

UNCONFIRMED

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL (mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

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

- 01.10.23 PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl - Chair, Cllr Steve West, Cllr Clare Asquith (from 7.45pm), Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr John Henderson, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Vince Turner,
In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk, Cllr Barry Clarke - Mendip Central and East Somerset Councillor
Members of the public: 0
- 02.10.23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Karen Punter, Cllr Claire Freeman and Cllr David Seviour
- 03.10.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
- 04.10.23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
- 05.10.23 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2023**
Previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 06.10.23 RE-ELECTION OF TWO NOMINATIVE TRUSTEES FOR MELLS CHARITIES**
There were no objections to the proposal to re-elect Dr Guy Worsdall and Mrs Lise Lambton as Mells Charities nominative trustees.
- 07.10.23 SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** (forwarded by Cllr Clarke prior to meeting)
- i. **Register to vote:** Residents are being urged to check their electoral registration details or risk losing their chance to vote. Residents will receive an 'invitation to register form' either through the post (or via email, if this contact method has been provided).
 - ii. **School admissions 2024:** Somerset parents and carers of children due to start school or move on to their next school in September 2024 are being urged to apply for their place online and on time. The application website for children moving to Secondary and Upper Schools is now open and parents and carers can apply for places from now until 31 October 2023 by visiting www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/starting-at-a-secondary-or-upper-school-in-september/ The website for children starting school for the first time is open until 15 January 2024 at: www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/apply-to-start-school-for-the-first-time/
 - iii. **Go Green grants:** 'Go Green Scheme' and the 'Somerset Green Business Grant Scheme' are being introduced to offer businesses help and financial support to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions. The scheme offers free energy audits and support to develop individual, costed and prioritised sustainability plans. Grants can be capital and/or revenue and fund up to 50% of total eligible project costs, with the remainder funded by the applicant. The scheme is now open for applications for activity and expenditure which must be completed by end of March 2024. The deadline for submission is 31st October. Further information is available at www.somerset.gov.uk/business-economy-and-licences/funding-and-grants-for-business/
 - iv. **Green libraries:** Libraries Week, 2nd – 8th October and will encourage communities to be more sustainable and support climate action. Somerset Librarians have launched a free loaning scheme of Thermal Imaging Cameras to help residents identify heat loss in their homes and take action to improve its energy efficiency and reduce fuel bills this winter. Residents can borrow the camera for three days by simply visiting their local library and speaking to a member of staff who can reserve the kit for them. Full details of the scheme can be found at www.southsomersetenvironment.co.uk/thermalimagingproject

- v. **Wells Christmas Market:** Takes place from 9am - 3pm on Saturday 16th December 2023 on the Bishop's Palace Green. Visitors can enjoy seasonal gifts and local food and drink with live music and entertainment.
- vi. **Somerset CC financial situation:** The council has reserves that will cover the shortfall in outgoings for two years but is on target to be bankrupt by February 2025. The Government has pledged £55 million for regeneration projects but the only area in the south west to benefit is Torbay.
- vii. **Housing shortfall:** A draft list of the locations for the required 505 houses will be submitted by the end of the year which should be signed off by July 2024.

08.10.23 MATTERS ARISING

- i. **Barn lease:** No further movement. The Chair asked for comments on whether the PC should be removed from the new lease so in the event of the Management Committee being unable to find sufficient Trustees to continue the Barn would revert to PCC / Diocese control. No objections were made to this proposal so it will be presented to the barn management committee.
- ii. **Pavilion improvements:** Repair work has been completed. Work is ongoing to re-negotiate the lease.
- iii. **Overgrown bush by Honeysuckle Cottage, Vobster:** Clerk to contact Highways.

09.10.23 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

- i. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane and area in front of Vobster Inn:** Cllr Seewooruttun reported that she has been in contact with the quarry and is hoping that the land will be levelled week commencing 16 October. Cllr Seviour will look into purchasing the barrels for the area of Highways land outside the Vobster Inn.
- ii. **Footway by quarry:** The cutting back of vegetation has greatly improved the safety of pedestrians walking in the area.
- iii. **Vobster – drive carefully signs:** **The positioning does not look too bad so the clerk will mention it to Highways but monitor the situation. Some signs in the area are covered by vegetation and these will also be reported.**
- iv. **Passing places – Selwood Street:** The H bars have been re-instated.
- v. **Accidents on Park Corner:** Highways have reported the work was done in April. Clerk to chase as the lines on the junction have not been re-instated.
- vi. **HGVs – Top Road:** Highways are looking into this but had requested to know where the lorries had come from and where they were going. This is impossible to know and is not relevant to the issue.
- vii. **Fingerposts:** One quote has been received which works out at around £500/post as one only requires washing. Clerk will endeavour to obtain a couple of more quotes.

10.10.23 PLANNING

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

11.10.23 CORRESPONDENCE: None

12.10.23 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: Lloyds: 21 September – £14,220.38
 Barclays at 20 September 2023 - £5,355.32

- i. **Payment of accounts:**

Clerk's Salary & expenses (September))	£345.24
British Legion – wreath & donation)	

HMRC PAYE (Period 7)	£70.60
J W Witt – bin emptying (127557)	£71.09
British legion - wreath and donation	£50.00
SALC annual affiliation fee	£165.63
Aboracadabra – weedkilling Rec Ground car park	£78.00

- ii. **Receipts:** Barclays interest: £14.31
- iii. **Lloyds going paperless:** Clerk requested that the PC still receives hard copies of the statements. This was agreed and will be actioned.
- iii. **Payroll costs:** Clerk has been using 12Cloudpayroll for the PAYE which has been free to use and infinitely more user friendly than the HMRC PAYE package. From February, 12Cloud are introducing a fee of £5-£10/month depending on whether they class you as an agent or not. The PC are committed to using the system until the year end to avoid issues with the year end accounts. The Clerk will look at alternative free payroll options but may have to revert back to the HMRC package to save on costs for the next financial year.
- iv. **Items for budget 2024/25:** Clerk requested that thought be given to any possible expenditure for the next year so it can be added into the budget that will be drafted for the next meeting.

13.10.23 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. **Firework:** A large firework was sent up from around the Mells Park area on 9 October at 12.15pm for an unknown reason.
- ii. **Tennis courts:** Cllr Clarke gave details of a couple of organisations that maybe able to provide funding for their refurbishment. Details will be passed onto the director.
- iv. **Woodlands End – Give way sign:** The hedge on the bend is impinging into the road making visibility difficult and is covering the Give Way sign near the junction. Owner to be contacted.

14.10.23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Printed name: _____