

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 8 March 2022

01.03.22 PRESENT:

Cllr John Earl - Chair, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr Steve West, Cllr John Earl, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Clare Asquith, Cllr Vince Turner, Cllr Karen Punter, Cllr Helen Leakey

In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk

Members of the public: One

02.03.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr David Seviour, Cllr John Henderson, Cllr Alison Barkshire – District Councillor

Absent: Cllr Vince Turner

03.03.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

04.03.22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

05.03.22 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2022

Previously circulated. Item 09.02.22 viii. Quarry noise was amended as follows: *'This was reported as ~~not~~ being as troublesome for those present at the meeting' but some residents are still bothered by it.* The minutes were then approved and signed by the Chair.

06.03.22 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

i. Update from Mendip DC:

Cllr Barkshire had forwarded some information via email prior to the meeting regarding possible funding for cycle racks. It was agreed that interest should be lodged although concerns were raised that designs may be limited and not in keeping with the surroundings.

07.03.22 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: None

08.03.22 MATTERS ARISING

i. Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane:

As an interim measure, it was agreed to do some mature planting in the area to deter parking. Clerk to contact the Walled Garden.

ii. Footway by quarry:

The quarry liaison meeting was cancelled at the last minute. Cllr West will propose that the quarry moves the hedge back 2 meters which would be fairly easy to do.

iii. Telephone box:

Cllr Asquith will contact the school to establish whether the box is still being used as Cllr Earl felt it would be an ideal location for another defibrillator.

vii. Vobster churchyard:

No further information. *Post meeting note: The PCC accepted the offer of an additional £500 agreeing the proviso that Vobster churchyard is cut four times during the growing season.*

viii. Quarry noise:

There was a very big explosion today. Noise at night does not appear to have lessened.

ix. Area in front of Vobster Inn – noticeboards and planters:

Awaiting confirmation of the location and type of planters.

xi. Platinum Jubilee celebrations:

The purchase of the trees is moving forwards. An estimate of costs for the Mells celebration has been received (approx. £570 for printing of flyers, portaloos hire and decorations/bunting). Estimate is awaited from Vobster. It was agreed not to provide commemorative gifts for the children.

09.03.22 HIGHWAY ISSUES:

i. Large lorries using Vobster Cross to Whatley quarry turning:

To be monitored.

10.03.22 PLANNING

i. New Applications:

2022/0301/VRC: Application to vary condition 2 (drawings) of planning approval 2020/1505/HSE to move the location of the garage and amend terrace shape – The Orchard, Mells Green. Cllr Seewooruttun will assess the plans and undertake a site visit if necessary.

ii. Planning decisions: None

iii. Other matters: None

11.03.22 CORRESPONDENCE:

i. Citizens Advice Bureau:

It was agreed to give a £200 donation.

ii. South West Heritage Trust – Local listed status of distinctive and noteworthy buildings, site and monuments:

Cllr Seewooruttun will put together a list which will include the war memorial, Lock up, the Barn and the faceless church clock.

iii. J W Witt Waste Recycling – price increase:

Prices will be going up 6.5% on 1 April. Cllr Earl will look at the bin emptying costs for the Barn to see whether switching companies would save any money.

12.03.22 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: HSBC February 2021 - £10,820.21

Barclays December 2021 - £5,318.15

i. Payment of Accounts:

Clerk's Salary & expenses (February)	£266.55
HMRC PAYE (Period 12)	£63.20
J W Witt (DD) – emptying of bins at Rec Ground	£61.32
Carter Jonas (SO) – Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement Trust	£165.00
SALC Councillor training	£25.00

ii. Receipts: None

iii. New bank account:

Clerk has approached a few banks and Lloyds seems the most promising at present as it has no monthly account charges and would allow up to 12 cheques a month free of charge through the account.

13.03.22 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

i. Footpaths Officer:

Jeremy Poynton has fulfilled this role excellently over the last few years but due to personal circumstances has decided to stand down. Clerk to put a post on Mells Matters and in the magazine.

- ii. **Clerk's salary increase:**
The scales have finally been agreed for April 2021 to March 2022. Clerk's salary to increase by £68.84/annum. Amount to be approved at the next meeting and would be back paid to April 2021.
- iii. **Mells bus shelters:**
Clerk to contact Highways to confirm the land at Rectory Corner is in their ownership.
- iv. **Ash dieback:**
Three trees along the hedgerow at BA11 3QZ between the road and footpath appear to have ash dieback. Cllr Asquith reported that all the trees on Estate land are being inspected but she would ensure that these are looked at.
- v. **Entrance to the Barn:**
No action will be taken until the Barn lease is sorted but it is noted as an issue.
- vi. **Pollarding of 3 lime trees – Manor House:**
Cllr Asquith reported that the trees were going to be cut back this week and that the Estate hoped to save as much of them as possible but there would be quite a dramatic change to the look of the area. A post will be put on Mells Matters
- vii. **Defibrillator:**
Cllr Seewooruttun is looking into what needs to be done to ensure the defibrillator in the Recreation Ground is well maintained.
- viii. **Somerset Bus Partnership:**
The Bus Recovery Grant was going to be withdrawn in March but is has now been extended until October. The public are encouraged to write to their MP's to request better bus services.
- ix. **Speeding:**
The speed bike will be monitoring traffic by Longfield and the school.

14.03.21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 12 April at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Printed name: _____