

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on Tuesday 8th October 2019 at Mells Barn

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr E Costelloe – Stand in Chair, Cllr S West, Cllr A Brady, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Cllr D Seviour, Cllr H Leahey, Cllr C Turner

In Attendance: Joy Book - Clerk

Members of the public: 2

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr A Barkshire (District Councillor), Cllr J Henderson, Cllr J Seewooruttun, Cllr John Earl **Absent** : Cllr L Turner
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Clare Asquith declared an interest in planning applications 2019/2075/LBC & 2019/2074/FUL: Refurbishment and extension of cottage – The Cottage, Little Green – and took no part in the discussion or decision making process.
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Member of Speedwatch raised concerns about speeding vehicles on Holes Lane. See 9. ii.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 13th AUGUST 2019:** Minutes had been circulated previously and it was resolved that the minutes be adopted. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.
6. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS:** Cllr Barkshire had forwarded information regarding Superfast Broadband and available funding. See 7. i.
7. **FOOTPATH FR10/15 DEFRA CONSERVATION WALK NOTICE:** A member of the Rambler's Association had recently walked this footpath and noted that the Defra Conservation Walk Notice had expired in 2012. The notice directs walkers to a viewing point which currently has to negotiate a wooden bridge which is deemed unsafe. Clerk to contact DEFRA to highlight the expiry of the notice and to ask them to either remove the notice or to re-establish the route and make it safe for walkers.
8. **ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**
- i. **Superfast Broadband to Mells:** Connecting Devon and Somerset have cancelled their contract with Gigaclear and will now put out tenders for the works which will take around a year. Cllr Barkshire had sent the Clerk a couple of links to websites that give details of funding/vouchers towards broadband installation. Truespeed are installing their system in Nunney.
 - ii. **Old Telephone Exchange:** No further information from Mendip DC. Clerk to highlight that the owners appear to be either using the caravan or exchange as for overnight accommodation.
 - iii. **Asset List:** Clerk has made the amendments as previously discussed. Edmund Costelloe asked for the Barn Lease and lease of the surrounding land to be added to the asset list as both would revert to the PC if the management committee disbands.
 - iv. **Vehicles parked in Recreation Ground car park and signage:** The number of vehicles has been reduced. Edmund Costelloe will give Clerk wording for the no overnight parking sign.

10. HIGHWAY ISSUES:

- i. **Fingerpost finial:** Steve West will check if this has been replaced.
- ii. **Speed management on School Hill:** No response from Highways. Speedwatch has been running for a year and recorded 1600 vehicles of which the highest recorded speed was 50mph. The highest on school hill was 39mph. The temporary flashing speed sign had been very effective. Clerk to contact Highways for a resolution eg. Speed cushions, more signage as there are only a couple children crossing signs in the area. Speedwatch member will also ask parents for alternative ideas.

11. PLANNING:

- i. **New applications:**
 - 2019/2075/LBC & 2019/2074/FUL:** Refurbishment and extension of cottage – The Cottage, Little Green – No objections
 - 2019/1983/VRC:** Application to vary condition 2 (drawings) of planning approval 2018/3092/FUL to change from log cabin to a wood clad static caravan – Vobster Inn, Soho Cottage – the caravan is 3m longer than the proposed log cabin but will not be visible – No objections
 - 2019/2312/TCA:** Works to Elaeagnus, reduce to 1.8m and shape – Ashcroft, Little Green – For planning officer

Mendip decisions:

- 2019/1610/HSE:** Single storey rear extension – 16 Longfield – Approved
- 2019/1771/HSE:** Single storey rear and side extension – 59 Longfield – Approved
- 2019/0660/HSE:** Single storey extension to the east elevation – Ems Cottage, Top Lane – Approved
- 2019/1766/TCA:** Works to 4 x yew trees prune to reduced specification Church of St Andrew – Approved
- 2019/1834/TCA:** Ash1 – End weight reduction of limb to prevent structural failure, 10% crown thin and crown lift to 4m max by removing lowest, smallest diameter branches in all direction. Ash2 – reduce height by 3m, crown lift of crown that overhangs road to 4m – 3 Hollycroft – Approved
- 2019/2150/CLP:** Certificate of Lawful Development (proposed) with respect to a single storey standalone outbuilding – Upper Vobster Farm, Upper Vobster Road - Approved

12. CORRESPONDENCE: None**13. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Balances as at 28 September 2019: HSBC - £14,285.62. Barclays - September 2019 £5,310.82

- i. J Book Clerk's Salary & expenses (August & September) £244.51 x 2

Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60	
Phone line rental	5.50	
Utilities	<u>4.00</u>	
	£13.10	
HMRC PAYE (Period 6)		£53.00
HMRC PAYE (Period 7)		£53.00
Approved - all in favour		
- ii. **Receipts:** Barclays interest – £2.65

14. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA/ITEMS TO REPORT:

- i. **Moving finger on fingerpost - Vobster:** The 'Coleford' sign is not fixed so is frequently pointing in the wrong direction. David Seviour will fix.
- ii. **Police issues:** Alan Brady has spoken to PCSO Amanda Ware who reports that flytipping in the area has reduced but there has been an increase outbuilding theft.
- iii. **Overgrown hedges:** The hedge after the sharp right on Top Lane has been cut back however the hedge by Lavender House is causing issues for drivers. Clerk to write to owner/occupier to request that it is cut back.
- iv. **Pot holes – The Talbot:** Highways has filled some areas but water still accumulates when there is substantial rain. Clare Asquith to take some photo which will be forwarded to Highways as it is not evident just looking at the road that there is an issue.
- v. **Apologies:** Clare Asquith tendered her apologies for the November meeting.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 8th November at 7.15pm

Meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....