

UNCONFIRMED

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on
Tuesday 14 June 2022

01.06.22 PRESENT:

Cllr John Earl - Chair, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Karen Punter, Cllr Seviour
In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk, Cllr Alison Barkshire – District Councillor
Members of the public: 1 (prospective Co-optee)

02.06.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Alison Barkshire – District Councillor, Cllr Clare Asquith, Cllr John Henderson, Cllr Steve West, Cllr Vince Turner
Absent: None

03.06.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

04.06.22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

05.06.22 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS

Claire Freeman was welcomed to the council.

06.06.22 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: (report received prior to meeting via email)

i. Community Rewilding:

Mendip DC has launched a pilot project in Wells to unlock pockets of land for community groups to re-wild. The council is identifying green spaces in Mendip to increase biodiversity and allow nature to thrive. They will be known as Mendip Ecological Areas and will be clearly marked as such. Mendip is looking for individuals, groups or organisations willing to take on wildflower planting, eco-cutting another other activities to create sustainable habitats for bees, butterflies and other wildlife, to enhance habitats and create corridors for pollinators.

Cllr Barkshire wondered whether the area just down from the Manor House could be considered with perhaps a mown border by the road side but leaving the rest to re-wild.

07.06.22 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: None

08.06.22 APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 10 MAY 2022

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

09.06.22 APPROVAL OF NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

Previously circulated. No alterations requested. Approved. To be reviewed annually.

10.06.22 MATTERS ARISING

i. Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane and area in front of Vobster Inn:

A plan will be drawn up with the sizes of the plants and stone for Highways to approve.

ii. Telephone box:

Clerk to request that the school empties box so the contractor can commence work. It was agreed to keep the box red with a view to adding 'Defibrillator' signs near the roof.

iii. Quarry noise:

There does not seem to have been much variation in noise despite the various methods of noise reduction being implemented by the Quarry. To be monitored.

iv. Rectory bus shelter:

Clerk to follow up with the Estate.

v. Recreation Ground – edging stones, weeds and long term parking of vehicles:

The contractor who originally laid the stones is going into retirement. Cllr Seewooruttun will seek another contractor. The weeds have been treated and some of the cars have been moved.

11.06.22 BARN LEASE

This is being progressed.

12.06.22 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

i. Footway by quarry:

Clerk has submitted a request for funding from the quarry via their community page.

ii. Footpaths near the Manor:

Clerk had been informed by Somerset Footpaths that some complaints had been received regarding crops growing across the footpath in one of the fields. The tenant farmer attended a site visit and has agreed to clear the footpath of crops. The Footpath Officer was impressed with the permissive footpaths that the Estate has been maintaining for many years.

13.06.22 PLANNING

i. New Applications:

2022/0968/TCA: Fell beech - Land at Selwood Street. For Tree Officer

2022/0979/FUL: Change of use of existing barns into three holiday let units (retrospective) – Upper Vobster Farm. No comments.

2022/1178/TCA: Fell ash and spruce – 1 Egypt Cottages. For Tree Officer.

ii. Planning decisions: None

iii. Other planning matters - Vobster telephone exchange:

Clerk to follow up with Enforcement as no progress seems to be being made. No contact has been made since the matter went to the legal department and data protection stopped further communications.

14.06.22 CORRESPONDENCE:

Doultong Parish Council: Meeting of local parishes to discuss the new local authority. Passed to Cllr Earl who will attend with Cllr Asquith if possible.

15.06.22 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: **HSBC 28 May 2022 - £21,839.67**

Barclays March 2022 - £5,318.15

i. Payment of Accounts:

Clerk's Salary & expenses (April) inc printer toner	£292.88
HMRC PAYE (Period 2)	£64.60
J W Witt (108980) emptying of bins at Rec Ground (DD)	£67.54
D.A.N. Hire – toilet hire for Jubilee	£216.00
West Country Handyman – footpath clearance	£140.00
Aborcadabra – weed killing, recreation ground	£78.00
S A Burdett – Vobster Cross bus shelter works	£942.00
Alan Aked – internal audit	£60.00
Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement Trust (SO)	£165.00
Vobster Trust – donation to Platinum Jubilee celebration	£500.00

(Cllr Seviour thanked the council on behalf of the Trust and Vobster residents for their contribution to the celebration)

ii. **Receipts:** None

iii. **New bank account:**

Clerk has done further research and will forward the information before a final decision is taken. Enquiries will also be made about transferring the HSBC money into the Barclays account.

iv. **Internal Auditor's report:**

The Clerk was pleased to report that the accounts are in order and have been signed off by the Auditor.

16.06.22 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

i. **Play Park:**

The committee has secured some funding and has plans to replace some equipment. They are also looking for volunteers to join the committee.

ii. **Vobster speed limit:**

There are now 6 young children in the village and concerns have been raised about the 60mph limit through the village again. Clerk to investigate options with Highways.

iii. **Vobster – broadband:**

This has been delayed until August.

iv. **Somerset Bus Partnership:**

Funding of £12 million has been secured which is well under the £160 million they were hoping for. There has been a drop in bus usage, especially by those who have free bus passes. Cllr Seewooruttun will create a poster to put into the café and noticeboards and possibly into the magazine so the information is as widely disseminated as possible. A Green Breather day is being held on 18 June in Frome and a Catch the Bus Week in September (date to be confirmed).

v. **White Bridge – overhanging tree and railings:**

A tree that was trimmed back last year is now trailing in the water and requires attention. Clerk to contact the Estate. Concerns were also raised about there not being a lower rail on the bridge which makes it dangerous for young children to cross. Another rail/fencing will be considered.

17.06.21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 12 July at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Printed name: _____