

UNCONFIRMED

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on
Tuesday 10 August 2021**

01.08.21 PRESENT:

Cllr John Earl – Chair, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Helen Leakey, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr Steve West, Cllr Jeremy Poynton, Cllr John Henderson

In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk, Cllr Alison Barkshire – District Councillor

Members of the public: 1

02.08.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr David Seviour, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Cllr Vince Turner **Absent:** None

03.08.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

04.08.21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

i. Presentation by Active in Touch (AIT):

Doug Brown outlined the services provided by AIT which centres around isolation and loneliness. Their services cover Frome out to a radius of 6 miles. The three areas they cover are:-

- a) **One to one befriending:** Volunteers interests are matched and they meet up to shop, have coffee etc.
- b) **Volunteer community drivers (was Frome Community Cars):** Offers travel to appointments, shopping etc. 30p/mile if the user has a bus pass, 60p/mile if user doesn't hold a bus pass. This service is not just about getting the person to their destination but the conversation along the way.
- c) **Group meetings eg. coffee mornings:** Arranging events for those isolated or feeling lonely to come together.

The constraints of the service at present is volunteers (funding is not currently a problem). AIT would be happy to share their model with other towns. Information about the services will be made available on the PC website.

05.08.21 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES HELD ON 13 JULY 2021

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

06.08.21 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

i. Timetable for the unitary authority:

Parliament now has to approve the proposal for One Somerset. There are elections in May for new councillors in the existing wards. District Councillors will continue for another year. The estimated costs of transferring to the unitary authority is £1 million and the councils may have to sell some assets.

ii. Council offices are now open to the public.

iii. Flooding:

Flooding can be reported to <https://mendip-flood-risk-management-programme-mendip.hub.arcgis.com> who will also look into flood prevention schemes.

- ii. **Somerset Waste:**
Garden waste collections will re-commence on 6 September. It is now also unlikely your normal recycling/waste collection will be picked up if it is missed until the next collection is due.

07.08.21 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: None

08.08.21 MATTERS ARISING

- i. **Superfast Broadband:**
Installation to properties has gone back a month to October.
- ii. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane:**
Cllrs Earl, Seewooruttun and Asquith had met with two members of the Highways department. Three options had been discussed:
- Buy the land which would enable the PC to do what it would like with it. This however would incur substantial legal fees, a nationwide consultation and a purchase price which would cost £10,000s.
 - Put bollards around the area making the central area more of a 'green'.
 - Put bollards around the area but slightly set back to enable cars to park around it rather than on it.

Licences would need to be obtained to undertake b) and c) and highways would have a say in any works undertaken. The licences could take two years to come through. Clerk to contact Cllr Phil Ham as he has experience of other councils who have purchased land and licences.

- iii. **Telephone box – painting:**
The phone box is accessible. Cllr Henderson suggested that it would be easier to repaint the box prior to shelving being installed rather than waiting for proven usage of the box.
- iv. **Footway by quarry:**
The quarry is in contact with Somerset CC regarding improving the footway although there was some confusion as to why SCC would be involved as the land is owned by the quarry. Vegetation along the footway has recently been cut back.
- v. **Improvements to Vobster Cross bus shelter and litter bin:**
The bin in Vobster is not in good condition. It was suggested that a new bin should be purchased and placed at that location and the old one put by the bus shelter to see if it alleviates the littering issue. If it does, a new bin will be purchased in the future.
- vi. **Stiles/gates – Vobster:**
Clerk is awaiting photos before contacting the Ramblers Association.
- vii. **Co-option of councillor:**
Mendip DC have been notified of the vacancy and the necessary notices had been posted and it has gone uncontested. The PC is now able to co-opt a councillor.
- viii. **Whatley Quarry Action Group:**
The PC would always welcome the group at a PC meeting and listen to any concerns or developments. A decision on any action/assistance would be taken at that time.
- ix. **Footpath contractor:** All the paths have been cut back and some other areas attended to.

10.08.21 HIGHWAY ISSUES:

Visibility issues on junctions:

Cllr Brady reported that the signs on Lime Kiln Hill are conflicting as one has been turned. Highways will rectify.

11.08.21 PLANNING

- i. **New Applications:** None

ii. **Planning decisions:** None

iii. **Other matters - Upper Vobster Farm:**

The situation at the farm is being investigated.

Caravan site:

The fencing has been moved out to increase the area and a shed on a concrete standing has been installed.

iv. **Quarry Applications:**

Bartletts Quarry application has now been approved. The thinking behind it is that intensity of the traffic will be reduced by having the two quarries working at the same time. Cllr Poynton reported that he has noted an increase in noise at night.

12.08.21 CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

13.08.21 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: HSBC £19,054.50 Barclays £5,713.89

i. **Payment of Accounts:**

Clerk's Salary & expenses (July)	£266.35
HMRC PAYE (Period 5)	£63.40
SALC annual affiliation fee	£163.66
Hadyn Cording-West – footpath strimming	£162.50

ii. **Receipts:** Clerk has submitted a VAT refund claim form for £2

14.08.21 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

i. **Power cuts:**

The recent cuts are due to an issue in Newbury.

ii. **Damaged streetlights:**

These are due to work carried out by Voneous contractors.

iii. **Recreation ground:**

Clerk to arrange for the contractor to apply weedkiller to the car parking area.

15.08.21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 14 September 2021 at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Printed name: _____

