

UNCONFIRMED

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL (mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 9 April 2024

01.04.24 PRESENT: Cllr John Earl - Chair, Cllr Steve West, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr Claire Freeman, Cllr David Seviour, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Clare Asquith, Cllr Vince Turner,
In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk, Cllr Barry Clarke - Mendip Central and East Somerset Councillor
Members of the public: None

02.04.24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr John Henderson

03.04.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

04.04.24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

05.04.24 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 12 MARCH 2024
Previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

06.04.24 SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Mendip local plan consultation: A consultation to review and reconsider housing sites for at least 505 dwellings in the Mendip area runs until 12 April 2024 and is intended to ensure that the views of statutory consultees, communities and other stakeholders are captured. More information can be accessed at <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/planning/mendip-local-plan-part-ii-limited-update-reg-18/>

New electric buses: Twenty-five new electric buses are being funded by the Department for Transport and Buses of Somerset. The electric buses will operate out of Hamilton Road depot.

Voter registration: Residents are being urged to register to vote and check their Voter ID for the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner election. The deadline to register to vote is midnight on Tuesday 16 April. www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm Wednesday 17 April.

Purple chair scheme: Purple chairs are being installed in Somerset's libraries to provide a safe space for women and girls to get information about health and wellbeing, as well as support and resources available to them including: Antenatal and postnatal care, breast cancer support, domestic abuse support, cervical screening, anti-social behaviour and harassment.

Additional funding for swimming pools: Somerset Council has been awarded grants from Sport England and the National Lottery to install new energy efficiency measures in four Somerset leisure centres – Wells, Chard, Yeovil and Frome.

Go Green Scheme: Somerset Council has secured £100,000. This scheme helps businesses to understand their energy consumption and show how it can be reduced and offers free energy audits and support to develop individual, costed and prioritised sustainability plans. Further information: www.gogreenscheme.org.uk

Budget: This has now been approved and Somerset Council will use up most of their reserves to achieve it. They have also applied for a Capitalisation Grant of £35 million which will cost them an additional £11 million in interest over 20 years.

Flooding: Somerset Rivers Authority is planning to hold a meeting on 22 April to discuss flooding issues.

Hardship fund: The deadline for receipt of applications has been moved back to September. Grants of £1,000 are available.

Pot holes: Pot holes should be reported to Somerset Highways as they will not pay out on a claim against them unless they are aware of the pothole in question..

Monitoring systems: Blood pressure and infrared monitors (to assess heat loss from your property) are available free of charge from Frome library for three days.

07.04.2 ANNUAL REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

Financial Regulations, Risk Management Strategy, Social Media Policy, Recording at Meetings Policy, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct - Previously circulated. No amendments required.

08.04.24 MATTERS ARISING

- i. **Barn lease:** The Management Committee are going to continue with a 'Rollover' lease which allows them to continue as they are until a mutually agreeable longer lease with the Diocese can be put in place.
- ii. **Pavilion lease and future of recreation ground:** A meeting is being arranged between the Estate, PC and Company Directors.
- iii. **Councillor vacancies – Co-option:** No applications have been received to date.
- iv. **Silt under Vobster bridge:** Cllr Seviour has been in contact with the Somerset Rivers Authority who require the answers to various questions before moving forward. Cllr Seviour will address.
- v. **Old GPO box on verge – road to Leigh on Mendip:** This has been inspected by Openreach who agree that it is obsolete. It is hoped that it will now be removed.
- vi. **Queens Canopy – tree planting:** Cllr Asquith will look into having the trees planted at Longfield. The Boys and Girls crossing site is deemed not suitable at present due to vehicles cutting the corner. Previously planted trees at this site have been damaged.
- vii. **Crates by defibrillator – Post Office:** These are still frequently blocking easy access to the defibrillator Alternative placement of the crates, defib or bin to allow better access will be looked into.

09.04.24 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

- i. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane and area in front of Vobster Inn:** The area will be flattened and seeded once the weather improves.
- ii. **HGVs – Top Road:** 'No HGVs' signs will be installed some time this financial year.
- iii. **Overgrown bush by Honeysuckle Cottage, Vobster:** No further information.
- iv. **Stone baskets on Park Corner: No further information.** Clerk to inform Highways of another accident on this junction that involved the Police and the vehicle being towed away.
- v. **Fingerpost by Vobster Inn:** Contractor has agreed to repair the moving arm when the other signs in the parish are refurbished.

10.04.24 PLANNING

- i. **New applications:** None
- ii. **Planning decisions:** None
- iii. **Other planning matters:**
 - a) **Old telephone exchange:** No response from Enforcement Officer. Clerk to chase. The front area of the property has recently been cleared.

11.04.24 CORRESPONDENCE: None

12.04.24 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: Lloyds: 31 March 2024 – £3,399.27
Barclays at 20 March 2024 - £10,394.07

- i. **Payment of accounts:**

Clerk's Salary & expenses (March)	£319.57
HMRC PAYE (Period 1)	£76.60
J W Witt – bin emptying (133807)	£71.09

- ii. **Receipts:** None
- vi. **Barclays account:** The £5,000 transfer from The Lloyds account to the Barclays account has been made. The standing order to switch £200 back and forth each month has been delayed due to accessing the account online being denied.

13.04.24 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. **Cycle path:** This is currently covered in mud due to the bad weather. Cllr Asquith will get the Estate to look at it but with the current conditions it is likely that the mud would return very quickly.
- ii. **Trees overhanging telephone lines – Little Green:** Ownership of the land the trees are on to be established. If common land, BT/Openreach will be contacted.
- iii. **Parish magazines for Vobster:** These are currently not being delivered due to the person stepping down. Alternative arrangements need to be put in place.
- iv. **Former Western Skip Hire site:** Some lorries are still accessing the site although the reason is unknown. The road condition is greatly improved now the numbers have significantly reduced.

14.04.24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday 14 May 2024 at **7.00pm** in the Barn followed by the monthly meeting

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Printed name: _____