

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**NOTES of informal meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 10th December 2019 at Mells Barn**

Due to the meeting not being correctly publicly advertised a formal meeting of the parish council could not legally take place. Therefore those present only gave updates on items raised at the previous meeting. No decisions were taken at this meeting.

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl - Chair, Cllr S West, Cllr A Brady, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith
In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk
Members of the public: 1

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr E Costelloe, Cllr H Leakey, Cllr J Henderson, Cllr J Seewooruttun, Cllr D Seviour, Cllr A Barkshire (District Councillor)
Absent : Cllr L Turner, Cllr V Turner

3. **WESTERN SKIP HIRE – ROAD SWEEPER:** The company has recently acquired a road sweeper and has offered to undertake sweeping around the village. Mr Martin will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the proposal. Conduit Road would benefit greatly from being regularly swept as it is frequently muddy.

4. **ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**
 - i. **Superfast Broadband to Mells:** Truespeed plan to up their marketing early in the new year. The Estate support the installation and will inform their tenants that they may go ahead with an installation if they wish to do so.
 - iii. **Vehicles parked in Recreation Ground car park and signage:** Clerk has received several quotes.
 - iv. **Footpath FR10/15 DEFRA Conservation Walk Notice:** Defra has responded that their records show that there is no longer a live access agreement for this footpath. Therefore Defra no longer has any involvement with this arrangement. In these cases the landowner is required to make it clear the access has ended and remove sign etc.
 - vi. **Overgrown trees in Longfield:** No response again from MDC. Clerk to ask Cllr Barkshire to chase.

5. **HIGHWAY ISSUES:**
 - i. **Fingerpost finial:** This has now been replaced.
 - ii. **Speed management on School Hill:** No further information.
 - iii. **Pot holes – The Talbot:** The pooling of water is due to the camber on the road rather than pot holes so unless major works are undertaken to change the slope, there is probably little that can be done to improve the situation.

6. **PLANNING:**
 - i. **New applications:**
SCC/3659/2019: Regularisation of existing stocking area and hauliers parking, welfare and lorry wash area (the contractor' compound) in eastern part of Whatley Quarry. No objections.
 - ii. **Mendip decisions:**
2017/2418/TCA: Fell tulip tree causing structural damage to building – Selwood House, Selwood Street: TPO required (objection)
2019/2637/TCA: Works to 3 apple trees – Laurel Cottage, Little Green: No objection

7. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

- i. **Preliminary budget discussion for 2020/2021:** To be finalised at the January meeting.
- ii. **Preliminary precept discussion for 2020/2021:** To be decided at the January meeting

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA/ITEMS TO REPORT:

- i. **Red Barn Farm works – Egford area:** The works are due to finish soon so the road condition should improve.
- ii. **Communication:** Ways of conveying parish council matters to residents will be looked at eg. Via Mells Matters, magazine, website. The website is out of date and has duplicate information with other village websites and needs streamlining. Clerk reported delays with the PC information being added the website.
- iii. **Whatley Quarry:** Steve West reported that a new community fund will be available in the new year (£9,200 annually) which, subject to meeting the required criteria (not known yet), all local parishes would be able to make an application. John Henderson had attended the Quarry Liaison meeting and reported that the stone left in the quarry is diminishing and they are beginning to look at new resources. It is in the early stages and no strategy has been formed yet but there will be early public engagement and consultation is expected in the first half of next year.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 14th January at 7.15pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....