

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on Tuesday 12th February 2019 at Mells Barn

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl, - Chair, Cllr S West, Cllr A Brady, Cllr H Leakey, Cllr V Turner, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Cllr E Costelloe, Cllr J Seewoorutten, Cllr Alan Brady

In Attendance: Joy Book, Clerk,

Members of the public: Two

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr J Henderson, Cllr D Seviour **Absent:** Cllr L Turner, Cllr V Turner

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Residents expressed concerns regarding planning application 2018/3092/FUL: Erection of wooden cabin for letting on existing glamping site, Vobster Inn. They explained that they were very supportive of encouraging business opportunities but felt that the latest application for a wooden cabin was a more permanent development than the yurts and shepherds huts and that the site was going to slowly increase in size to become a camping site. The proposed siting of the cabin currently lacks screening however the application indicates that 9 trees will be planted in the before the first growing season after installation. The pub opening hours are sporadic and that side of the business seems to be running down. Residents advised to contact Mendip DC with their concerns.

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

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 8th JANUARY 2019:** 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:** Chair has had difficulty contacting Truespeed but will continue to try. Clerk to contact Openreach to request latest information regarding the installation in Mells. *Post meeting note: Openreach were responsible for Phase I. Phase II has been passed to Connecting Devon and Somerset/Gigaclear.*
- b) **Old Telephone Exchange:** The owner has contacted MDC and they will be submitting a valid planning application within the next 8 weeks. PC will follow up if no application is received by the end of this period. MDC has informed the owners of the position in law regarding the caravan. Councillors have received many comments about the site which needs to be made more visually acceptable.
- c) **War memorial upkeep:** The Open Gardeners will organise a rota for its upkeep. Clerk to write to Monica Jennings to thank her for the many years she has tended the memorial.
- d) **Buckland Dinham fingerpost:** This has been repaired and replaced. Steve West will inspect all the other posts in the parish as several appear to be leaning which may indicate that the central columns are rusting.

8. **HIGHWAY ISSUES:**

- a) **Water on road – Knaptons Hill:** This has got significantly worse recently. Gullies nearby have been cleared. Clerk to contact Highways to stress that this is a serious safety issue if the temperature goes below freezing.

- b) **White lining (road narrowing) on bridge by Vobster Cross:** Clerk to chase.

9. BROCHURE FOR MELLS

Clare Asquith is looking into the possibility of producing a brochure to commemorate the 10 years of the shop opening. It is hoped that current/past residents who have a long connection with Mells will submit their memories and photos of the village. Clare Asquith has secured £500 funding from Whatley Quarry. Additional funding will be required. An event is also planned to celebrate the launch of brochure and 10 year anniversary. Any articles/photos for the brochure would be gratefully received.

10. PLANNING:

a) New applications:

2019/0034/TCA: Reduce plum tree by 1.5m and thin crown, reduce conifer by 2m to same height as surrounding hedge – Chantwood, Mells Green. For Planning Officer.

2019/0158/HSE: Two storey rear and side extension forming an annexe – Rock Cottage, Upper Vobster Road. No objections.

2018/3092/FUL: Erection of wooden cabin for letting on existing glamping site – Vobster Inn, Soho Cottage, Vobster – as public participation. John Earl and Alan Brady will visit the site.

b) Mendip decisions:

2018/3060/TCA: Ash tree pollard x 3 metres – The Beeches, Top Lane. TPO not required. No objections.

2018/2772/APP: Application for approval of detailed reserved by condition 16 (concrete waste water and foul water) on planning consent 2017/0163/FUL – Mells Road Works, Vobster Cross to Hatchet Hill, Babington. Approved.

11. CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL - none

12. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL - none

13. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Email from resident:** Concerns raised regarding state of Lime Kiln Road due to the works being carried out at Western Skip Hire. A digger with a bucket scoop is being used to clear the mess which is then dumped in the bank/hedge further up the road. Clerk to write.
- b) **Church of St Andrew – Mells Peace Bench:** Return of £50 donation due to lack of support for project from other organisations.
- c) **Church of St Andrew:** Thank you for donation of £1,600 towards churchyard upkeep.
- d) **Mendip Community Transport:** Thank you for donation of £100.

14. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balances as at 28 January 2018 – £10,233.68. Barclays £5,302.90.

a)	J Book	Clerk's Salary & expenses (December)		£264.31
		Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60	
		Phone line rental	5.50	
		Utilities	4.00	
			<u>£13.10</u>	
		HMRC PAYE (Period 11)		£33.20
		Goode and Handy – gully clearance		£70.00
		Cooper & Tanner – inspection Barn and negotiations		£300.00

Thatcher & Hallam Solicitors – Barn lease negotiations

£960.00

Approved - all in favour

b) **Receipts:** None

15. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA/ITEMS TO REPORT

- a) **Blocked drain – Rectory Corner:** The drain is full of silt. Clerk to ask Jon Goode to clear it.
- b) **Sign cleaning:** Alan Brady has cleaned and tightened several signs around the village. Grateful thanks were extended to Alan. It was reported that a 30mph sign may have been hit by Mells Park.
- c) **Footpath checks:** Clerk to contact Jeremy Poynton to see if he still wishes to continue to be the Footpath Liaison Officer for Mells.
- d) **Whatley Quarry:** Core samples are currently being taken on Estate land to check the geology of the current quarry. Clare Asquith said that there is no intention to allow the quarry to work this piece of land. Wessex Water have been seen on site. A security car is parked 24/7 at the entrance of the field whilst the works are being carried out. They appear to be checking the water levels which are currently deemed satisfactory.

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

Meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....