

UNCONFIRMED

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

(Mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Annual Parish Council Meeting

was held at Mells Barn on Tuesday 12 May 2021 at 7.00 pm. John Earl was in the chair, supported by 3 members of the Council. Six residents were present
The Clerk, Joy Book and District Councillor – Alison Barkshire were in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

01.05.22APCM TO ELECT CHAIR FOR 2022/2023

Nominations for the position of Chair were called. Cllr Henderson proposed Cllr John Earl. The Countess of Asquith and Oxford seconded the proposal.

02.05.22PACM TO ELECT VICE CHAIR FOR 2022/2023:

Nominations for the position of Vice Chair were called. Cllr Earl proposed Cllr John Henderson. Cllr Seewooruttun seconded the proposal.

03.05.22APCM SIGNING OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FORMS:

Cllr Earl and Cllr Henderson signed and dated the acceptance forms. Due to having just had an election and a new council is in place, all the other councillors also signed and dated acceptance forms for their role of Councillor. All forms were countersigned by the Clerk.

04.05.22APCM REVIEW OF REPRESENTATION TO EXTERNAL BODIES

Police representative	Cllr Asquith
Quarry Liaison Committees representatives	Cllr West/Cllr Henderson
Footpaths	Vacant
Planning officers	Cllr Earl & Cllr Seewooruttun
Responsible Financial Officer	Joy Book, Clerk

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Print name: _____

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The Clerk, Joy Book and District Councillor – Alison Barkshire were in attendance.

01.05.22APM MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING OF 11 MAY 2021

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 May 2021 had been previously approved by the Council at the June 2021 monthly meeting and were taken as read.

02.05.22APM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - David Seviour & Brian Axford

03.05.22APM REPORT FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR: None submitted.

04.05.22APM REPORT FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:

The impact of Covid has continued to be felt during this past year. Mendip District Council, in common with other Local Authorities has been called upon by Government to implement grants to Businesses to assist with the impact of Covid and with the roll out of vaccines and booster jabs. Councils are now delivering the Council Tax rebate to assist with the impact of rising energy costs.

The experience of virtual meetings has in some instances been found to be beneficial, reducing travel time and costs especially where multi agencies are involved. This method of working will now continue where it has been proven to work well.

MDC has awarded grants for local projects (the Community Fund £350k and Climate & Ecological Emergency Fund £50k) across the District for projects put forward by Parish Councils and local organisations including locally to the Walled Garden, and £30k to Frome Missing Links to assist in costs of extending Sustrans route 24 from Great Elm to Frome.

Working with Reimagining the Levels and the Woodland Trust MDC has contributed towards tree planting. Mendip District Council was successful with funding from the Local Authority Treescapes Fund which will be delivered in partnership with the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) to plant 750 trees in 2022. Tree planting in the Mendip hills is being used to help mitigate flooding.

MDC has achieved a balanced budget for this year by drawing on some reserves. The Council has increased council tax by a flat £5 for 2022/23 across all Council Tax bands. This increase needs to be set against the background of yet another decrease in the annual grant from central Government. MDC has increased the size of its support fund to assist those unable to pay. On a positive note, MDC in conjunction with Glastonbury Town Council were successful in a bid to the Government's Town Deal initiative, designed to "level up" parts of the country by regenerating town centres and have been awarded £23.6 million

Responding to recent events MDC has set up a new webpage to provide information and support for Somerset households who have volunteered to sponsor Ukrainian refugees.

A significant amount of time and energy of all senior managers is being consumed by the creation of the new Unitary Authority. The recent elections have now identified who the 110 Councillors of the new Authority will be. For their first year, the elected councillors will take responsibility for all current County Council services and oversee the local government reorganisation to complete the establishment of a single unitary council on 1 April 2023. It is to be hoped that the much promised efficiency savings are actually achieved, and that the voices of local areas continue to be heard. District Councils will remain until 31 March 2023, and the councillors serving on them will continue in their roles until that date.

05.05.22APM REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN, BARN COMMITTEE: (Presented by Cllr Earl)

The last two years saw quite a change in barns bookings behaviour. Covid taking its toll on all barn activities.

