MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 24 May 2016 at Mells Barn

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1. PRESENT: Mr E Costelloe – Chairman, Mr J Earl – Vice Chair, Mr C Tye, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr A Brady, Mr J Poynton, Mrs A Moir, Mr S West
4 members of the public **In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – dated 12 April 2016 had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

6. CO-OPTION OF ONE COUNCILLOR
One application had been received in answer to the notices posted. Mr David Seviour was asked to give a brief resume of his life and skills. He reported that he had recently moved to Vobster although he had been bought up fairly locally in Midsomer Norton so knew the area well. All were in favour of Mr Seviour joining the Council and he was invited to join the meeting.

8. MATTERS ARISING

a) **Mobile Phone signal/broadband:** Clerk had received an email from EMF/CTIL requesting further details regarding the sites that have been offered within the parish for a mast. BT have been seen working at Vobster Cross and it is believed they were enabling the cabinet for superfast broadband.

b) **Fingerpost painting and re-seating of fingerpost, Rashwood Lane footpath, Gay Street:** Somerset CC no longer supply contractors lists. Clare Asquith may have found someone interested in taking on the work.

c) **Noticeboard requiring varnishing – Little Green:** Clare Asquith will ask the contractor to do this.

d) **Replacement of the Litter bin by the Post Office:** The new bin has been incorrectly installed by the duck pond. However, it has been found to be relieving the pressure on the bin by the Post Office. Clerk has been asked to source a new liner for the bin by the Post Office. John Earl will drop the keys for the litter bin into the shop.

Jeremy Poynton asked whether a dog waste bin could be purchased for Rectory Corner as waste is frequently left in this area. Clare Asquith will ask for approval from the Estate.

e) **Barn Lease:** The Chair and John Earl plan to meet to discuss the lease as soon as possible.

f) **Traffic on Selwood Street:** Estate thinks the proposed solution is workable. The next stage is for the sub-committee to meet with Viscount Oxford to discuss how the spaces can be created. A car park within the village will not be feasible.

g) **Contractor for footpath and gully clearance – village handyman:** Chairman is meeting a prospective contractor next week.

h) **Mells Park Trust – Annual Community Grant:** This will either be accumulated or possibly used to help fund the works in Selwood Street.

i) **Whatley Quarry concerns:** The quarry has stopped crushing works between 11.30pm-6.30am. They have not reduced the amount of work being carried out but have moved working schedules to overlap more. There was a very large blast earlier in the week which was very noticeable in Chantry. The general running noise levels have definitely increased over the past two years. Blasting is not so much of a problem. Both Whatley and Torr quarries use the railway. Investigations are being made into what is causing noise from the rails at night. The quarry has completed their dust plan.

j) **Estate matters – dumped fridges and gatepost by Manor Gates footpath:** The fridges have been removed. Alan Brady's contact has agreed to help remove fridges and rubbish in the future**.**

k) **Hapsford Mill site visit:** No further information. Clerk to chase.
l) **Street trading:** Goods are much tidier on the pavement.
m) **Dwarf wall by telephone exchange:** Somerset CC will inspect and take action if necessary.
o) **Dangerous wall – Knapton Hill:** Somerset CC will inspect and carry out any necessary remedial action.

9. PLANNING

New applications

2016/0660/HSE Proposed new 1.5 storey side extension to existing detached dwelling. New windows throughout and new cladding to house. Moon Cottage (formally Needwood), Top Lane. For approval.

2016/0991/HSE Proposed ground floor side extension for sunroom, WC and shower. Frogbury Cottage, Upper Vobster Road, Vobster. For approval.

Mendip Decisions

2016/0049/CLP Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the construction of a new single storey rear extension following the demolition of exisiting single storey rear extension and the conversion of existing garage into workshop. Glebe Cottage, Longfield. Approved.

10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - none

11. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

a) **Parishes Information Bulletin**
b) **Disclosable pecuniary interests:** Previously circulated as a reminder to councillors to disclose all required interests.

12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

a) **Application offering unforeseen benefits in the vicinity of Highbury Street BA3 5NJ and Anchor Road BA3 5PB by Dudley Taylor Pharmacies Ltd:** Another application has been received. Chairman to respond.
b) **Humberts:** Five year rent review for the recreation ground is due August and will be adjusted by the Retail Price Index. Increase will be calculated and will be effective from 29 September 2016.
c) **Centenary Fields:** Project to protect fields and war memorial parks (for in perpetuity) that were given in memory of those who lost their lives. This does not apply to any land in Mells.

13. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance as at 28 April 2016 - HSBC £19,806.76. Balance as at March 2016 - Barclays £5,189.68

a)	J Book	Clerk's Salary (April)		£279.28
		Expenses Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60	
		Phone line rental	5.50	
		Utilities	4.00	
			£13.10	

Internal Auditor's fee	£50.00
Came & Company – Annual insurance	£907.45
SALC affiliation fee	£156.50

Proposed Chris Tye Seconded John Earl.

b) **Receipts:** VAT refund £219.74
c) **Approval of Statement of Internal Controls:** All in favour of accepting.
d) **Internal Auditor's report:** No areas of concern were noted.
e) **Approval of Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2015/2016:** The Governance and accounting statements were approved in line with requirements and were signed and dated by the Chairman and Clerk.
e) **Clerk's salary increase:** NALC and NJC have reached an agreement on the new pay scales for 2016-2017. Clerk's salary will rise by approximately 9p/hr or a total increase of £33.49/year. All approved this increase. To be backdated to April.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) **Quarry noise:** Steve West would be happy to be contacted regarding noise from the quarry. He would then go out and investigate the source.

b) **Village Trust:** There is some money from the Reading Rooms which may be used to improve a Vobster footpath if a feasibility study shows that this is a good use of the money. Clerk to give Steve West the contact at Somerset Footpaths.

c) **Removal of fence:** A section of fence in the church field was removed for the Daffodil Day and has subsequently been taken. Estate to replace.

d) **Cricket field pavilion:** Chris Tye has been looking into external improvements for the pavilion to make it more in keeping. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

e) **Wessex Water notice:** Concerns have been raised by the wording on the sign adjacent to recent works which states 'for future development'. No planning applications have been received.

f) **Website:** Clerk to ensure that minutes are up to date on the website and will contact the magazine to have the website address put in the magazine.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 14 May 2016 at **7.15pm** in Mells Barn

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed……. Date…….

Print Name……..