

UNCONFIRMED

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL (mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 13 June 2023

01.06.23 PRESENT:

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

In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk,

Members of the public: 1 (prospective co-optee)

02.06.23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Clare Asquith, Cllr Barry Clarke - Mendip Central and East Somerset Councillor, Cllr Vince Turner

03.06.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

04.06.23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

05.05.23 SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: (Report sent in absence)

- i. **Government support for Bus Services:** Bus users across the County can now travel on most routes for just £2 until October 31. From 1 November fares for single journeys in the County will be capped at £2.50. The initiative also applies to cross-county services.
- ii. **Road repair funding:** The Government has awarded Somerset Council an additional £5.4m to carry out essential repair works across the county's road network.
- iii. **Consultation on licensing policy:** Residents and businesses are invited to comment on Somersets updated Licensing Policy which must reviewed every five years. The Policy document sets out an approach to the Council's licensing functions in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003. The closing date is 13 July 2023. Available to view at <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/licensing/licensing-policy/>
- iv. **Recycling Centres:** Cartons and Tetra Pak will no longer be taken at recycling sites from Monday 12 June as a result of the impact of increased kerbside collections.
- v. **Cycle Routes:** Somerset Council have produced a new leaflet and updated route section guidance for residents and visitors to enjoy a circular 80-mile cycle route across the south of the County.

06.05.23 APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 9 MAY 2023

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

07.06.23 CO-OPTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS

Only one expression of interest had been received. Alan Brady was welcomed back onto the parish council. Acceptance of Office and registrable interests forms will be issued for completion.

08.06.23 MATTERS ARISING

- i. **Barn lease:** The diocese solicitor has left Harris and Harris and at present no action has been taken by the Company to re-allocate the work within the company. The PCC is meeting tomorrow and will consider finding a replacement company/ solicitor to draw up a lease.
- ii. **Emergency/contingency plan and warm spaces:** For ongoing review.
- iii. **Pavilion improvements:** The planning application for the extension has now been submitted.

09.06.23 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

- i. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane and area in front of Vobster Inn:** The revised S115E licence has now been drawn up. Notices will be placed at the site on 16 June for a period of 28 days. If no objections are received, the licence will be signed by the Chair and become legal. A brief discussion of what works would be required took place. Clerk to approach the quarry to ensure that the stones are available for when the licence is in place so works can begin promptly. Hansons has also kindly offered the use of a digger to flatten the area.
- ii. **Footway by quarry:** The quarry has received permission from Highways to carry out levelling work to accommodate a footpath. This will be carried out in July. In the autumn, the hedges will be trimmed back and Hansons will continue to work on developing the perimeter footpath around the quarry.
- iii. **Vobster – drive carefully signs:** An estimate for £727.56 has been received which was approved. Clerk will invoice Vobster Trust for half the amount as agreed, when an exact invoice has been received.
- iv. **Layby by Vobster bus shelter:** Highways will not place bollards across the entrance to the layby although no reason has been given. They will however, ask their contractor to do a regular litter pick.
- v. **Accidents on Park Corner:** Clerk to chase white lining.
- vi. **Fingerposts:** Clerk will ask contractor to refurbish the 5 fingerposts that require attention.
- vii. **Passing places – Selwood Street:** The placement of larger signs in the passing places is not possible. More signage is required to encourage visitors to use the car park. Clerk to chase reinstatement of the white lining.
- viii. **Road re-surfacing – Selwood Street:** The area from the junction of Gay Street to Fairview has been added to the schedule.
- ix. **Reinstatement of lines – Vobster Cross and bridge:** This work has been carried out.

10.06.23 PLANNING

- i. **New Applications:**
2023/0841/FUL: Erection of a yard cover building – Finger Farm. No objections.
2023/0878/FUL: Single storey extension to existing sports pavilion. No objections.
- ii. **Planning decisions:** None
- iii. **Other planning matters:**
 - a) **Old telephone exchange:** A S215 Notice is being raised to address the appearance at the front of the property.

11.06.23 **CORRESPONDENCE:** Age UK – thank you for £100 donation.

12.06.23 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: Lloyds – 31 May - £18,993.15
Barclays April 2023 - £5,323.29

- i. **Payment of Accounts:**

Clerk's Salary & expenses (May)	£295.24
HMRC PAYE (Period 3)	£70.60
Insurance premium (TBC)	
J W Witt – bin emptying	£74.09
Alan Brady – sign and noticeboard refurbishment	£30.00
- ii. **Receipts:** None
- iii. **Barclays:** The new mandate is now active.

13.06.23 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. **Childrens play area:** The no dogs signs are no longer in situ. This is a recreation ground matter. Cllr Seewooruttun reported that the toddler swing is being moved and will be placed alongside the other swings. A new climbing frame and roundabout are being installed this summer.
- ii. **Fussels Ironworks Valley entrance:** The road is very narrow here and two tractors were struggling to pass each other. A vehicle parked at the entrance of the valley walk received minor damage. No action as this is an infrequent occurrence.
- iv. **HGVs:** Two 40 ton lorries found their way onto top road causing considerable disruption as neither vehicle was able to complete their journey down Top Road. Both vehicles had to reverse back up to the Co-op crossroads. The Clerk will contact highways with a view to a height restriction as well as a width restriction notice being placed somewhere before the Co-op crossroads.
- iv. **Millennial seat:** The top bar is splitting. Cllr Brady will repair/replace.
- v. **Somerset Bus Partnership:** From August, Somerset Council is looking to encourage 18-25 year olds to use the bus by offering discounted fares. There has been an 85% increase in bus usage since the COVID level.
- vi. **Allotments – Vobster Quay:** Concerns were raised that the correct permissions had not been sought for the two access points into the area. *Post meeting notice:* Leigh on Mendip PC and County Councillor Phil Ham have been involved in the set up of the allotments. There will be a total of 30 allotments.
- vii. **August meeting:** Clerk is unable to attend to due to a personal commitment. It was therefore decided that the monthly meeting would be cancelled.

14.06.23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 11 July 2023 at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Printed name: _____