

## UNCONFIRMED

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

#### Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 10 January 2023

**01.01.23 PRESENT:**

Cllr John Earl - Chair, Cllr Steve West, Cllr John Henderson, Cllr David Seviour, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun

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

**Members of the public:** None

**02.01.23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Karen Punter, Cllr Claire Freeman, Cllr Vince Turner, Cllr Clare Asquith

**03.01.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**04.01.23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**05.01.23 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

i. **Unitary Authority:** Mendip DC is still very involved with moving towards being a unitary authority.

**06.01.23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

i. **Somerset County Council Finances:** The coming year's budget is currently being talked about and will centre on recouping the significant overspend.

ii. **Local Government Reorganisation:** Vesting day for the new Unitary Council remains as 1st April 2023.

iii. **Single rate bus fares:** Bus users in Somerset can now travel on most routes in the county with the following operators (Dartline, Faresaver Buses, First South West, Buses of Somerset), First West of England, Hatch Green Coaches and South West Coaches) for just £2 from January to 31 March.

iv. **Affinity – oil scheme:** <https://ccslovesomerset.org/oil/> Somerset Community Oil Scheme is a heating oil bulk buying scheme that covers the whole of the county. Bulk purchasing will make significant savings as collectively ordering reduces the cost. The scheme is open to individuals, community groups and businesses.

Other grant information can be found at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/cost-of-living-support-in-somerset/>

**07.01.23 APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2022**

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

**08.01.23 MATTERS ARISING**

i. **Telephone box and defibrillator:** Chair to chase.

ii. **Quarry noise:** Three complaints, reported to the PC, from one person.

iii. **Rectory bus shelter – accumulation of rainwater:** Clerk to report to Highways.

iv. **White Bridge – railings:** The work should be completed by the end of January.

- v. **Barn lease:** No further information.
- vi **Abandoned cars in rec car park and Selwood Street:** These have all been moved.
- vii. **Trees in river by Vobster bridge:** Cllr West will speak to the Mells Park, Estates Manager
- viii. **5Alive:** Clerk to approach the other parishes to see if 'pro rata' style funding could be made.
- ix. **Shop – early closing hours:** When tried in the past, there was insufficient footfall. However, it may be tried again in the spring, especially if the café opening hours can also be extended.
- x. **Dog waste bins:** The quarry, has in principle, agreed to purchase two bins. The one in situ at Fairview has recently been damaged. Clerk to ask if quarry would fund a third bin.
- xi. **Emergency/contingency plan and warm spaces:** Various people and venues are being approached and will be added to the plan when they have given their consent to be contacted in an emergency.

#### 09.01.23 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

- i. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane and area in front of Vobster Inn:** The application for a Certificate of Lawfulness has been validated by Mendip DC. There could be a problem with the application for the bike rakes. Mendip DC inspected the proposed site and were not keen to create further parking issues by stopping cars parking on it. However, the planned stones/chains would still allow cars to park more orderly around the area, rather than stop parking completely. Cllr Barkshire to follow up.
- ii. **Footway by quarry:** Cllr West to contact the quarry again. The latest hold up appears to be due to finding out who owns the verge.
- iii. **Vobster speed limit:** Cllr Seviour will supply the requested information.
- iv. **Fast traffic coming down Lime Kiln Hill:** Clerk to chase again.
- v. **Vobster cross bridge:** Clerk to chase again.
- vi. **Vobster – drive carefully signs:** Cllr West will attend the next Vobster Trust meeting and present them with the options.

#### 10.01.23 PLANNING

- i. **New Applications:**
  - 2022/2276/CLP:** Placing of barrel planters and large stones – Land at 372993 148984 Holes Lane to Top Lane: No objections
  - 2022/2388/TCA:** Fell 9 x cypress and 1 x thula – Bridge Cottage: For Tree Officer
- ii. **Planning decisions:** None
- iii. **Other planning matters:**
  - a) **Old telephone exchange:** No further information. Awaiting planning application.
  - b) **2022/0979/FUL:** Change of use of existing barns into three holiday let units (retrospective) – Upper Vobster Farm: This application is going to the planning board. Highways have revisited the application due to the possible amount of people attending the conference centre.
- iv. **Quarry applications:** Cllr West will raise the ROMP review at the next quarry liaison meeting and get clarification on what is happening.

**11.01.23 CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank you letter from Mells with Vobster PCC for churchyard grant.

#### 12.01.23 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: HSBC 28 December – 12,245.34  
Barclays December 2022 - £5,323.29

##### i. **Payment of Accounts – for December**

Clerk's Salary & expenses (December) + Backpay to April 2022	£513.61
HMRC PAYE (Period 10)	£125.20
Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement Trust back pay to April 2022	

Due to late payment review	£162.00
Website hosting fee	£86.26
J W Witt (116503) emptying of bins at Rec Ground (DD)	£94.04

- ii. **Receipts:** £2.97 Barclays Bank interest.
- iii. **New bank account:** Clerk has received the forms from Lloyds for completion and signing. Chair will return forms once all signatories on the new account have signed them.
- iv. **Budget and precept:** All agreed to keep the precept as last year ie. £13,000. Clerk to submit the information to Mendip DC prior to the 20 January deadline.

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

- i. **Halecombe Quarry Fund:** The next round of applications closes on 31 January 2023. Criteria and application forms can be found <https://mellsparishcouncil.org.uk/news/cost-of-living-financial-help/>
- ii. **Pavilion – water damage:** The loss adjustor has agreed that the pipe can be repaired. Quotes are being sought for the repairs to the ceilings etc.
- iii. **Nicola Edwards – Community Council for Somerset:** Will be attending the February meeting to give a short presentation on what CCS can offer individuals and communities.

**14.12.22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 14 February 2023 at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

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

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

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