

## UNCONFIRMED

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

#### Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 9 July 2024

- 01.07.24 PRESENT:** Cllr John Henderson – Vice Chair, Cllr Claire Freeman, Cllr David Seviour, Cllr Steve West, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Alan Brady  
**In Attendance:** Joy Book – Clerk, Cllr Barry Clarke – Somerset Council  
**Members of the public:** 0
- 02.07.24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr John Earl - Chair, Cllr Vince Turner, Cllr Clare Asquith, Cllr P Ham
- 03.07.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
- 04.07.24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
- 05.07.24 APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 11 JUNE 2024**  
Previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 06.07.24 SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**
- i Suez contract:** The current contract is not working well for Suez so options are being looked at. The most likely outcome is that Suez will re-negotiate the contract which could result in an additional cost to the council of £46 million over 6 years.
  - ii. Redundancies:** 49 high level managers have been made redundant along with the Chief Finance Officer who has been offered a large redundancy package. An interim Finance Officer has been appointed whilst a new one is sought. The redundancy payments will total £12 million which it is hoped will be reclaimed back within 1.5 years due to the salaries being saved.
  - iii. Flooding workshops:** Several are taking place around the county with a view to discussing local issues and finding Flood Wardens. They will work on a catchment wide basis and where issues are identified, a solution sought eg. farmers changing their methods. In most cases, there will be no quick resolution to the issue.
- 07.06.24 MATTERS ARISING**
- i. Barn lease:** The management committee is unable to take on the lease for the paddock or Barn in their name. Therefore the Parish Council will need to continue as the leaseholders.
  - ii. Pavilion lease and future of recreation ground:** The current lease will run out September 2026 with the possibility of a new lease of only 10 years being allowed. There is now three Company Directors in place. Clerk to contact the Estate manager to see if there has been any decision made as to who will be the lease holder.
  - iii. Councillor vacancies – Co-option:** No applications have been received to date. Cllr Henderson urged those present to seek new councillors.
  - iv. Silt under Vobster bridge:** No further information.
  - v. Trees overhanging telephone lines – Little Green:** No further information.
  - vi. Quarry noise:** Cllr West and Cllr Asquith will try to source the origin of the noise. There is a quarry liaison meeting next week which Cllr West plans to attend.
- 08.07.24 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:**
- i. Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane and area in front of Vobster Inn:** The area has been strimmed and some top soil has been added to try to level it, although more needs to be

added. Thanks were extended to Cllr Seewooruttun's family and Cllr West for carrying out this work. Cllr Seviour will go ahead and purchase the barrels for Vobster Inn.

- ii. **Overgrown bush by Honeysuckle Cottage, Vobster:** This has now been cut back.
- iii. **Fast traffic by Claveys Farm:** Cllr Henderson reported an incident where a car had come speeding around the corner missing a pedestrian by inches. Clerk to report to Highways.
- iv. **Traffic on Holes Lane:** Marshalls is looking at alternative routes and will encourage drivers to avoid this area. Highways and the quarry are also looking into what they can do to alleviate the situation. Any quarry vehicle causing an issue should be reported to the quarry quoting the vehicle number plate.

#### 09.07.24 PLANNING

- i. **New applications:** None
- ii. **Planning decisions:** None
- iii. **Other planning matters:**
  - a) **Old telephone exchange:** The building has been tidied up. Cars are noted as staying overnight. This will be monitored.
  - b) **Quarry applications:** Westdown Quarry application has been approved.

#### 10.07.24 CORRESPONDENCE: None

#### 11.07.24 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: Lloyds: 31 May 2024 – £14,438.46  
Barclays at 20 June 2024 - £10,429.86

- i. **Payment of accounts:**

Clerk's Salary & expenses (June)	£319.57
HMRC PAYE (Period 4)	£76.60
J W Witt – bin emptying (138498)	£76.42
12 Cloud monthly payroll fee	£6.00
Chris Ingrem – fingerpost painting	£1,943.00
- ii. **Receipts:** Barclays interest - £35.79
- iii. **Barclays account – setting up direct debit:** No further information. Clerk will look at expenditure for the coming financial year to establish whether any more money can be transferred into the Barclays account to gain interest on it. Clerk will source the paperwork to get Cllr Seviour onto the Lloyds internet banking system.

#### 12.07.24 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. **Speeding cars through Vobster:** Cllr Brady to ask the local PCSO whether a more frequent police presence in the evenings could be made available.
- ii. **Local Community Network AGM:** Cllr Brady had attended the meeting. The main issues for this area were traffic ie. quarry lorries using Knaption Hill. The next meeting is scheduled for 15 October and could take place in the Barn.
- iii. **Lock up:** The Estate are looking into tidying this up.
- iv. **Vegetation clearance around signs:** Thanks were extended to Cllr Brady who continues to clear vegetation obscuring signs around the village.
- v. **Dirty fingerposts/signs near the quarry:** Cllr West will ask the quarry whether they could clean them as they are likely to have got into this condition due to the heavy vehicles using the road.
- vi. **BT Cabinet:** This is still in situ. Awaiting its removal but there is no timescale.
- vii. **Debris accumulating by White Bridge:** Branches etc are building up around the bridge. To be monitored.
- viii. **White lines – Woodlands End:** Clerk to request reinstatement.
- ix. **Streetlights – Longfield:** Cllr Seewooruttun reported that these are still out but the national grid has said they will be fixed by 2 August. Cllr Seewooruttun will continue to contact them weekly to ensure this work is carried out.

**14.07.24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 13 August 2024 at **7.15pm** in the Barn (**NO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER**)

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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

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

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