

## MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

### Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on Tuesday 11th June 2019 at Mells Barn

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1. **PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl, - Chair, Cllr E Costelloe, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr H Leakey (left at 7.55pm), Cllr S West, Cllr J Seewooruttun, Cllr D Seviour, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith (from 8.20pm)

**In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk, Cllr A Barkshire (District Councillor)

**Members of the public:** 2

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr J Henderson **Absent :** Cllr L Turner, Cllr V Turner
3. **NOMINATIONS FOR THE ROLE OF VICE CHAIR:** The Chair proposed and Cllr Costelloe seconded Jan Seewooruttun who accepted the role on the condition that she did not wish to stand in as Chair on a long term basis if such a situation arose. Acceptance of Office forms were duly signed.
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**
- i. **Superfast broadband:** John Macdonald updated the council on his enquiries. Mells speeds vary from very poor 0-2mb to around 30-40mb in Longfield. There is funding available for residents who consistently have under 2mb for the purchase of external aerials. Fibre to premises should be happening now but for various reasons this has been delayed. Connecting Devon and Somerset has accepted that there are no commercial proposals for Mells. CDS are now looking for a new contractor for the over ground works and the information should be available by the end of July. There are several options to transport the signal – line of sight, radio by air and satellites.
 

Cllr Barkshire said that the matter is going before the Scrutiny Board at MDC next week. John Macdonald and the Chair will meet with CDS again in August. Steve West asked whether Vobster featured in the scheme. John Macdonald will follow this up. John Macdonald was thanked very much for his time and efforts.
  - ii. **Footpaths:** Resident reported that the footpath from John Candy's farm across the field is not visible this year. The Chair will find out who is farming the land. Resident also raised concerns regarding the number of people who walk up the Great Elm road to the Ironworks. The direct footpath to the Ironworks is not obvious and there is not a footpath sign as you come out of the bridleway. Clerk to contact Highways to enquire whether a white lined walking area can be placed on the road.
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019:** Minutes had been circulated previously and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.
7. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS:** Cllr Barkshire was welcomed to the meeting and she reported that there are significant changes being undertaken at Mendip DC due to the large number of new councilors. Training has had to be delayed due to most new councilors being unable to attend day time training due to being in full time employment. The

council needs to save £1 million/annum for the next 5 years. A priority is to look at the outsourced contracts to assess their break out clauses.

#### 8. OFFICER'S ROLES:

Police	-	David Seviour
Quarry Liaison Committee Representative	-	Steve West
Footpaths Officers	-	Ros Wallace (Vobster)
	-	Jeremy Poynton (Mells)
Planning	-	John Earl
Responsible Financial Officer	-	Clerk, Joy Book
Grievance Panel	-	For next agenda

9. **WAR MEMORIAL FLOWERS:** The Open Gardens team has done a fantastic job of planting around the war memorial and have submitted an invoice for £45.90 which was approved. A budget of approximately £100/annum will be put in place for the future.

10. **AUTO SPEEDWATCH UNITS:** These are still awaiting final approval from the Police and SCC but it is hoped that this will be forthcoming in the next couple of months. The units will cost around £300 and can be attached to existing posts. They are capable of recording registration numbers and photos which can be utilised to identify repeat offenders. These can then be targeted by the Police. The PC expressed an interest and will await the outcome before making any firm decisions.

11. **CAMPERVAN IN VILLAGE CAR PARK:** The Mells Sports and Recreation Company Ltd will write to the resident.

#### 12. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

- i. **Superfast Broadband to Mells:** As 5. i.
- ii. **Old Telephone Exchange:** The Parish Council ask Cllr Barkshire to look into this as no action can be taken until the end of June when an application is expected to be submitted. There appears to be activity on the site daily.

*Post meeting note - Precis of response received from the Enforcement Officer, David Lloyd: No order has been issued and he was unclear why this is assumed or implied. Officers engaged with the owner early last year and it was believed that he had engaged a local architect but he hadn't. Due to personal and family circumstances the owner was unable to put time and finances to an application, until June when he do what is required. The building and land is not in use but remains as it is – untidy and unauthorised.*

The attached enforcement process form shows that the situation is at stage 2 of 5 and is moving towards stage 3.

- iii. **Climate change initiative – Solar Panels:** A resident has joined the group. No further action.
- iv. **Asset List:** Chair and Clerk to update.

#### 13. HIGHWAY ISSUES:

- i. **Fingerpost finial:** The internal post diameter is 80mm. Steve West reported that the post at the Boys and Girls crossing is going rusty and the one by the school is leaning but not deemed unsafe. Clerk has not received a response from the fingerpost department at Highways so will now try the Highways general email address for further information on how to find a replacement.

**14. PLANNING:**i. **New applications:**

**2019/1235/TCA:** Ash – Fell – 1 Egypt Cottages, Top Lane – no objections

ii. **Mendip decisions:**

**2018/3092/FUL:** Erection of wooden cabin for letting – Vobster Inn Soho Cottage – approved.

**2019/0504/APP:** Approval of details reserved by conditions 13 (archaeology assessment) on planning consent 2017/1060/FUL – Valley House, Lower Works – approved. However, it is understood that the usage of the hydro-electrical unit has changed from the original application. Access rights for an overhead cable may also be an issue.

**15. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- i. **Email from resident regarding giant hogweed by the bridge:** This has been passed to the Estate.

**16. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Balances as at 28 May 2019: HSBC - £17,065.95. Barclays £5,305.52

- i. J Book Clerk's Salary & expenses (May – to inc backpay to April) £269.98

Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60
Phone line rental	5.50
Utilities	<u>4.00</u>
	£13.10

HMRC PAYE (Period 3) £59.40

Recreation Ground annual insurance £783.55

Arborcadabra – weed killing – village car park £65.00

Rob Waller – flowers for war memorial £45.90

Alan Aked – internal audit £50.00

Proposed: Chair    Seconded: Jan Seewooruttun

Approved - all in favour

- ii. **Receipts:** None

**13. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA/ITEMS TO REPORT**

- i. **Sign clearing:** Alan Brady reported that he has cleaned some more signs the village.
- ii. **Road closure by cement works:** A couple of accidents have occurred just past the roadworks. One involved a lorry.
- iii. **Road surface by The Talbot:** The surface has sunk in places and causes rainwater to accumulate. Passing cars unavoidable splash pedestrians on the pavement. Clerk to report to Highways.
- iv. **Broken stile – Vobster:** This has still not been repaired. Clerk to chase.
- v. **Lack of 30mph signage in Vobster:** Traffic speeds down both hills into the village. Clerk to contact Highways.
- vi. **Overhanging branches – Longfield:** Trees opposite numbers 25 and 28 require attention. Clerk to contact Aster.
- vii. **Barn insurance:** This has been increase to include bouncy castle insurance.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 9<sup>th</sup> July at 7.15pm**

Meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....