

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 9 May 2017 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr E Costelloe – Chairman, Mr J Earl – Vice Chair, Mr C Tye, Mrs J Seewooruttun, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr A Brady (left 8.50pm), Mrs A Moir (left 8.55pm), Mr J Poynton
In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk One member of the public
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr D Seviour, Mr V Turner and Mr S West
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Walled Garden – Chris Tye, Clare Asquith and John Earl. Valley House - Clare Asquith.
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
5. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Mobile Phone signal/broadband:** Planning permission has been given for an O2/Vodafone mast near the sewage works.
 - b) **Barn Lease:** Chairman to chase solicitor.
 - c) **Traffic on Selwood Street:** Cllr P Ham is keeping pressure on Highways to mark out the two passing places.
 - d) **Old Telephone Exchange:** A retrospective planning application is still awaited.
 - e) **Adoption of BT telephone kiosk:** Contractor has agreed to undertake the work. A glass panel requires replacement.
 - f) **Faded give way lines – Mells Park crossroads:** No further information,
 - g) **Dog waste bin – Rectory Corner:** Clare Asquith believes the bin has been moved but it is still too visible and needs to be lowered.
 - h) **Bridge – Station Road:** An accident over the Bank Holiday weekend led to a car going over the verge and dropping onto the old railway line. Another accident resulted in a sign being damaged. Alan Brady has been in contact with Kilmersdon and Coleford Parish Councils and they are supportive of action being taken and will write to Highways. Cllr Ham will also be monitoring the situation. The bridge at Vobster Cross is being closed for a month for works. Alan Brady has also spoken with the Police.
 - i) **Litter pick report:** Eight adults and a couple of children joined the event and 8 bags of rubbish were collected.
 - j) **Layby near Vobster bus stop – littering:** No further information.
 - k) **Path by Reading Rooms:** Clare Asquith to follow up.
 - l) **Quarry noise:** This has improved in the past month.
 - m) **Walled Garden planning application:** The Parish Council is in favour of the newly submitted operating conditions so long as they are adhered to. The Estate has offered land off Fairview for parking on an experimental basis in addition to the Recreation Ground car park. Quotes to clear the Recreation Ground site (£980) and improve the surface/tarmac (£4,400) of the Recreation Ground have been sought but require further assessment to bring them in line. Hansons has agreed to provide some of the hardcore. Approximately 70 cars would be able to park in the two car parks. Signage needs to be bought and strategically placed. If the Fairview car park is successful, the fence will be moved back and rubber matting put down to improve the surface. John Earl commented that residents may find the headlights/increased noise intrusive and there is a risk of cars being left long term. The Fairview car park would not be tarmacked. John Earl/Clare Asquith/Christ Tye and Jan Seewooruttun were given authority to finalise the quotes and to approve a contractor. The works would be funded by the Parish Council which has sufficient funds. The Solar Panel grant for the benefit of the community has not been used for the past couple of years and currently stands at £2,000. This would be an ideal project for the grant. Funding is also available from the Daffodil Committee if required.

Jon Price, Walled Garden, reported that a new application has been submitted which details the current arrangements ie. same opening hours, no alcohol licence, no amplified music. Highways has asked for refusal due to the lack of parking. It is highly likely that the latest submission will be refused too but Cllr Edward Drewe has agreed to take it to the planning

board. Jon Price concluded that the Walled Garden had previously self managed its own restrictions but once the permission is in place the owners would be controlled by both planning and the Estate's constraints.

Resident raised concerns over the impact on residents in the immediate vicinity due to increased numbers of people who walk around the village which can be intrusive. They expressed concerns that the issue was getting near tipping point. The Chairman reported that change is inevitable and the village was a unique place to live for many reasons but specifically as around 600 residents are employed within the parish.

The Chairman proposed and all were in favour of approving the application under the new terms and conditions and would pursue the parking and parking places.

- n) **Recreation Ground car park:** The Company is supportive of the car park being used for the public.

6. PLANNING

2017/0 2017/1022/CNT Deepening of Halecombe Quarry by the extraction of limestone and associated. Halecombe Quarry, Leigh on Mendip. No objections.

2017/1060/FUL & 2017/1061/LBC Reinstatement of residential use of Valley House with alterations and extensions. Reinstallation of hydropower plant in adjacent structures. Conservation of walls, structures and culverts to scheduled ancient monument within setting of listed building. Valley House, Lower Works. The general consensus was that making the structures safe and the use of the property for 'green' energy should be supported. The Estate owns the access and has reservations about tarmacking and the change of character to the area. The access is a legal issue. Vote: 6 for, 1 against, Clare Asquith withdrew from the vote.

Alan Brady reported back on 2017/0441/FUL Land at Mells Road, Kilmersdon. Change of use from agricultural to Class B8 storage. The proposed site is 4 acres and will be used is to park lorries. There will be a significant increase in traffic in the area and the working hours are unknown.

Mendip Decisions - None

7. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - none

8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL - none

9. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **NHS – Free health checks:** The bus offers free health checks to residents between 40 and 74 and who have not had a health check in the past 5 years. Clerk will book bus for Thursday 24 August. To be advertised in the magazine, website and noticeboards.

10. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance as at 28 April 2017 – £20,407.28. Balance as at March 2017- Barclays £5,191.63.

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|----|--|--------------|----------|
| a) | J Book Clerk's Salary & expenses (March) | | £246.29 |
| | Travel to Mells (@ 45p/mile) | 3.60 | |
| | Phone line rental | 5.50 | |
| | Utilities | 4.00 | |
| | | <u>13.10</u> | |
| | HMRC PAYE (Period 1) | | £38.60 |
| | Came & Co – annual insurance | | £ |
| b) | <u>Receipts:</u> Precept £10,000, VAT refund £143.02 | | |
| c) | <u>Pensions Regulator:</u> The Parish Council is not required to run a pension scheme under the current regulations. The Clerk reported that all deadlines had been met and has completed the Compliance Notice. | | |
| d) | <u>Internal Auditor:</u> The internal auditor has approved the accounts. | | |
| e) | <u>Approval and signing of Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2016/2017:</u> Section 1 was approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk. | | |
| f) | <u>Approval and signing of Section 2 – Accounting Statements for 2016/2017:</u> Section 2 was approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk. | | |
| g) | <u>Recreation Ground insurance premium:</u> The Company has received the insurance renewal for 2017/18 - £733.55 and asked if the PC would be willing to pay it as in previous years. All in favour. | | |

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 12.1 **Local Plan Part II:** Jeremy Poynton will submit a list of the sports facilities available and will look into the other green spaces within the parish. Private gardens appear to be listed.
- 12.2 **Holes Lane/road to Whatley Quarry junction:** Highways has not replaced the signage on this junction since the fingerpost was damaged. Signage would reinforce the presence of the junction which is currently not conspicuous. Clerk to approach Highways.
- 12.3 **Dumped cars – Fairview:** The cars are now untaxed and one has been present for 7 years. Clerk to re-contact Mendip DC.
- 12.4 **Stile – Vobster to Leigh on Mendip:** Clerk to report that this stile requires repair.
- 12.5 **Reading Rooms – Vobster:** Two sheds have appeared in the front garden and a garage appears to be being built against a wall in the back garden. Clerk to inform Enforcement.
- 12.6 **Tennis Courts:** Clare Asquith raised whether the re-surfacing of the tennis courts could be included into the works planned for the car park. It was agreed that this work would be looked into but would not form part of the car park works.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 13 June 2017 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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

Print Name.....