Throughout the pandemic period the treasurer chased ALL opportunities to obtain government supplied Financial assistance. The management team took advantage of the imposed covid break in bookings to carry out maintenance work including new lighting, heating and redecorating. Spending over £12,000. In spite the barn still has a very healthy bank balance.

Sadly Tony Oxford left the management team in 2021 he had been treasurer for circa 15 years and for around the last 5 years had additionally taken on the task of secretary. Tony did a great deal of work formulating and putting into place ALL the management controls required to run a legally correct and well managed Charity Trust. He will be missed.

On Tony's retirement Jill Henderson took on the roll of treasurer and trustee Dr Guy Worsdallis the new charity secretary.

Bookings are returning to pre Covid levels. However, expenditure is limited to maintenance for the present as we await the finalising of the new lease agreement. The management committee understands this should not be an issue and the future of the barn looks very bright.

06.05.22APM RECREATION GROUND REPORT: Mells Sports and Recreation Company (presented by Cllr Seewooruttun)

The sports clubs were very grateful to the Parish Council for the installation of a Defibrillator. This provision is now a requirement at sport facilities.

A number of donations have been received, partly, in response to effects of COVID on sport/recreation facilities. The following works plan has been organised and project managed by one of the Football Managers. The majority of the work has been completed.

It is hoped the 'renovated' Pavilion will also be used by the wider community in Mells, for a donation towards the funds.

Mells Pavilion repair/modernisation plan - Priority list

Showers – To remove existing cylinders and heaters, remove exiting shower heads and pipework, drain and decommission roof tanks. Install 2x non vented electric heated cylinders, install 3001 accumulator and associated pipework, isolating valve and shower heads in home and away shower areas.

Doors and Windows - To remove broken pavilion double doors and replace with new, to repair/replace broken glazing units as required.

Kitchen water heater - To remove broken and rusted water sadia boiler, to replace and reconfigure pipework with an undercounter 151 Ariston unvented water heater with any necessary wiring for new heater.

Upgrade List

Kitchen/Pavilion - To replace broken and dated floor and wall units, to replace worktops and sink, replace taps. To replace kitchen appliances, ie Fridge, microwave, and kettle/water boiler. To renew flooring in line with main pavilion and changing areas.

Changing Rooms - To renew flooring and door fittings to home and away rooms, to refit referees changing area with new flooring, seating and hanging space.

Décor - To make good all repair works and to paint all walls, ceilings and woodwork with appropriate materials.

Storage - New secure storage for sports equipment for both Football and Cricket.

Outside - Guttering leaking, overgrown behind pavilion and pathway disappearing.

07.05.22APM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON CURRENT YEAR'S ACTIVITIES (presented by Cllr Earl)

It hard to imagine now that most of our meetings over the last 2 years where held on Zoom. While this allowed councillors to engage it felt limiting so it's good to be back face to face and I believe things will now return to a pre covid level

Over the last 12mths concerns over quarry noise and quarry working have been raised. The council has two councillors who regularly attend quarry held meetings. Their reports keep the PC abreast of developments and allow the council to engage with the quarries and with those with concerns

Two additional defibrillators have been purchased by the PC and have now been installed making a total of three in the parish with discussion continuing regarding a possible further one being bought.

John Macdonald and Ed Costelloe have been asked, by the PC, to negotiate terms of the new barn lease on behalf of the PC. Once done the terms would need to be approved by the PC before signing.

Increased expenditure and maintenance costs including an extra £500 per year for church yard grass cutting the purchase and maintenance of the defibrillators has meant a rise in the precept for the first time in two years. As we move closer to the single unitary authority we wonder what extra financial burden may be placed upon the PC.

Finally I'm sure the parish council would like to join me in wishing the rector Clive and his wife Jo very best wishes a much happiness and success in their future home.

08.05.22APM PARISH DISCUSSION FORUM: No comments.

The Chairman thanked the parishioners for taking the time to attend the meeting and closed the two annual meetings closed at 7.25pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....