

UNCONFIRMED

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

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

- 01.04.26 PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl – Chair, Cllr John Henderson – Vice Chair, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr Steve West, Cllr Claire Freeman, Cllr Vince Turner
In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk, Cllr Barry Clarke – Somerset Councillor
Members of the public: None
- 02.04.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Clare Asquith, Cllr David Seviour,
- 03.04.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
- 04.04.26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
- 05.04.26 APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2026**
Previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 06.04.26 SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**
- i. **National Planning Policy Framework:** This is moving forward. The need for more housing forms the basis of it but Cllr Clarke commented that developers are unable to sell the homes due to the high prices.
- ii. **New phonenumber for residents struggling to afford the increasing cost of oil:** The service allows residents in need of financial assistance to call a freephone number, 0808 278 7842, and request support from the Household Support team.
- iv. **Crisis and Resilience Fund:** The council will receive £21.5 million over a 3 year period. The fund will provide immediate financial support for essentials such as food, energy and housing costs, alongside longer-term measures including debt advice, benefit checks and employment support.
- v. **Health & Wellbeing Fund:** SALC is pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications to the health & wellbeing grant fund, part of a larger health & wellbeing project commissioned by Somerset Council Public health to enable parish and town councils to improve health and wellbeing in their communities.
- Small grants of up to £2,500 are available via an online application process.
 - To apply for a larger grant of up to £35,000 councils should first speak with SALC's health & wellbeing officer.
- 07.04.26 ASSERTION 10**
This now forms part of the annual audit. Clerk has sourced suitable documents to use as the basis of the IT & Email policy and GDPR policies and is currently seeking a suitable data map to use.
- 08.04.26 ANNUAL REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS**
Financial Regulations, Risk Management Strategy, Social Media Policy, Recording at Meetings Policy, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. Documents had been circulated prior to the meeting. No changes are required. To be reviewed again in April 2027.
- 09.04.26 MATTERS ARISING**
- i. **Defibrillator training:** Only two people have come forward so far. Clerk to re-advertise.
- ii. **White bridge railing:** The contractor has quoted £60 for the work and will complete it once the weather is more settled.

10.04.26 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

- i. **Speeding vehicles in Vobster:** Cllr West is approaching residents to ask if they support the speed reduction.

11.04.26 PLANNING MATTERS

- i. **2026/0384/FUL:** Restoration or Quarry Cottages to a single residential dwelling (self build) – Conduit Hill – No objections

12.04.26 CORRESPONDENCE: None

13.04.26 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: Lloyds as at 14 April 2026 - £17,640.37
Barclays as at 20 March 2026 - £13,026.92

i. **Payment of accounts – April**

Clerk's Salary & expenses (March)	£334.68
HMRC PAYE (Period 1)	£80.60
Grist Environmental (P305104) bin emptying – Rec Ground	£69.58
Easy website monthly fees (hosting & support) (1129)	£36.96
Cloud Payroll	£6.00
Lloyds bank monthly fee (479346771)	£4.25
Shaun Robinson – dog/litter bin emptying	£117.00
Air Ambulance – grant	£500.00
SALC affiliation fee (2826)	£270.72

Receipts:

- a) **Precept:** Half of the full amount of £26,500 (£13,250) has been received. The second payment will be made in September.
- b) **Barn lease:** £539.80 for balance of solicitor's fees for Barn lease. Overpaid by £39.80 which will be transferred back.

14.04.26 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. **Purchase of Highways land:** Clerk to enquire again whether it would be possible to purchase the triangles of land at the top of Lime Kiln Hill, by the Manor and the Boys and Girls crossing. Previously Highways would only devolve somerset council owned land that is not part of the highway, e.g. open space, play areas, assets.
- ii. **Footpath by Alms House and grass cutting:** The previous contractor is no longer able to provide this service. Clerk to approach another contractor who has done some work for the PC in the past.
- iii. **Quarry Liaison meeting:** One complaint had been received. A ceremony to name the new engine is taking place this weekend and Cllrs West and Seewooruttun will attend.
- iv. **Public Space Protection Order:** Cllr Seewooruttun had submitted an application. She has been asked to supply further information.

15.04.26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 12 May 2026 at **7.00pm** to include the Annual Parish Council meeting and Annual Parish Meeting in the Barn. All very welcome to attend.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Printed name: _____