

UNCONFIRMED

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(mells-pc.gov.uk)

Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 10 February 2026

- 01.02.26 PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl – Chair, Cllr John Henderson – Vice Chair, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr Steve West, Cllr David Seviour,
In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk, Cllr Barry Clarke – Somerset Councillor
Members of the public: None
- 02.02.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Claire Freeman, Cllr Clare Asquith, Cllr Vince Turner
- 03.02.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
- 04.02.26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
- 05.02.26 APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2026**
Previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 06.02.26 SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**
- i. Somerset Council budget:** The council has been told that it's application for a 11% increase in council tax has been refused and the maximum they can increase it by is 4.99%.
 - ii. Government Rates Somerset's Road Conditions Among the Best in the Country:** Somerset Council has been ranked among the top performing authorities in England for road condition and maintenance. You can report any damage on the road here: [Road damage](#)
 - iii. Bus Service Improvements:** Somerset Council is considering a package of proposals to improve bus services across the county following confirmation of new government funding (£2.5 million) under the Bus Service Fund eg. better integration with rail services, expansion of demand responsive transport, improved access to key destinations.
 - iv. Expanded Recycling Service for Communal Properties:** From March 2026, residents in flats and other communal properties will be able to recycle a wider range of materials. Changes include a new weekly food waste collection, new fortnightly collections for cartons and plastic bags and wrappers, and the introduction of new communal recycling bins with coloured lids to separate materials. Households will also receive a kitchen food waste caddy and liners, with the new service launching in the week beginning 30 March 2026.
 - v. Health Visitors to Offer Childhood Vaccinations at Home:** Somerset is taking part in a national NHS pilot allowing health visitors to deliver routine childhood vaccinations in family homes, helping children who face barriers to attending GP appointments. From this month, children will also be offered protection against chickenpox as part of the routine NHS vaccination schedule through the combined MMRV vaccine.
 - vi. Residents Invited to Shape the Future of Adult Social Care:** Somerset Council is inviting residents, unpaid carers and organisations to share their views as it prepares a new Adult Social Care strategy for 2026 to 2029. The refreshed strategy will set priorities for the next three years. You can take part in the consultation here: [Adult Social care strategy](#)
 - vii. Health and Wellbeing grants:** These are available up to £1,000 for projects PC's would like to support.
 - viii. Planning Committee:** The number of members is being reduced as are the number of applications that will go before the committee. Developments of 10 houses or less will be delegated to the planning officer and will no longer go before the committee.

07.02.26 MATTERS ARISING

- i. **Pavilion lease and future of recreation ground:** Christopher Pike detailed the recent works carried out at the recreation ground and explained the proposed lease agreement with the Estate going forwards. The PC agreed to support the Company with a set annual grant of £2,500 for the next 3 years to be reviewed at the end of the period. The Company will take on the rent for the ground which the PC previously paid. The new lease agreement (15 years with a 3 year break) should be in place by September 2026 and is currently in the hand of the solicitors. The Company were invited to come back in a few months to apply for a contribution towards the play area fencing.
- ii. **Car share scheme:** A scheme is already advertised in the magazine so this will not be taken any further at present.
- iii. **Whatley quarry increase in noise:** The quarry now has two specific noise working groups. One for assessing the noise at the quarry and the other for the railway. The quarry continues to implement noise reduction measures wherever possible.
- iv. **Vobster defibrillator electricity supply:** The new owners have kindly agreed to continue to provide the electricity for the defibrillator.

08.02.26 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

- i. **Speeding vehicles in Vobster:** Cllr West and Cllr Seviour are in the process of completing the application and will consult with Vobster residents.
- ii. **20mph zone in Mells:** No further information.

09.02.26 PLANNING

- i. **New applications:**
2026/0107/TCA: Oak – crown lift up to 4m, 4x yew – crown lift up to 3.5m and prune up to 3m – Church of St Andrew - for information only
- ii. **Other planning matters:**
2025/0291/OUT: APPEAL - Application for outline planning permission with some matters reserved with details of access for the erection of 1no self build dwellinghouse – Hillcrest Somers Hill to Mells Green

10.02.26 CORRESPONDENCE:

- i. **Citizens Advice Bureau – Request for grant:** The usual £200 annual grant was approved by all present.
- ii. **Crimestoppers – Request for £200 grant:** Due to the low crime instances in the area, the request was declined.

11.02.26 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: Lloyds as at 21 January 2026 - £3,715.01
 Barclays as at 31 December 2025 - £12,993.72

- i. **Payment of accounts – January**

Clerk's Salary & expenses (January)	£334.88
HMRC PAYE (Period 11)	£80.40
Grist Environmental (P288464) bin emptying	£69.58
Easy website monthly fees (hosting & support)	£36.96
Cloud Payroll (CS-S26-17211)	£6.00
Shaun Robinson – bin emptying (Inv 6)	£117.00

Receipts: £539.80 from the Barn Management Committee for solicitor's fees for registering the lease with Land Registry.

12.02.26 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. **Lock up:** Cllr Brady has received approval from the Estate to look into costs to improve the lock up. English Heritage may help with the funding.
- ii. **Flytipping:** The reported tipping was removed promptly by Somerset Council.

13.02.26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Printed name: _____