leigh on Mendip will not be going ahead. Alan Brady has spoken to Clare Wilson, Somerset Standard who will be contacting David Warburton MP and Jacob Rees-Mogg MP. Fibre has been run into the exchange for several years for high speed broadband but there is no date available yet for when it will be run through the village.
 - b) **Fingerpost painting:** No further information.
 - c) **Raised cobblestone:** Somerset Highways will inspect.
 - d) **Noticeboard requiring varnishing – Little Green:** Awaiting quote from Estate handyman.
 - e) **Replacement of the Litter bin by the Post Office and the bin by the duck pond, dog waste bin by Lutyens shelter and damaged dog waste bin Manor/Church fields:** Awaiting fixing information before ordering the bins. Clerk is also trying to get two bin liners.
 - f) **Streetlight No 1 – Lower Vobster:** This is still not working. Clerk to chase.
 - g) **Removal of gates – corner of Fairview and Church Field:** Clerk to contact Mendip DC.
 - h) **Barn Lease:** No further information. Chair to chase Diocese.
 7. **PLANNING**

New applications
2015/1789/LBC & 2015/1787/FUL: Refurbishment and extension of cottage. The Cottage, Little Green. Passed to Alison Moir and Chris Tye.

Mendip Decisions
2015/2014/TCA: Fell 2 stems of an ash tree – Rose Cottage, Little Green – No objections. No TPO required.
2015/1954/APP2015/2128/HSE: Internal alterations, convert existing garage into study, erect new garage and store – The Rectory, Gay Street – Approved.
2015/2249/TCA: Remove wild cherry tree and reduce Norway maple to pollard points. Rossendale, Top Lane – No Objection. TPO not required.

Appeals
Erection of four wind turbines (max 80m blade) Torr Works Quarry: Enquiry has taken place and the result will be known in January.
 10. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL** - None

11. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Parishes Information Bulletin**

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Frome Town Council bus survey:** The new bus service appears to be being used more than the old service. Frome Town Council is sending out surveys to all the local parishes to establish the level of bus usage and requirement.

13. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

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|----|---|---------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| a) | J Book | Clerk's salary (October) | | £279.28 |
| | Expenses | | | |
| | | Trip to Mells (@45p/mile) | £3.60 | |
| | | Phone line rental | £5.50 | |
| | | Utilities | <u>£1.00</u> | |
| | | | £13.10 | <u>£292.38</u> |
| b) | Mendip DC Election costs | | | £170.74 |
| c) | Chris Rowe – War memorial hedge | | | £75.00 |
| d) | Preliminary budget for 2016/2017 – The precept is likely to remain at £10,000 for 2016/17. To be formally approved at the December meeting. | | | |

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Traffic on Selwood Street:** The three posts placed by residents on Selwood Street have been removed. Whilst they were in situ traffic was notably improved. One solution is to create a car park at Church Close for The Talbot, Walled Gardens and The Barn and have parking restrictions in place on Selwood Street or another would be the land opposite the bus shelter by the manor gates. Parking by the Post Office is also causing problems. Parish Council has to be mindful of not pushing problems away from the centre of Mells into other areas. All were in favour of action being taken to improve the situation. Chair to write to the Estate with a proposal.
- b) **Co-ordination of village events:** Residents have noticed that there is often a clash of large events going on within the village which exacerbate the traffic situation and unsocial behaviour in the late evening. John Earl explained that The Barn limit weddings to only 16 times a year but could hold one most weekends as the demand is there. It would be difficult to liaise with the other businesses in the village as bookings are taken up to two years in advance. The Talbot had previously said when it re-opened that it would honour the weddings already booked but would not book anymore. This has not been upheld. Chair to write to Cllr Edward Drewe regarding any planning contraventions.
- c) **Post Office latest collection:** The rounds have been changed and now all post is taken to Bath Sorting Office. The signs on the post boxes are incorrect and will be changed to read Bath.
- d) **Speedwatch:** Jeremy Poynton reported that once the legal aspect has been approved, Police will be able to undertake watches with a camera. Longfield has intermittent speeding. **Streetlight – Fairview:** A resident has complained about the light being emitted from a streetlight at the end of Fairview. Clerk to ask if a hood can be placed over it.
- e) **Dangerous layby – road to Newbury:** There is often flytipping in this layby and it is very dangerous for vehicles who park in it to reverse back out onto the road. Situation to be monitored.
- f) **Tarmac meeting:** Steve West cannot attend this meeting and asked if anyone else would be able to attend.
- g) **Whatley Quarry:** The noise seems to have increased again recently.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 8 December 2015 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

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

Print Name.....