

UNCONFIRMED

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL (mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 1 February 2025

- 01.02.25 PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl – Chair, Cllr John Henderson – Vice Chair, Cllr Steve West, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr Vince Turner
In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk
Members of the public: 0
- 02.02.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Claire Freeman, Cllr David Seviour, Cllr Clare Asquith, Cllr Barry Clarke – Somerset Council
- 03.02.25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
- 04.02.25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
- 05.02.25 APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2025**
Previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 06.02.245 SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**
- i. **Boundary Commission Review:** The deadline for phase 2 of the consultation has been extended to 4 March 2025. More information can be found here: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset>
 - ii. **Online sessions to help people understand complexities of care planning:** Somerset Council is holding a series of free, online webinars to help individuals plan care and support needs for themselves or those they care for. You can register for the free events at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/news/online-sessions-to-help-people-understand-complexities-of-care-planning/>
 - iii. **Guidance for reporting safety issues on Somerset's roads:** A quick and simple online reporting service is available 24/7. It can be used to report non-urgent incidents both during hours and out of hours at the weekend <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>. You can also report a hazard on the road such as rubbish, tyres or blown/displaced traffic cones. <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/hazards-on-the-road/> To report an urgent out-of-hours highways issue that's a risk to public safety, please call Somerset Lifeline 0300 123 2224. Gritting/salt spreading map – <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/gritting-map/>
 - iv. **Social Care Records:** A family Feedback Survey on digital Social Care Records – closes April 2025. This allows everyone involved in a person's care to see appropriate information digitally to help with that care.
- 07.02.25 MATTERS ARISING**
- i. **Barn and paddock leas:** The paddock lease has been signed and is ready for submission to Land Registry which the Clerk will action. The Barn lease is continuing on a rolling basis.
 - ii. **Pavilion lease and future of recreation ground:** Reassess progress next month.
 - iii. **Councillor vacancies – Co-option:** Clerk to advertise places again.
 - iv. **Quarry noise:** A meeting has been arranged with the Quarry Manager on 28 February.
 - v. **Bus shelter graffiti – Vobster:** Cllr Brady has quoted £110 to remove the graffiti and paint the whole shelter with masonry paint. Work to be carried out when the weather is better.

08.02.25 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

- i. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane:** The memorial tree will be planted week commencing 17 February. Top soil to level the area should be in place by the end of March.
- ii. **Area in front of Vobster Inn:** A small old truck on rails has been sourced which requires the approval of the inn owners before installation.
- iii. **Speeding vehicles in Vobster:** No response from Highways. Clerk to chase.
- iv. **Park Corner:** No response from Highways to the request expedite works.
- vi. **Damaged bridge – Vobster Cross:** Works on the bridge have begun and will last approximately 3 weeks. Cllr Brady has noticed that traffic trying to avoid the works at the bridge are continuing straight on at Vobster Cross and having to turn around. He will speak to the Works Manager to see if a no through road sign can be placed on the junction whilst the works are taking place.
- vii. **Speeding traffic and mud on road - Lime Kiln Hill:** The mud situation has improved significantly and the sweeper is out frequently. Cllr Brady has received a letter from the local MP who acknowledges there is a speeding problem around the parish and will contact the Police and respond back in due course.
- viii. **Erosion of verge:** Owner has assured that this will be re-instated and commented that this was due to the works taking longer than expected and the recent weather conditions.

09.02.25 PLANNING

- i. **New applications:** All for notification purposed only – no action required.
2025/0094/PAF: Notification for Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural buildings to a distillery – Claveys Farm, Somers Hill to Mells Green
2025/0174/TCA: Thin ash tree – Mells Park House, Berry Hill
2025/0236/TCA: Fell sycamore tree – Rossendale, Top Lane
- ii. **Other planning matters:**
 - a) **Old telephone exchange:** No further information.

10.02.25 CORRESPONDENCE:

- i. **Email from Chair of Stoke St Mary Parish – Housing stock:** Cllr Foster sought support to make Somerset Council limit the number of houses built within a rural parish to a maximum of 10% of the households in the parish (over 5 years). A parish, of currently 200 houses, is having another 150 houses built which is way over the 8% government target for Somerset. Mells PC were supportive of the issue and will monitor and respond accordingly if required.

11.02.25 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: Lloyds at 11 February 2025 - £5,432.28 (includes receipt of Mells Barn £3,019.20 for solicitor fees). Actual bank balance figure £2,413.08
Barclays at 20 December 2024 - £13,520.84

i. **Payment of accounts – December**

Clerk's Salary & expenses (January)	£334.88
HMRC PAYE (Period 11)	£80.40
Easy Websites – Fee for initial set up of new website	£300.00
12Cloud Payroll monthly fee	£6.00
Loxley Solicitors – fees for arranging lease for use of extra adjacent to the Barn	£3,019.20

- ii. **Receipts:** VAT refund £282.77. £3,019.20 from Mells Barn Management Committee to pay the invoice from Loxley Solicitors. As the parish council are the leaseholders of the Barn, it was felt that payment should be seen to be coming from them.

- iii. **Barclays account – setting up monthly direct debit:** This has now been actioned and the first payment of £200 has been received. Clerk has set up a standing order for authorisation by Cllrs Earl and Henderson for the amount of £200 to be transferred back monthly to the Barclays account. This is to ensure that the Barclays remains active.
- iv. **Internet banking:** At present, three councillors have access to online banking which leaves authorisation of payments open to not being done if councillors are absent due to holiday/illness. Cllr Seviour is a signatory but also needs to have internet access. Clerk to send forms.

12.02.25 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. **Water seeping through tarmac – Little Green:** Clerk to report that water is continuing to bubble through the tarmac. The source is assumed to be a spring. The road is just a patchwork of filled pot holes with Highways coming out several times a year to fill them again. A more permanent solution is required.

13.02.25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 11 March at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Printed name: _____