

## UNCONFIRMED

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

#### Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 14 March 2023

##### 01.03.23 PRESENT:

Cllr John Earl - Chair, Cllr Steve West, Cllr John Henderson, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Karen Punter, Cllr Claire Freeman, Cllr Clare Asquith, Cllr David Seviour,

**In Attendance:** Joy Book – Clerk, Cllr Barry Clarke - Mendip Central and East Somerset Councillor, Cllr Alison Barkshire – District Councillor

**Members of the public:** 1

##### 02.03.23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Vince Turner

##### 03.03.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

##### 04.03.23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- i. **Wooden footpath signs:** Alan Brady kindly offered to treat any which require preserving.
- ii. **Roadworks:** Resident queried if there was anything that could be done to speed up the works as there often seemed to be very little activity. This is out of the PC's hands.

##### 05.03.23 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Due to the IT changeover for the unitary council, Cllr Barkshire had been unable to access any information to report back on. Cllr Barkshire reported that this was her last meeting in the role. Thanks were extended to Alison who had attended most meetings during her tenure and been an active councillor on the parish council's behalf.

##### 06.03.23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

- i. **Cllr Phil Ham:** Currently on long term sick leave.
- ii. **Road repairs:** Cllr Clarke has forwarded the information and photos of the poor road surfaces in Mells to highlight the atrocious state of roads within the county. Any unsatisfactory road repairs should be reported to Highways.
- iii. **Planning under the unitary council:** The areas are being split into north, south, east and west. A major planning application will now be for those of 10 houses or more or a hectare plus. The Strategic Planning Board will consist of the Chairman and Vice Chairman and objectors will now be given 3 minutes each to speak.
- iv. **Local Community Networks:** The local group is currently known as the 'Frome LCN'. This indicates a Frome centric organisation so another suitable name is being sought to reflect the rural villages involvement.
- v. **Financial shortfall:** The estimated Somerset CC shortfall for this year is £24 million which is around £12 million less than previously predicted.
- vi. **Oil/fuel grant:** The £200 winter hardship fund for oil heating finishes 23 March.
- vii. **Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership (SASP):** This organisation has funding for sports equipment.
- viii. **Torr quarry planning application:** This being discussed on 15 March.

Cllr Clarke concluded by also thanking Cllr Barkshire.

##### 07.03.23 APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2022

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

### 08.03.23 MATTERS ARISING

- i. **Rectory bus shelter – accumulation of rainwater:** It is believed that it has been inspected by Highways but as they do not report back on findings, the PC will wait to see if any works are carried out and follow up after a few months if no action has been taken.
- iv. **Barn lease:** John Macdonald has been instructed, on the PC's behalf, to write to the diocese and PCC to move this forward as there is now only one year left on the lease.
- v. **5Alive:** Clerk to follow up with other PC's in group.
- vi. **Dog waste bins:** The Estate has approved the new location for the bin on the other side of the recreation ground. Clerk to confirm with Mendip DC that the contractor will empty it at this location and arrange for it to be fitted once confirmed.
- vii. **Emergency/contingency plan and warm spaces:** Mike Phyphers has agreed to be a main contact. Clerk to contact to outline scope of the role.
- viii. **Pavilion improvements:** The planning application has been submitted. Carter Jonas the agents for the Estate, would prefer to renew the lease direct with the Mells Recreational and Sports Club rather the PC. The PC were supportive of this of action.
- ix. **Bin in recreation ground:** This now has a lock on it to stop residents using it for their household waste for which the PC has been incurring excess weight charges.
- x. **Mells Pipeworks – intrusive lighting:** This is being looked into. The lights are shining into some resident's properties. Further information will be gathered to establish what times and which lights are causing the issue. Two large lorries from the pipeworks had got stuck on Vobster bridge on the same day. One at 9pm.

### 09.03.23 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

- i. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane and area in front of Vobster Inn:** The area has been audited and the licence is now being processed by the Highways legal team.
- i. **Footway by quarry:** No further information.
- iii. **Vobster speed limit:** Cllr Seviour will supply the requested information.
- iv. **Fast traffic coming down Lime Kiln Hill:** A local traffic officer had expressed his surprise that there weren't more SLOW signs on the road coming into the village.
- v. **Vobster cross bridge:** No further information.
- vi. **Vobster – drive carefully signs:** Clerk to request 4 signs at approximately £250/sign. Vobster Trust will contribute half of the costs.
- vii. **Proposed diversion of Public Footpaths FR10/4, FR 10/6 and FR 10/5:** No objections.

### 10.03.23 PLANNING

- i. **New Applications:** None
- ii. **Planning decisions:** None
- iii. **Other planning matters:**
  - a) **Old telephone exchange:** No further information.
- iv. **Quarry applications:** No further information.

### 11.03.23 CORRESPONDENCE:

- i. **Email from Cornerstone – Williams Acquisition Ltd:** Proposed upgrade to existing radio base station installation at CTIL\_24153721\_Mells Sewage Works, Top Lane, Mells – the site is needed to provide enhanced 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity for Vodaphone and future proof 5G technology. No objections

### 12.03.23 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: HSBC 28 February 2023 – £7,199.78  
Barclays December 2022 - £5,323.29

#### i. Payment of Accounts

Clerk's Salary & expenses (February) £295.24

HMRC PAYE (Period 12)	£70.60
J W Witt (118740 & 118739) emptying of bins and excess	
Weight charge at Rec Ground (DD)	£90.03
Mendip Citizens Advice Bureau – donation	£200.00
Martin Moore – installation of new dog bins	£130.00
Martin Moore – installation and electrical work for	
Defibrillator in telephone box	£245.00

ii. **Receipts:** None

iii. **New bank account:** The Lloyds account is now live. Only two online payment machines have been received. Cllr Henderson to request another two so all signatories have access to internet banking.

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

i. **Bus Partnership:** A new timetable is now out for the 184 bus which begins on 2 April. There is still no weekend service. The £2 single trip offer has been extended until the end of June and can be purchased on the 184 bus. The Bus Recovery Grant which gives financial support to bus companies, has been previously been extended to the end of June. Residents are being urged to write to their MP to encourage its continuation to protect local services. Somerset CC is looking at the condition of bus stops as there is some money available to improve them.

ii. **Photo ID for voting:** Cllr Barkshire reported that photo ID - passport, driving licence or bus pass for pensioners, will be required to vote in future. Alcohol ID and travel cards eg. Oyster will not be acceptable so young people are urged to apply for the required ID in order that they may vote.

**14.03.23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 11 April 2023 at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

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

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

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