

UNCONFIRMED

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL (mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 11 April 2023

01.04.23 PRESENT:

Cllr John Earl - Chair, Cllr Steve West, Cllr John Henderson, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Claire Freeman, Cllr David Seviour, Cllr Vince Turner

In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk

Members of the public: 1

02.04.23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Karen Punter, Cllr Clare Asquith and Cllr Barry Clarke - Mendip Central and East Somerset Councillor

03.04.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

04.04.23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

05.04.23 SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Previously circulated.

06.04.23 APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 14 MARCH 2023

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

07.04.23 ANNUAL REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

Financial Regulations, Risk Management Strategy, Social Media Policy, Recording at Meetings Policy, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. All circulated prior to meeting. No changes. For review next April.

08.04.23 MATTERS ARISING

- i. **Rectory bus shelter – accumulation of rainwater:** To be monitored. If works are not carried out in the next few month, Clerk to chase.
- ii. **Barn lease:** No further information.
- iii. **The future of 5Alive:** Whatley PC is in communication with the editor and other PC's to find a way forward. Cllr Henderson agreed to attend any meetings.
- iv. **Dog waste bins:** The new location for the bin at the other side of the recreation ground has been approved so arrangements will now made for it to be installed.
- v. **Emergency/contingency plan and warm spaces:** Clerk to contact Mike Phyphers to discuss the role.
- vi. **Pavilion improvements – ongoing costs to the parish council:** As the preferred option by the parish council and the Estate is for the Company to hold the lease, concerns were raised that the PC would be committed to continuing to pay for the insurance (currently £1,012) and the Settlement Trust fund (£849), due to lack of generated income by the Company, for another 20 years for something they do not effectively have any control over. This is approximately 17% of the PC's income which is likely to increase once the extension is built. It was therefore put to the vote and 6 were against continuing to pay these amounts after the current lease ends and one was for.

Resident had sent email expressing dismay at the state of the tennis courts asking if there was anything in the pipeline to improve their condition. Cllr Seewooruttun reported that someone has expressed an interest in seeking funding for renovating the tennis courts.

- vii. **Mells Pipeworks – intrusive lighting:** The lighting has been greatly reduced. Clerk to thank Marshalls for taking action.
- viii. **Co-option of two councillors:** Clerk has not heard anything from the Council so the PC is now able to advertise for new councillors. Clerk to put notice into 5Alive. Co-option is planned to take place at the June meeting.

09.04.23 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

- i. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane and area in front of Vobster Inn:** The bike racks have been installed thanks to funding received from Mendip DC. There has been no further update received regarding the licence.
- ii. **Footway by quarry:** No further information.
- iii. **Vobster speed limit:** An email detailing the process and costs of changing a speed limit has been received. As there is no evidence of a safety issue, the PC would be required to fund the change and the costs are prohibitive (circa £15,000).
- iv. **Fast traffic coming down Lime Kiln Hill:** Changes are unlikely based on previous correspondence.
- v. **Vobster cross bridge:** No further information.
- vi. **Vobster – drive carefully signs:** Clerk to follow up.
- vii. **Layby by Vobster bus shelter:** Highways is reluctant to fill in the layby but would consider placing bollards, set back slightly from the carriageway. Clerk to follow up.

10.04.23 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.

11.04.23 CORRESPONDENCE:

- i. **Email from Age UK - Request for donation:** All agreed to give a £100 donation.
- ii. **Email from resident – parking on passing places, Selwood Street:** Clerk to request Highways to re-instate the H bars which have faded.

12.04.23 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: HSBC 28 March 2023 – £6,558.34
Barclays December 2022 - £5,323.29

- i. **Payment of Accounts – all cheques from last month were re-issued due to funds not transferring to the new account causing the cheques to bounce.**

Clerk’s Salary & expenses (March)	£295.44
HMRC PAYE (Period 1)	£70.40
- ii. **Receipts:** None. Clerk has submitted a VAT refund claim for £322.57. The precept has not been received yet.
- iii. **New bank account:** The switch of funds from HSBC to Lloyds Bank was not started as requested. The PC was subsequently notified that the process could not proceed due to the information on the new account not matching the old account. It was deemed easier to close the HSBC account rather than change all the paperwork to match. The account closure forms were signed according to the mandate and a request will be made for all funds to be transferred to the Lloyds Account.
- iv. **Year end total:** The PC will carry forward £11,097.39 which is down £2,948.03 on the start of last year.

13.04.23 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. **Accidents on Park Corner:** There have been several serious accidents in the last month, one requiring the Air Ambulance. Clerk to request that Highways install better signage and rumble bars to alert drivers of the approaching junction.
- ii. **Pot holes:** The recently reported pot holes have paint sprayed around them by the Highways inspector, so should be filled shortly. The one reported in Vobster has been filled.
- iii. **Fingerposts:** Some of these are beginning to look quite untidy. A list will be made of the ones requiring attention with a view to getting them repainted.

14.04.23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 9 May 2023 at 7.00pm in the Barn to include the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Printed name: _____