

## UNCONFIRMED

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

#### Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 14 October 2025

- 01.10.25 PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl – Chair, Cllr John Henderson – Vice Chair, Cllr Clare Asquith, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr Steve West, Cllr Claire Freeman, Cllr David Seviour, Cllr Vince Turner  
**In Attendance:** Joy Book – Clerk, Cllr Barry Clarke – Somerset Councillor
- Members of the public:** None
- 02.10.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None
- 03.10.25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Seewooruttun declared an interest in planning application 2025/1687/HSE and Cllr Henderson in item 11.10.25 i.
- 04.10.25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
- 05.10.25 APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
Previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 06.10.25 SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**
- i. **Council agrees to pay consultants £20m to balance its budget:** Somerset Council has appointed consultants to make £101.4m of savings for 2026/27, rising to £190m by 2029/30. They will be paid up to £20m and the Council expects a minimum £2.50 saving for every £1 spent. Since declaring a financial emergency in 2023, Somerset Council has spent £33.6m on consultant and agency staff.
  - ii. **Council Homes Purchase:** Full Council approved plans to use a £3.3m underspend from the Housing Revenue Account to purchase around 15 additional council homes. The properties will initially be used to reduce reliance on costly temporary accommodation such as hotels and B&Bs, before becoming part of the general housing stock in future years.
  - iii. **Planning applications:** The three month period during which only new applications were dealt with to help clear the backlog is coming to an end. A review will take place on 23 October which is not expected to give good news.
  - iii. **Grant for roads and footpaths:** It is hoped a £2 million grant from the government will be awarded for new footpaths/road improvements. Applications can be placed from 22 October.
  - iv. **Quarry noise survey:** This took place over a period of 3 weeks and the quarry were 95% compliant with noise levels. Only one property in Whatley showed levels were in excess.
- 07.10.25 MATTERS ARISING**
- i. **Pavilion lease and future of recreation ground:** Awaiting further discussion between the Estate and the Directors.
  - ii. **Litter bin by bus shelter:** The bin will be located in or near the entrance of the bus shelter once the contractor recovers.
- 09.10.25 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:**
- i. **Speeding vehicles in Vobster:** Clerk has contacted highways twice in the last month and received no response.
  - ii. **Park Corner – rumble bars:** Clerk has contacted highways twice in the last month and received no response regarding when these will be painted. Some hedge cutting around the signs in the

area has been carried out.

- iii. **Layby by Vobster bus shelter:** Cllr West has now drawn up the proposal of how the works will be carried out which the Clerk will forward to highways for approval.

#### 10.10.25 PLANNING

- i. **New applications: 2025/1687/HSE** - Proposed single storey front porch extension, two storey rear extension, stone retaining wall in front of dwelling. Demolish single storey kitchen side extension and existing detached garage and construct new detached garage with Annexe over – Sunnyside, Little Green. No objections
- ii. **Other planning matters:** None

#### 11.10.25 CORRESPONDENCE:

- i. **Mells with Vobster Churchyard grant request:** A grant of £2,500 was approved.

#### 12.10.25 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: Lloyds as at 14 October 2025 - £9,602.58  
Barclays as at 20 August 2025 - £13,111.79

i. **Payment of accounts – October**

|                                                         |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Clerk's Salary & expenses (September)                   | £334.88 |
| HMRC PAYE (Period 7)                                    | £80.40  |
| Grist Environmental (P257964) bin emptying              | £69.58  |
| Easy website monthly fees (hosting & support)           | £39.60  |
| Cloud Payroll (CS-S26-08154)                            | £6.00   |
| Shaun Robinson – litter /dog waste bin emptying (Inv 2) | £162.50 |
| British legion – wreath and £30 donation                | £50.00  |

- ii. **Receipts:** None

- iii. **Quarterly accounts check:** Cllr Henderson will undertake the secondary checks.

#### 13.10.25 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. **Loose dogs killing sheep:** There have been 10 sheep killed by dogs this year on Mells Estate land. Signage will be placed by the fields occupied by livestock requesting that all dogs are kept on leads. Action will be taken if any dog is found to be bothering livestock.
- ii. **Lamp out in Vobster:** Cllr Seviour had reported it a month ago and asked the Clerk to follow it up it.
- iii. **Removal of ash trees by the quarry:** 800 trees are to be removed from the Whatley quarry site and another 113 from their other sites.
- iv. **Lock up:** Some residents would like to see this tidied up.
- v. **Flytipping:** This is still an issue in some areas and should be reported to the council if on public highway land.
- vi. **Slow sign on floor:** A slow sign has come off its post. As it is thought to be within Nunney's parish boundaries, Clerk will report it to their clerk.

#### 14.10.25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_