

**MELLS PARISH COUNCIL**  
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on  
Tuesday 13 December 2016 at Mells Barn**

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1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe – Chairman, Mr J Earl – Vice Chair, Mr C Tye, Mr S West, Mr V Turner, Mr J Seewooruttun  
**In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk 2 members of the public
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr D Seviour, Mr A Brady, Mr J Poynton, Mrs A Moir
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
**Walled Garden:** Sam Wylde, of Sam's Kitchen explained that a retrospective application has been submitted for the supply of food and drink on the premises. The site will be used as a horticultural centre with a café. No parking will be made available on the Barn's land for the new business but access to the garage will be maintained. Chair offered the use of the Recreation Ground's car park to help alleviate parking on Selwood Street. Mr Wylde plans to grow half of the fruit and vegetables he requires for his business on the site. Opening times will be very similar to the current times although the times for Friday and Saturday nights may be extended until 10.00pm over the summer months. Dinner parties may occasionally be held on the terrace at the back but Mr Wylde is mindful of how noise travels and will endeavour to control it. A manager will live permanently on the site. Mr Wylde also plans to have a community press where residents can bring their apples to be pressed. Residents would take away the bulk of the yield with the business retaining a small percentage.  
  
Large events are not planned and should not conflict with the Barn
5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS** – dated 8 November 2016 had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.
6. **MATTERS ARISING**
  - a) **Mobile Phone signal/broadband:** Broadband is slowly being installed around the village. A pre-application consultation email has been received from Maxema for a proposed new base station installation at Mells Sewage Works, Top Lane. Clerk to write that the Parish Council is supportive of this proposal.
  - b) **Iron Fingerpost painting:** The contractor has started painting the posts and hopes to complete them by the end of the year.
  - c) **Barn Lease:** Thatcham and Hallam in Midsomer Norton has been instructed to undertake this work.
  - d) **Traffic on Selwood Street:** Highways is unable to give an exact date for the works so measures to prevent parking in the area cannot be undertaken and will therefore mean the work is very unlikely to be completed in one attempt. Larger passing place signs are in the process of being actioned.
  - e) **Pavillion 'facelift':** Various works have already been carried out and a list of further works has been put together.
  - f) **Old Telephone Exchange:** Works have stopped. Another tree appears to have been removed. Clerk to contact Cllr Drewe requesting he follows up the matter with Enforcement.
  - g) **Overgrown vegetation around the village:** Most of this has been removed and the colder weather has killed back more. An article will appear in the February magazine requesting residents to cut back any vegetation on their boundary that borders the highway.
  - h) **Parking on 'S' bend by War Memorial:** This remains a problem at busy times but it is unlikely any action will be taken.
  - i) **Incorrectly placed village signs – Vobster:** Highways has agreed to move the signs at a cost of approximately £650. Parish Council agreed for these works to be carried out. Steve

West will approach the Vobster Community Group to see if they would like to contribute. Clerk to place the order.

- j) **Bridge over River Mells, Vobster:** Highways has inspected the bridge but will not be carrying out any works at this time.
- l) **Pot holes – Fairview:** Some have been filled.
- m) **Dumped vehicles – Fairview:** Mendip DC has inspected and report that they are parked on their land. One car is still taxed. Mendip DC will monitor.
- m) **Overgrown Hedges – Fairview:** These have been cut back by a resident.
- n) **Flytipping – Murdercombe:** This has been cleared but flytipping in the area as a whole is on the increase.
- o) **Gully by Post Office:** Clerk to ask contractor to clear it.

## 7. PLANNING

**2016/2833/FUL** Erection of new 'Specials' building for production of bespoke concrete products. Mells Road Works, Vobster Cross to Hatchet Hill, Babington. Steve West and John Earl to undertake a site visit.

### Mendip Decisions

**2016/2552/HSE** Replacement of existing garden room with the erection of an oak framed orangery garden room. Laurel Cottage, Little Green. Mendip DC approved on 1 December 2016.

**2016/2558/TCA** Proposed works to beech tree. Birds Cottage, Little Green. Mendip DC approved on 1 December 2016.

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - none

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) **Proposed removal by BT of telephone kiosk – Mells:** After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to adopt the telephone box for £1. The decision on whether it will remain in its current position or whether it will be moved to a more central position will be made at a later date. Clerk to inform Mendip DC of this decision and look into the adoption process.

## 10. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company Ltd – Community Pay Back Scheme:** It is believed that this was meant for Mells in Suffolk. Clerk to respond accordingly.
- b) **Wadbury Valley – Japanese knotweed:** Wessex Water are investigating as it is near their sewage works.
- c) **Fussells Ironworks – recent works:** Tree clearing has been undertaken to ensure the safety of the walls.
- d) **Mendip Community Transport – request for donation:** A donation of £100 was agreed.

## 11. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance as at 28 November 2016 - HSBC £13,829.16. Balance as at September 2016 - Barclays £5,190.98

a)	J Book	Clerk's Salary & expenses (October)		£282.07
		Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60	
		Phone line rental	5.50	
		Utilities	4.00	
		12 x 2 <sup>nd</sup> class stamps	6.60	
			<u>£19.70</u>	

M J Moore – installation of dog waste bin	£150.00
Chris Rowe – war memorial hedge cut	£75.00

- b) **Receipts:** £1,000 Mells Park Trust
- c) **Draft budget for 2017-2018:** The budget has been amended to include the legal costs. It was agreed to keep the precept at £10,000.

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Dates for meetings in 2017:** Clerk has booked the Barn 2017. There will be no meeting in February and September.
- b) **30mph sign – Lime Kiln Quarry:** The 30mph would be better placed further up the hill as cars can approach the entrance at 60mph and the slurry on the road at the entrance could

be treacherous in the bad weather. Clerk to ask Highways if it can be moved. This would be the subject of Road Traffic Order.

- c) **Noticeboard by Post Office:** Difficulties are experienced placing items in the board due to cars parking in front of it. The vehicles also make it hard for residents to get close enough to read the articles. It would be better placed on the other side of the road.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday 24 January 2017 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn (No meeting in February)

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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

Print Name.....