

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at Mells Barn

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl, - Chair, Cllr S West, Cllr A Brady, Cllr H Leakey, Cllr V Turner (left 20:00), The Countess of Oxford & Asquith (19:30 onwards), Cllr E Costelloe, Cllr John Henderson, Cllr D Seviour, Cllr J Seewoorutten

In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk,
Cllr E Drewe – District Councillor

Members of the public: One

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Alan Brady **Absent:** Cllr L Turner

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- a) **Old Telephone Exchange:** Enforcement Notice has been served and must be acted upon within the stipulated period otherwise legal action will be taken. The building appears to have been gutted recently and no activity had been seen on site until this evening when a van was noted parked outside. Cllr Drewe has experienced difficulties getting an update from Enforcement. Resident raised concerns about the lack of information forthcoming from MDC. Clerk to write a letter to Enforcement and the Chief Executive of the Council.
- b) **Lime Kiln Road site proposal:** No further information.
- c) **Magazine reports:** Resident thanked the PC for the monthly update reports in the magazine.
- d) **Truespeed:** Chair has asked Truespeed for the take up figures for Mells but has not received a response yet. As superfast broadband (Openreach) is already within the village with reasonable speeds it is highly likely most people would sign up for this service. Chair expressed concerns that it wasn't future proofed whereas Truespeed claims their service will be. A door to door survey maybe carried out to establish residents preferences.
- e) **Precept:** Clerk explained the various increasing demands on the PC's finances eg. Gritting services, highway issues which SCC no longer fund which will only happen if the PC fund/part fund the item. In light of this a small increase in the precept is likely.
- f) **2017/2018 accounts on website:** The full accounts do not appear to be on the website. Clerk to ensure that the website is up to date.

5. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS:**

- a) **Saxonvale site:** Negotiations are going well. Marks and Spencers will be moving to larger premises on the new development.
- b) **Radstock to Frome railway:** Progress is being made and a planning application will be submitted shortly. The current timescale is 7 years.
- c) **Planning applications/Enforcement:** Applications have dropped by 25% which will hopefully help the planning department catch up on their backlog however, MDC could take the opportunity to reduce staff.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 11 DECEMBER 2018:** Minutes had previously been circulated and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.

7. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

- a) **Broadband – Truespeed:** As 4. d)
- b) **Barn Lease:** Edmund Costelloe has asked the solicitor and surveyor to submit their accounts to date as alternative routes are being sought which do not involve the Diocese.
- c) **Old Telephone Exchange:** As 4. a).
- d) **War memorial upkeep:** Chair will approach Rob Waller to ask if he would be willing to put together a rota of volunteers from within the village.
- e) **Buckland Dinham fingerpost:** *Post meeting note: This was collected the day after the meeting.*

8. HIGHWAY ISSUES:

- a) **Water on road – Knaptons Hill:** Highways have put warning signs out. Clerk to request information on what is planned to stop the water in the future. It is constantly flowing onto the highway and would be lethal if it froze.
- b) **White lining (road narrowing) on bridge by Vobster Cross:** Highways have been sent photos of the previous lining.
- c) **Overgrowth near Vobster Cross/Vobster Quay:** The vegetation does not appear to be too bad at present.

9. PLANNING:

- a) **New applications:** None
- b) **Mendip decisions:** None

10. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - None**11. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL - None****12. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) **Somerset Wood – request for donation towards trees for WW1:** After discussion it was decided not to support this venture.

13. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balances as at December 2018 – £9,919.29. Barclays £5,202.90

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|----|---------------------------------------|--|-------------|-----------|
| a) | J Book | Clerk's Salary & expenses (December) | | £264.31 |
| | | Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile) | 3.60 | |
| | | Phone line rental | 5.50 | |
| | | Utilities | <u>4.00</u> | |
| | | | £13.10 | |
| | | HMRC PAYE (Period 10) | | £33.20 |
| | | Mendip Community Transport – donation | | £100.00 |
| | | Mells with Vobster PCC – grant for churchyard | | £1,600.00 |
| | | Barclays Bank – transfer of money to keep account active | | £100.00 |
| | | Approved - all in favour | | |
| b) | Receipts: | Barclays interest £2.59, Mells Park Solar Panel array grant - £1,000 | | |
| c) | Precept setting for 2019/2020: | The Chair proposed and Edmund Costelloe seconded that the precept rise by the small amount of £500 taking the amount to £11,500. | | |

14. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA/ITEMS TO REPORT

- a) **Lorries by quarry:** Cllr Drewe reported that lorries coming out of quarry are driving quite fast and with little respect to other road users. The road by the quarry exit is in a very poor condition. Steve West reported that an agreement has finally been made between the quarry and Highways to adopt the road. Substantial repairs/resurfacing will now be required to bring this road up to standard.
- b) **Caravan site – Park Corner:** The new fencing around the site appears to have been extended the area by around 6ft outwards along the verge boundaries.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 12th FEBRUARY 2019 at 7.15pm

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....