

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of Mells Parish Council on
Tuesday 13th August 2019 at Mells Barn**

1. **PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl, - Chair, Cllr H Leakey, Cllr S West, Cllr J Seewooruttun, Cllr J Henderson, Cllr A Brady, Cllr E Costelloe

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

Members of the public: 3

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Cllr D Seviour

Absent : Cllr L Turner, Cllr V Turner

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Concerns were raised regarding the driver of a J W Waste lorry that has not slowed or stop when another vehicle is coming in the opposite direction in Longfield. This is forcing pedestrians to taken avoiding action for their own safety. Clerk to write to the company.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 9th JULY 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 reported that Enforcement has not received any response from the owner of the Old Telephone Exchange. Simon Trafford, Enforcement Team Line Manager has stated that the owner now has a maximum of 3 months before further action will be taken.

Valley House Lower Works planning application: The latest application for reserved conditions 22 & 23 has been approved. However, various surveys have been flagged up as not having covered a wide enough area when they were first carried out so they are being undertaken again. There is a likelihood that there will not be sufficient electricity generated on site to export to the grid due to right of access issues for the cabling. An archaeological survey is currently being carried out.

7. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DISCUSSION:** Cllr Barkshire asked for consideration to be given to having a Neighbourhood Plan in light of the increased need for housing by MDC. MDC would have more rights to refuse development if the parish has identified land for possible development rather than leaving it open. Funding is available to cover most of the costs including advice from a planning consultant. After discussion it was decided not to pursue this at present as the Estate has control over significant areas of land, it would take several years to undertake all the consultations and approval by an external inspector and the resulting plan has a short lived life before it has to reviewed and revised. It was put to the vote and no one was in favour of progressing with a NP at present.

8. **SPEED MANAGEMENT ON SCHOOL HILL:** Speeding is an issue near the school. Clerk to approach Highways for speed management measures to be installed eg. Speed cushions/bumps.

9. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

- i. **Superfast Broadband to Mells:** Connecting Devon and Somerset has moved their date for progressing this to September when they plan to approach Gigaclear again. Voneous are installing in Nunney and Truespeed are currently installing in Kilmersdon. Truespeed has approached the Barn to make a booking.
- ii. **Old Telephone Exchange:** Some of the scaffolding appears to have been removed but works still appear to be going ahead.
- iii. **Asset List:** The tractor shed, pavilion and equipment now appear on the Company's insurance so the PC does not currently own them. Should the Company disband, those items would pass to the PC. However if the PC did not renew the lease they would pass back to the Estate. The asset list will be amended accordingly to reflect this. The bus shelter at Manor Gates is also not owned by the PC.

10. HIGHWAY ISSUES:

- i. **Fingerpost finial:** Four quotes had been received ranging from £185 for finial and undercoat (no top coat or fitting) to £1,900. It was agreed to accept the quote from Somerset Forge for a fully painted finial and fitting for £320 + VAT. The finial should be available for fitting within 14 days.

11. PLANNING:

- i. **New applications:**
 - 2019/1610/HSE:** Single storey rear extension – 16 Longfield – no objections
 - 2019/1771/HSE:** Single storey rear and side extension – 59 Longfield – no objections
 - 2019/1766/TCA:** Yew1 reduce by 2m, reduce left canopy by up to 3m, reduce overall canopy by 1.5m, Yew2 – remove single stem. Yew3 – remove 1no. main limb, reduce remainder of crown by 2m, Yew4 – reduce by 2m – Church of St Andrew – No objections, Planning Officer to decide.
 - 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 – no objections, Planning Officer to decide.
- ii. **Mendip decisions**
 - 2019/1360/APP:** Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 22 (Land contamination report) 23 (Land Contamination Remediation Scheme) on planning consent 2017/1060/FUL – Valley House Lower Works – approved.

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

- i. **Somerset Road Safety – Route 60+:** Offer of a presentation to older drivers. Not to be followed up at present.
- ii. **Vobster Church Studio:** A visitor to the graveyard had reported that the area around the studio is looking untidy and unkempt and works appear to have stagnated. Concerns were raised by the visitor that there does not appear to be a planning application for this property since 2014 and whether these works have been approved. *Post meeting note: The site has been inspected and the PC were not unduly concerned by its condition. However, Clerk has passed the matter onto Cllr Barkshire to investigate the status of the planning permission for the site.*

13. PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balances as at 28 July 2019: HSBC - £15,498.28. Barclays £5,308.17

i. J Book Clerk's Salary & expenses (July)		£244.51
	Trip to Mells (@ 45p/mile)	3.60
	Phone line rental	5.50
	Utilities	<u>4.00</u>
		£13.10
	HMRC PAYE (Period 5)	£53.00
	Mendip DC – election costs	£118.50
	Approved - all in favour	
ii. Receipts:	None	

14. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA/ITEMS TO REPORT

- i. **Vehicles parked in Recreation Ground car park:** Owners of vehicles were present at the meeting and confirmed that they will be removed in the very near future. Signs will be put up to deter overnight parking. Security signs appeared in the car park a few weeks ago.
- ii. **Aster garages in Longfield:** Aster tenancies state that no vehicles should park in front of the garages but there are currently several parked there. There is insufficient space for emergency vehicles to get through in some places. Residents were advised to contact Aster.
- iii. **Bridge by Pipeworks:** An application for traffic lights near this bridge is being submitted. A car had recently hit a tree in the vicinity.
- iv. **Entrance to the Barn:** Gravel has been purchased to fill the uneven surface.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 10th September at 7.15pm

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Print Name.....