

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

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on  
Tuesday 13 February 2018 at Mells Barn**

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1. **PRESENT:** The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Mr E Costelloe, Mr S West, Mr A Brady, Mr V Turner, Mr J Earl, Mrs J Seewooruttun, Mr D Seviour, Mrs A Valentine  
Cllr Edward Drewe – District Councillor

**In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk.

1 member of the public

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr J Poynton – granted dispensation

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Resident raised concerns regarding the speed of traffic on Holes Lane. Cllr Drewe explained that any works would be subject to a Traffic Regulation Order which are costly and can take a considerable time to process. The resident was advised that the starting point was to obtain evidence of the issue which could then be presented to Highways and the Police. Edmund Costelloe explained how Speedwatch could help and the resident expressed an interest in forming a team. Cllr Drew gave details of a new system that is being developed which would negate a Speedwatch teams need to be by the roadside. The system involves a small camera on a post recording car registrations, date, time and speed. The data is then downloaded and analysed. Repeat offenders details can be forwarded to the Police. The system will be available to all parishes in Somerset who currently have a Speedwatch team in place for approximately £400-500.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 13 FERUARY 2018** had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.

6. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Cllr Drewe – District Councillor

- a) **Old Telephone Exchange:** No planning application has been received and works appear to be continuing. Cllr Drewe said it is highly likely that an Enforcement Order will be issued in the next week. The notice will demand that the building is returned to its former state within a set period of time. MDC has a new Enforcement Officer on secondment who seems very proactive. Cllr Drewe has requested and received all the files of outstanding enforcement issues within his parishes which he will be reviewing with the new office.
- b) **Capita:** In light of the recent Carillion collapse, MDC has been reassured by Capita that there are currently no issues and will be continuing to provide their services.

A presentation was made to Edmund Costelloe by Clare Asquith to thank him for his exemplary 12 years as Chair. Edmund thanked everyone for the gift and said his position had been made much easier due to the great support and help he had received from the other councillors.

7. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a) **Mobile Phone signal/broadband:** A mast has been installed by Western Skip Hire but is not connected yet. It will be used by several service providers.
- b) **Barn Lease:** No further information. Edmund Costelloe to chase solicitor.
- c) **Traffic/speeding on Selwood Street:** A very successful meeting had taken place with Chris Betty, SCC. As a result of the meeting the white lining has been installed which has greatly improved the situation. A small section was not able to be completed due to a van being parked at the time the painting was carried out. Mr Betty felt that changing priorities on the Lime Kiln Hill/Great Elm junction would cause more issues but suggested a painted 30mph roundel on the road further up the hill.

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Tel: 07704 584953, Email: parishcouncils.frome@gmail.com*

- d) **Old Telephone Exchange:** As above.
- e) **Babington Bridge – Station Road:** Chris Betty, SCC also assessed the area and will arrange for more signage (narrowing road) to give forewarning and more white lines. It would cost £300-£400k to remove the bridge and similarly to build a road alongside would be too costly. Alan Brady reported that a car had recently come off the road due to the driver not knowing there was a bend. Highways were also concerned that the road edges were being eroded and falling away.
- g) **VAT re-claim for works on the Barn:** John Earl has sought the advice of an accountant and the issue is very complex and will not be pursued.
- h) **Tree across river – Lime Kiln quarry land:** This has been removed.
- j) **Footpath overgrowth – White bridge to Top Lane:** This has been cut back.

## 8. PLANNING

- a) New applications  
**2018/0012/LBC:** Proposed erection of a door canopy - Selwood Cottage Annexe, Selwood Street. No objections. The proposed design will match the adjacent canopy and will improve the look of the property.  
**2018/0036/TCA:** Felling of two ash trees – Rock House, Park Hill. No objections. Decision to be left to the planning officer.
- b) Mendip Decisions  
**2017/2126/LBC** repair/replace roof, repair bedrooms and living rooms following fire – Hill View, Mells Green. Approved with conditions. No work can be carried out until MDC have been advised how the roof will be re-thatched.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - none

## 10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL – none

## 11. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Life Education:** It was agreed to give a donation of £100.

## PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance as at 28 January 2018 – £5,949.75. Barclays £5,191.63.

a)	J Book Clerk's Salary & expenses (January)		£246.49
	Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60	
	Phone line rental	5.50	
	Utilities	4.00	
		<u>£13.10</u>	
	HMRC PAYE (Period 11)		£38.40
	Jon Goode – footpath clearance		£20.00

Approved - all in favour

- b) **Receipts:** VAT Refund £1,680.85

## 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Mud on the road – Western Skip:** Clerk to contact.
- b) **Bus stop near Stone Ash Farm:** Clerk to find out whether this is feasible.
- c) **White lines – Vobster Inn:** David Seviour reported that vehicles are speeding down into Lower Vobster. Clerk to request that the white lines are re-instated by Vobster Inn.
- d) **Co-option:** One application form has been received. Co-option will take place at the March meeting.
- e) **Flytipping:** It has been reported that several mattresses have been dumped between Murdercombe and the pig farm. Alan Brady agreed to take on flytipping issues and would report direct to MDC.
- f) **Bottom Lane – flooding:** During periods of heavy rain water is collecting in the lane and covers half of the road. The gullies appear to be blocked and need clearing. The Estate will arrange for the work to be carried out.

## 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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

Print Name.....