

**MELLS PARISH COUNCIL**  
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on  
Tuesday 14 September 2021**

**01.09.21 PRESENT:**

Cllr John Earl – Chair, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr Steve West, Cllr Jeremy Poynton, Cllr John Henderson, Cllr Vince Turner, Cllr David Seviour,

**In Attendance:** Joy Book – Clerk,  
**Members of the public:** 3

**02.09.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Cllr Helen Leakey, Cllr Alison Barkshire – District Councillor **Absent:** None

**03.09.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**04.09.21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

**05.09.21 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES HELD ON 10 AUGUST 2021**

Previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**06.09.21 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

Cllr Barkshire had forwarded an email in her absence, to say that there was no further information regarding the footway by the quarry.

**07.09.21 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** None

**08.09.21 MATTERS ARISING**

**i. Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane:**

Awaiting further information from Highways regarding the licences required. Clerk to contact Cllr Phil Ham again.

**ii. Footway by quarry:**

No further information.

**iii. Improvements to Vobster Cross bus shelter and litter bin:**

Clerk to order a new bin for Vobster village.

**iv. Stiles/gates – Vobster:**

Cllr Seviour will take photos and give a detailed description of the locations to the Clerk.

**v. Co-option of councillor:**

Clerk to put notice into the magazine. Co-option to take place at meeting on 9 November.

**10.09.21 HIGHWAY ISSUES:**

**Visibility issues on junctions:**

The conflicting signs on Lime Kiln Hill have been fixed correctly. Due to a recent accident at the end of the Bull's green link road/Park Corner crossroads, Highways has repainted the give way lines and cleared vegetation from the give way signs on the junction. However, a give way sign set slightly further back is still obscured by vegetation still.

**11.09.21 PLANNING**

**i. New Applications:**

2021/1928/TCA: Beech reduce height and spread by up to 1.5m, thin crown by up to 20%, crown lift lightly x 3m – 4 Hollycroft, Fairview – for tree officer.

**ii. Planning decisions:** None

iii. **Other matters:**  
**Appeal A: APP/Q33305/w/20/3263809 & Appeal B: APP/Q3305/Y/20/3263811:** The Cottage, Little Green – The appeal is allowed and planning permission granted subject to conditions.

iv. **Quarry Applications:** No further information

**12.09.21 CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**13.09.21 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Bank account: HSBC £18,724.75 Barclays £5,713.89

i. **Payment of Accounts:**

Clerk's Salary & expenses (August)	£266.55
HMRC PAYE (Period 6)	£63.20
British Legion – wreath and donation	£42.00

ii. **Receipts:** VAT refund of £227.94 has been paid into the account.

**14.09.21 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

i. **War memorial:**

This is looking very untidy. The hedge will be trimmed in time for the Remembrance service. Clerk to contact the Walled Garden to see if they could take over management of the area. PC would cover any costs.

ii. **Telephone box/Defibrillators:**

Cllr Henderson reported that the telephone box is now being used as a book swap and would it be appropriate to now consider refurbishing it. The Chair suggested that the box could be used for a defibrillator as there is currently only one within the village. It was agreed, that subject to the granting of permission by the respective owners, that Vobster should have one, possibly on the pub and purchase another for the recreation ground. Clerk to purchase two defibs and lockable cases.

iii. **Speeding:** Clerk to approach Highways to request 20mph zone throughout the village. Clerk also to follow up on the request regarding Vobster.

iv. **Play area fencing:** Several panels appear to have been removed and the signs regarding dogs have also disappeared. Cllr Seewooruttun to contact the play area committee to ensure their replacement.

v. **Vobster churchyard:** The condition of the churchyard has continued to deteriorate and is distressing for residents who visit their relatives. Clerk to contact church.

vi. **Weeds – recreation car park:** Clerk has contacted the contractor but will follow up as they do not appear to have been dealt with yet.

vii. **Vobster – broadband:** Cllr Seviour reported that the 6 month start to the installation is nearly up. His contact in Newbury will be following this up with Openreach to find out when they plan to begin the works.

**15.09.21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 12 October 2021 at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_