

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of the remote meeting held via Zoom of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 13 October 2020

01.10.20 PRESENT:

Cllr J Earl – Chair, Cllr John Henderson, Cllr E Costelloe, Cllr H Leakey, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith (left 8pm) Cllr Seewooruttun

In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk

Members of the public: None

02.10.20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr V Turner, Cllr S West, Cllr D Seviour, Cllr Alison Barkshire – District Councillor

03.10.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Asquith declared an interest in planning applications 2020/1959/FUL, 2019/2075/LBC & 2019/2074/FUL.

04.10.20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

05.10.20 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER

Previously circulated and approved. PP'd by Clerk.

06.10.20 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Unitary Council:

The Government has formally invited all Somerset authorities, Bath & NE Somerset and North Somerset to submit an initial proposal for unitary by 9 November and a full proposal by 9 December.

Natural England:

They have issued revised advice with no warning, or discussion with County, the planning authorities or water providers about the unacceptable amount of phosphate within the Somerset Levels area. This means that no development can happen without identifying and developing solutions to further pollution. Concerns have been raised that this will put further pressure on Mendip's housing target (of over 1000 houses/year) onto the east side of Mendip. More information is available on MDC website:

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/phosphates>

07.10.20 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

None submitted

08.10.20 MATTERS ARISING

- i. **Superfast Broadband:** Lisa Strachan has received confirmation from BT that they would be willing to install FTTP which it is hoped to be funded by Gigabit vouchers. However, the system is unlikely to be in place for at least a year.
- ii. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane:** The Estate is hesitant about putting matting down as they have not seen any that would look aesthetically pleasing as well as functional. More consideration will be given to the matter.
- iii. **Co-option of councillor:** To be carried over to face to face meeting.
- iv. **Entrance to the Barn:** To be carried forward.
- v. **Website:** Clerk is trying to get hold of the necessary information to move this forward.

- vi. **Alternative uses for telephone box:** John Earl has received two quotes for painting the box - £700 + materials and £550 + materials to strip to bare metal, prime and top coat (x2). The box maybe used as an information point with a map and brief history of the Mells.
- vii. **Litter by pond:** Neighbourhood Services has been contacted and it is hoped that an improvement in the regularity of the bin emptying will be seen.
- viii. **Rashwood footpath, Gay Street – post:** Somerset County Council has agreed to replace this.
- ix. **New Community Trust:**
John Henderson will put together the rationale for the Trust, what it should be for, how it might be used and funded so a discussion can be opened with Hanson and other funding parties. It is a reasonable expectation that as Hanson continue to develop their site for the next 20-30 years that they continue to fund some sort of community trust.
- xi. **Footway by quarry:**
The quarry has responded by suggesting passing the enquiry onto the Footpath Officer or Highways Officer. The Footpath Officer has no funds for this and suggests that the best course of action is to get those interested to form a group, with the parish council backing, to approach the quarry again. Quarry land would need to be used and the path could either be dedicated as a public footpath or just as permissive and the quarry has the materials to make this happen. Clerk will contact the Ramblers Association, resident who raised the issue and Steve West who has links with the quarry.

09.10.20 HIGHWAY ISSUES: None

10.10.20 CORRESPONDENCE:

- i. **PC Toni Lines:** Email to introduce herself as the Frome Beat Manager and request to a meeting. It was agreed to try to have a Zoom meeting with her.

11.10.20 PLANNING - New Applications:

2020/1959/FUL: Restoration of derelict cottages to one 4 bedroom dwelling house with associated works – Quarry Cottages - no objections

Mendip Decisions:

2020/1656/TCA: Conifer – fell – Bridge Cottage, Holes Lane – No objections

2019/2075/LBC & 2019/2074/FUL: Refurbishment and extension of cottage, replacement of thatched roof with tiles, replacement of internal wall and first floor structure (removal works being retrospective) – The Cottage, Little Green – Refused. The Estate may appeal the decision.

2020/1505/HSE: Erection of single storey and two storey rear extension & Front porch. Demolition of existing garage & outbuildings and erection of garage – The Orchard, Mells Green - Approved

12.10.20 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

i. **Payment of Accounts:**

Clerk's Salary (September)	£243.08
Clerk's salary increase backdated to April	£50.96
Phone line rental	5.50
Utilities	<u>4.00</u>
	£9.50

HMRC PAYE (Period 7) £73.60

British Legion – wreath & donation £42.00

ii. **Receipts:** £0.74 Barclays Bank interest

iii. **Barclays mandate:** The Clerk clarified who would be signatories and will get the necessary forms sent again.

13.010.20 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. **Bartletts Quarry:** Cllr Costelloe reported that at the recent planning board meeting no mention of the objections had been raised. The re-opening of this quarry would be against Somerset County Councils' previous stipulation that no further quarries should re-open in the area until the works at Torr have been fully completed (approx. 40 years from that time). It was agreed to object (5 votes against, 1 for) on the basis that this sets a precedence for other quarries to open and Somerset County Council should abide by the agreements that are already in place. Clerk to write to object.
- ii. **Footpath White Bridge to Top Lane:**
Clerk has arranged for the weeds to be killed in the spring as the vegetation needs to be in its growing phase to be effective.
- iii. **Defibrillator:**
This needs to be regularly inspected and the pads replaced every two years. Cllr Asquith will ask at the shop for a volunteer to undertake this task.
- iv. **Dog waste bin – Recreation Ground:** A replacement bin has been purchased.

14.09.20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 10th November 2020 at 7.15pm which will be held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm. Details of how to join the meeting will be available on the next agenda.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Printed name: _____