

UNCONFIRMED

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

Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 12 May 2026

- 01.05.26 PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl – Chair, Cllr John Henderson – Vice Chair, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr Claire Freeman, Cllr David Seviour,
In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk,
Members of the public: None
- 02.05.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Clare Asquith, Cllr Steve West, Cllr Vince Turner and Cllr Barry Clarke – Somerset Councillor
- 03.05.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
- 04.05.26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
- 05.05.26 APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 14 APRIL 2026**
Previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 06.05.26 SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**
- i. **Somerset Council SEND Services:** A recent report by Somerset Council had highlighted significant delays in the delivery of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), with between 0–5% of assessments being completed within the statutory 20-week timeframe. Without additional resource delays could reach a year.
 - ii. **Somerset Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA):** Somerset Council has published its latest Local Housing Needs Assessment, setting out the level and type of housing needed across the county from 2025 to 2045. The report highlights pressures around affordability, future housing demand and the need for accessible and specialist housing. full assessment can be viewed here: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/somerset-local-plan/evidence-gathering-and-early-engagement/>
 - iii. **Somerset Council Gritter Fleet Investment:** Somerset Council has approved plans to invest up to £2.3 million in new gritter lorries over the next four years, replacing ageing vehicles within its fleet of 23.
 - iv. **Somerset Leisure Centres to See Limited Investment:** Somerset Council has confirmed that no major investment will be delivered to its five leisure centres over the next two years, following the collapse of operator Fusion Lifestyle. The council has provided £370,000 of interim funding to keep sites in Frome, Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet, Street and Wells open while a new operator is procured.
- 06.05.26 ASSERTION 10**
Clerk is still working on a suitable data map.
- 07.05.26 MATTERS ARISING**
- i. **Defibrillator training:** This has proved difficult to fill and find a date that the Barn, trainer and the majority can do. 9 June is currently looking the most likely.
 - ii. **White bridge railing:** Work has started but the weather is delaying completion.
 - . **Purchase of Highways land:** The situation has not changed ie. Highways will not devolve land but they are happy for the PC to carry out interim cuts to keep the areas up together.
 - iii. **Footpath by Alms House and grass cutting:** Clerk to contact contractor again. If not interested, another contractor will be sought.

- iv. **Public Space Protection Order:** Cllr Seewooruttun has submitted evidence of dog fouling and is waiting for a response.
- v. **Tree partially blocking stile on footpath FR10/56:** This was removed very promptly by the quarry.

08.05.26 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

- i. **Speeding vehicles in Vobster:** Cllr Earl is keen to push this forward.

09.05.26 PLANNING MATTERS

- i. **New applications:**
2026/0660/HSE & 2026/0661/LBC: Proposed raising of chimney stack for fire safety reasons – Honeysuckle Cottage, No objections
2026/0720/HSE: Erection of single storey extension – 25 Longfield. No objections
2026/0846/HSE: Change of material of windows and doors from timber to aluminium – Ems Cottage, Top Lane. No objections.
- ii. **Other planning matters:**
Appeal ref: 6003837 – Hillcrest: The appeal has been dismissed

10.05.26 CORRESPONDENCE:

- i. **Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance:** Email thanking the PC for the donation.

11.05.26 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: Lloyds as at 12 May 2026 - £16,174.25
 Barclays as at 20 March 2026 - £13,026.92

- i. **Payment of accounts – May**

Clerk's Salary & expenses (April)	£334.68
HMRC PAYE (Period 2)	£80.60
Grist Environmental (P310686) bin emptying – Rec Ground	£84.62
Easy website monthly fees (hosting & support) (1815)	£36.96
Cloud Payroll (CS-S27-00465)	£6.00
Lloyds bank monthly fee (481837234)	£4.25
Shaun Robinson – dog/litter bin emptying (Inv 9)	£169.00
ICO Data protection – annual fee	£47.00
Insurance annual premium – Zurich	£506.89
Nigel Dunster – war memorial tidy	£25.00
- ii. **Receipts: None**
- ii. **Annual Governance Part 2 Exemption Certificate 2025/2026 – approved and signed:** Previously circulated. All in favour of signing this certificate as the PC's gross income and expenditure is below £25,000. Clerk will forward to the external auditor.
- iii. **Approval and signing of Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026:** Previously circulated. All in favour of approving the above. Chair and Clerk signed and dated the form.
- iv. **Approval and signing of Section 2 Accounting Statements for 2025/2026:** Previously circulated. All in favour of approving the above. Chair and Clerk signed and dated the form. The Clerk has arranged to drop off the accounts with the internal auditor tomorrow.

12.05.26 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. **Quarry liaison meeting:** Cllr Henderson had just come from the meeting and reported that the quarry is actively investigating ways to reduce noise levels ie. The use of electric vehicles and acoustic cameras to identify noise spots. Drivers are also being asked to drive considerately. Cllr Henderson also reported that Westdown is likely to open at the end of 2027 which will halve the amount of vehicles coming from Whatley quarry.
- ii. **Tree removal at Pennys:** Several residents had approached Cllr Brady about this. It is unknown what their intention is at this moment in time.

- iii. **Vegetation on Vobster bridges:** Clerk to report to Highways.
- iv. **Finger post in Vobster:** This is turning and therefore giving incorrect directions. A contractor is being sought to fix it.

13.05.26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 9 June 2026 at **7.15pm** in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Printed name: _____