

## MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

### Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 12 October 2021

**01.10.21 PRESENT:**

Cllr John Earl – Chair, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Alan Brady (left at 8.00pm), Cllr Steve West, Cllr Jeremy Poynton, Cllr John Henderson, The Countess of Oxford & Asquith, Cllr Helen Leakey

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

**Members of the public:** None

**02.10.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr David Seviour, Cllr Vince Turner

**Absent:** None

**03.10.21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**04.10.21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**05.10.21 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2021**

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

**06.10.21 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

**i. COVID rates:**

Covid rates in Mendip are now amongst the highest in the county. The region with the highest rates are in the Frome area. It is important that precautionary measures, ie. social distancing, mask wearing and ventilation are still implemented.

**ii Local Plan Part 2:**

The Planning Inspector report on the Local Plan part 2 has been published and is due to be formally adopted by MDC at the next Full Council meeting. The report accepts the requirement of 505 houses in the northeast of Mendip, mainly on the edge of Midsomer Norton but also includes more houses in Norton St Phillip. This is in addition to the higher overall housing target for Mendip - with a large number in the Frome area. The report is available at [www.mendip.gov.uk/localplanexamination](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/localplanexamination)

**iii. Unitary authority:**

A joint committee is being established consisting of the 5 Mendip Council leaders and 4 SCC councillors - details can be found at [www.mendip.gov.uk/folgis](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/folgis). The senior members of MDC will be spending the majority of their time dealing with the many issues that need to be addressed during the transition and, as a result, MDC will be able to do very little other than statutory work.

**iv. MDC planning:**

A new Planning Consultee Access system has been introduced by MDC that should be easier to access.

**v. Parish Forum Meetings:**

Cllr Barkshire wanted to raise awareness of these meetings as they discuss parish issues and access to the latest information from MDC.

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

**08.10.21 MATTERS ARISING**

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

Clerk has spoken the Cllr Ham who will bring the matter of costs and licences up at a Highways meeting he is attending on Friday 15 October. As Highways seemed supportive of planting on the land, Cllr Asquith handed out a sketch showing the planting of a box hedge to act as a barrier rather than bollards. The sketch included the possibility of a memorial tree and a couple of benches near the back wall. Cllr Barkshire asked whether cycle racks could also be installed. Concerns were raised about the upkeep of the hedge.

**ii. Footway by quarry:**

No further information. The next quarry meeting is 19 October. Cllr West will raise this matter again.

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

The new bin for Vobster has been delivered and Cllrs West and Seviour will install it and move the old bin to the bus shelter.

**iv. Stiles/gates – Vobster:**

Cllr Seviour to supply the locations and photos of the issue.

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

There has been one expression of interest but no application forms have been received yet. Closing date 1 November.

**vi. War Memorial upkeep:**

The Walled Garden have very kindly agreed to keep the war memorial tidy. Any flowers or equipment required to undertake the works will be covered by the PC.

**vii. Telephone box:**

Quotes will be sought for the refurbishment of the box.

**viii. Defibrillators:**

Clerk has accepted a quote from London Hearts who are currently offering £300 off a defibrillator. The electrical contractor will be contacted to install the two units. The owners of the Vobster Inn, have in principle, agreed for the defibrillator to be installed on their premises between the noticeboard and the post box. The best location for the recreation ground is on the tractor shed. The locations of the defibrillators will be put into the magazine and on the website and in the noticeboards when they have been installed.

**ix. Vobster churchyard:**

Father Clive has visited the churchyard and will inform the PC of the church's ongoing plan in due course. The current principle is that there is a balance between allowing the abundance of wild flowers to grow but keeping the pathways clear to allow people to visit their loved ones.

The Mells churchyard has been well maintained this year and it would appear that there is insufficient funds to maintain the Vobster churchyard in the same manner. The PC gave £2,000 to Mells with Vobster PCC last year and it was agreed to give £1,000 for the maintenance of St Andrews churchyard and retain the remaining £1,000 to relieve the church of the upkeep of Vobster's churchyard for the coming year so it can be brought up to a similar standard.

Several trees have been planted in Vobster churchyard. Clerk to establish whether the church is responsible for their planting.

**x. Vobster superfast broadband:**

BT Openreach has moved to the build stage and will be back in touch in November with the progress they are making.

#### 10.10.21 HIGHWAY ISSUES:

##### i. 20mph zone in Vobster and Mells:

Traffic Management has responded that any request for a new or amended speed limit needs to be evidence based, which includes taking into account speed readings and collision history. The Police must support the implementation of the zone and any works would need to be funded by the Parish Council. The statutory consultation process to implement a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) can be a lengthy and costly exercise and as part of this, it has to be justified that the proposed changes demonstrate that they are likely to be effective. The current fees for deployment of speed radars are £225 per radar and the costs for implementing a new speed limit are between £5,000 to £10,000. There is set criteria from the Department for Transport which is used when looking at proposed locations. The PC feel the costs are too prohibitive at present to progress.

#### 11.10.21 PLANNING

##### i. New Applications: None

##### ii. Planning decisions: None

##### iii. Other matters: None

##### iv. Quarry Applications:

**SCC/3833/2021:** Removal of Condition 2 of Schedule B of planning permission 2016/0025/CNT to enable extraction of carboniferous limestone to recommence within Bartlett's Quarry prior to cessation of extraction at Torr Works Quarry - Granted

#### 12.10.21 CORRESPONDENCE:

None

#### 13.10.21 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: HSBC 28 September 2021 - £18,353.00  
Barclays 20 September 2021 - £5,318.02

##### i. Payment of Accounts:

Clerk's Salary & expenses (September)	£266.35
HMRC PAYE (Period 6)	£63.40
Defib Shop – battery for defib on shop	£318.00
Glasdon – bin for vobster	£391.00
London Hearts – defib and cases x 2	£2,466.00
S J Farrell – weedkilling rec ground	£70.00

##### ii. Receipts: Barclays Bank interest

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

##### i. Brambles - Barn:

Cllr Asquith will arrange for the weeds in the Barn's outer wall to be dealt with.

##### ii. Quarry noise:

Cllr West will attend the Quarry liaison meeting next week and raise the issue again. He reported that some alleviating measures had been taken. The current machine noise continues all night and rises and falls. A contact email can be found on the quarry's community page

<https://www.hanson-communities.co.uk/en/whatley-and-westdown-quarry-community-page>

##### iii. Doctor's Walk:

This footpath has been reported as being overgrown. Cllr Seewooruttun will contact the contractor to get it cut back.

**iv. White bridge notice:**

The sign has become difficult to read. Cllr Earl will assess what action needs to be taken.

**15.10.21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 9 November 2021 at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

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

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

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