

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

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on  
Tuesday 10 March 2020 at Mells Barn**

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- 01.03.20 PRESENT:** Mr J Earl – Chair, Mrs J Seewooruttun, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith (arrived 7.25pm), Mrs H Leakey, Mr S West, Mr John Henderson, Mr A Brady, Mr E Costelloe, Mr D Seviour, Mr V Turner  
**In Attendance:** Joy Book, Clerk, Cllr Alison Barkshire – District Councillor  
**Members of the public:** None
- 02.03.20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None
- 03.03.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
- 04.03.20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
- 05.03.20 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:** None.
- 06.03.20 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:** None submitted.
- 07.03.20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 11 FEBRUARY 2020** had previously been circulated. Cllr Barkshire queried the housing stock content and reported that 505 new houses need to be built in NE Mendip. It is proposed that the majority of the houses - 450 would be on the outskirts of Radstock, within the Kilmersdon and Ston Easton Parish Council areas. The remainder would be in the Rode/Beckington/Norton St Philip area. Both areas are against further development and are concerned how the schools would cope. Subject to this change, it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.
- 08.03.20 MATTERS ARISING**
- i. **Superfast broadband:** No further information.
  - ii. **Old Telephone Exchange:** GDPR rules are preventing the PC accessing the latest information regarding the Exchange. Edmund Costelloe felt MDC were hiding behind policy and that there were insufficient Enforcement Officers to move this matter forward. Cllr Barkshire will follow up.
  - iii. **Road sweeper:** Clerk has spoken to Kyle Wakeham, Go Plant who has confirmed that subject to firming up the details with the quarry, Go Plant would certainly be able to add an extra hour to their schedule to sweep the village on a weekly basis. Steve West has spoken to Justin Collis, Manager at the quarry who will be contacting the PC with further information.
  - iv. **Defibrillator:** The Estate has agreed that the side of the shop is an acceptable location. Clare Asquith will contact Martin Moore to arrange its installation. Insurance, servicing and training needs to be put into place.
  - v. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane:** Clerk has found several different matting types and will forward the information to Clare Asquith for assessment.
  - vi. **Co-option of councillor:** One person has expressed an interest and has said they will submit a form.

## 09.01.20 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

- i. **Speed management on School Hill:** Sara Davis, Traffic Engineer has been sent information on the current placement of signs/lines in the vicinity of the school.

## 10.01.20 PLANNING

### New Applications:

**2020/0415/TCA:** Reduce limbs of 8 lime trees – Manor House, Selwood Street – Content for Tree Officer to decide

### Mendip Decisions

**2020/0032/TCA:** Beech – Fell, Beech – remove crown – Selwood House, Selwood Street: Approved

**2019/2861/HSE:** Erection of porch to front elevation – 7 Fairview: Approved

**2020/0197/HSE:** Single storey extension on the side elevation, relocating front door to original location and a first floor extension on the rear elevation above garage and living room: Approved

## 11.03.20 CORRESPONDENCE

- i. **Mendip DC – Unitary council proposal:** MDC's preferred direction is contrary to the proposal from the Leader of Somerset CC which is to abolish the district councils of Somerset and the county council and instead create a new unitary authority in their place. MDC believes this is not the most effective way forward and would cause the most disruption to services. It also removes the vital link the District Councils have with their communities. Somerset CC are responsible for social care which is an increasing financial burden. It is likely that more services will be passed down to PC level which is acceptable if the budget comes with it.

## 12.01.20 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance as at 28 February 2020 - HSBC £11,511.76 Balance as at 20 December 2019 - Barclays £5,313.47.

### i. **Payment of accounts:**

Clerk's salary & expenses (February)		£244.51
Trip to Mells (@45p/mile)	£3.60	
Phone line rental	£5.50	
Utilities	<u>£4.00</u>	
	£13.10	
HMRC PAYE (Period 12)		£53.00

- ii. **Receipts:** £1,000 – Mells Park Estate – Solar array annual grant

- iii. **Grant for PCC:** £1,600 would be paid this year as previously. Next years grant would be reviewed based on a request from the PCC accompanied by a list of works carried out. Steve West reported that Vobster church has considerable rubble outside and the wall requires repointing. There are skylights in the roof and queried whether there was planning permission in place for this work. Clerk to ask the PCC what the plans are for the churchyard.

## 13.01.20 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA - None

- i. **Future of Whatley Quarry:** Steve West reported that the quarry has 14 years remaining at its current site and is making investigations into where to excavate next. A disclosure of what their future plans are is believed to be imminent.
- ii. **Community Trust Fund:** It is preferred that someone from each parish is represented. Meetings are usually during the day on a Wednesday. Steve will attend the meeting.
- iii. **Coronavirus:** No strategy for future meetings is in place. Information had been received from the National Association of Local Councils. PC will monitor the situation and act on advice as necessary.

- iv. **30mph signs:** Alan Brady reported that he has been cleaning them.
- v. **Entrance to The Barn:** There are several deep puddles again. Chair reported that £10,000 is currently being spent on new heating and lighting so funds are short. PC will investigate the cost of a concrete apron to replace the current surface. The Walled Garden has access rights to the garage only but no parking facilities. The Diocese has not progressed with the lease renewal and the Barn's future is at risk due to declining regular bookings.
- vi. **School Easter event:** Helen Leakey asked if there were any issues if the school children placed wooden eggs around the village for two weeks. All would be removed after this time. No one placed any objections.
- vii. **Website:** All non council items have been removed from the website. Clerk to request annual invoice from host and whether it is possible to take on the loading of documents on the site or alternatively create a new simple website.
- viii. **Western Skip Hire:** A recent deluge had broken the banks that had been built to retain the excess water on the site. The water had discharged into the river and the Environment Agency has been involved.

**14.01.20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at **7.00pm** in Mells Barn – to include ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – *these meetings were subsequently cancelled due to COVID-19*

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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

Print Name.....