

## MELLS PARISH COUNCIL

(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

### Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 12 April 2022

**01.04.22 PRESENT:**

Cllr John Earl - Chair, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr Steve West, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr David Seviour, Cllr John Henderson, Cllr Karen Punter,

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

**Members of the public:** None

**02.04.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Helen Leakey

**Absent:** Cllr Vince Turner, Cllr Clare Asquith

**03.04.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**04.04.22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**05.04.22 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES HELD ON 8 MARCH 2022**

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

**06.04.22 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

**i. Update from Mendip DC:**

MDC is currently in purdah so new initiatives are not allowed during this period. Unitary council transfer still continues to make up a large amount of the work currently being undertaken by the council.

**Energy Rebate Fund:** For those struggling with council tax the fund has been increased to £60k. This may be further increased if there is demand. Anyone in need of help should contact the Mendip DC (more information can be found on their website <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10897/150-Energy-Rebate>). Most householders in Council Tax band A to D properties will qualify for the rebate of £150. If MDC already hold your bank details it will be paid to your account once approved. If not, they encourage you to sign up to pay your council tax by direct debit or they will pay the amount by cheque.

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

**08.04.22 ANNUAL REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS**

Financial Regulations, Risk Management Strategy, Social Media Policy and Recording at Meetings Policy, Standing Orders, Code of Conduct. All previously circulated. No changes required therefore the documents were approved and diarised for review in one year.

**09.04.22 MATTERS ARISING**

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

A new suggestion of putting either 8 barrels or 4 barrels with large stones between them on the edge of the land was received from the Chair. Clerk to ask Highways if they would approve this proposal and process the necessary licences.

**ii. Footway by quarry:**

The quarry will look into moving the hedge back.

- iii. **Telephone box:**  
The box is full of books and does not appear to be being managed. If this is the case, the PC will look into installing a defibrillator.
- vii. **Quarry noise:**  
SCC has been monitoring all the noise levels and found no breaches. The planning permissions were approved many years ago and state that only 5 specified houses need to have permanent monitoring. The quarry is now working in different areas which will create different noise transfer than previously. Blasting noise is well under permitted levels. A high pitched noise was reported recently which could have been a trapped belt. The quarry is continuing to implement further noise reduction methods eg. turned fans down, two new lined lorries already on site with two more due soon.
- ix. **Area in front of Vobster Inn:**  
Cllr Seviour had previously circulated a proposal for 4 barrel planters at a cost of £70 each to be placed in front of the inn. This was approved subject to Highways agreeing to their location and issuing the necessary licences. The owners of Vobster Inn have agreed to plant and look after the plants. Cllr Seviour thanked the council for the works in front of the bus shelter and the Clerk for reporting the recent damage to the bridge near Vobster Cross.
- xi. **Platinum Jubilee celebrations:**  
Vobster has received £3,000 from the Vobster Trust for their celebration and the PC approved a grant of £500 to cover the remaining costs of their celebration.
- x. **Rectory bus shelter:** The land the bus shelter is on is not owned by Highways. Clerk to contact Cllr Asquith.

#### 10.04.22 HIGHWAY ISSUES:

- i. **Large lorries using Vobster Cross to Whatley quarry turning:**  
To be monitored.

#### 11.04.22 PLANNING

- i. **New Applications:**  
**2022/0646/TCA:** Walnut – raise canopy to 3m height and reduce canopy by up to 1.5m – 2 The Rock, Fairview – for the tree officer.
- ii. **Planning decisions:** None
- iii. **Other matters:**  
**2021/2442/FUL:** Erection of 1no. dwelling and detached garage, formation of new access and associated development: Land adjoining Acrewood, Little Green – Planning Board. PC has no objections to this proposal subject to the access point meeting Highways requirements.

#### 12.04.22 CORRESPONDENCE:

- i. **Email from Doultong PC – co-operation between local parishes to discuss implications of the Unitary Council & Local Community Network:** PC would like to be involved but discussion will take place under the new council. Clerk to respond.

#### 13.04.22 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: HSBC March 2022 - £9,018.69  
Barclays March 2022 - £5,318.15

- i. **Payment of Accounts:**

Clerk's Salary & expenses (March)	£266.55
HMRC PAYE (Period 1)	£63.20
J W Witt – emptying of bins at Rec Ground (DD)	£61.32
Citizens Advice Bureau – donation	£200.00
- ii. **Receipts:** None

iii. **Approval of Clerk's salary increase:**

Clerk's salary to be increased by £68.84/annum. To be backdated to April 2021.

iv. **Provisional year end accounts for 2021/2022:**

PC started the year with £16,802.75. Provisional year end total is £14,045.42. Clerk will finalise accounts for the annual meeting and arrange for them to be assessed and approved by the internal auditor.

v. **HSBC telephone banking and mandate:**

The HSBC mandate has now been updated and the Clerk is in the process of reinstating the business telephone banking which was stopped due to the bank not processing the mandate present to them in 2019.

iii. **New bank account:**

To be progressed once new council is in place.

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

i. **Halecombe Quarry Community Fund:**

Clerk to raise awareness of this fund in the magazine. Application forms can be found under the 'News' tabs on the PC website.

ii. **Recreation ground - Pavilion:**

This has had considerable work undertaken recently which includes some replacement windows, new showers, kitchen and floors.

iii. **Noise – Western Skip Hire:**

Reports of slightly longer working into the evening and a repetitive beeping noise have been reported. To be monitored.

iv. **Elections 2022:**

The results of the uncontested election have been received and 5 councillors have been elected leaving 6 vacancies for co-option.

**15.04.21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 8 May at 7.00pm in the Barn to include Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

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

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

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