

UNCONFIRMED

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

Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 8 September 2026

- 01.09.26 PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl – Chair, Cllr John Henderson – Vice Chair, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr Clare Asquith, Cllr Steve West, Cllr David Seviour, Cllr Caroline True
In Attendance: Joy Book – Clerk and Cllr Barry Clarke – Somerset Councillor
Members of the public:
- 02.09.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Vince Turner
- 03.09.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
- 04.09.26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
- 05.09.26 APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES HELD ON 11 AUGUST 2026:** Previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 06.09.26 SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**
- i. Changes to Planning Decisions from 31st October:** New Government rules governing which planning applications can be decided by planning committees will come into force on 31st October 2026. Smaller applications, including householder developments and most schemes of 1 to 9 homes on sites below 0.5 hectares, will be determined by planning officers rather than committees. For larger 'Schedule 2' applications, there will be a presumption of officer determination, with referral to committee only where statutory criteria is met and the nominated senior officer and committee member agree. T
 - ii. Warm Spaces:** Cllr Asquith mentioned that the church could be used. Clerk to forward the funding information that is available.
 - iii. Council Tax Reduction Consultation** on possible changes to its Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working-age residents from April 2027. More than 28,500 households currently receive support, costing just over £31m a year. The proposals are intended to provide greater support for some of the most vulnerable households while reducing support elsewhere so the overall cost of the scheme does not increase. Pensioners will not be affected by the proposed changes. The consultation runs **until 28th September 2026**. You can take part online via the Council's consultation portal: <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/comms/council-tax-reduction-consultation-2026/>
- 07.09.26 MATTERS ARISING**
- i. Public Space Protection Order – regarding dog fouling:** This is now in the final stages of being put together.
- 08.09.26 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:**
- i. Speeding vehicles in Vobster:** No further information has been received from Traffic Management. Cllr Seviour to contact Sara Davis, Traffic Engineer and Clerk to contact Anna Sabine MP. There was a serious accident by the Old Post Office, Vobster recently.
 - ii. Condition of Selwood Street:** The road condition is very poor. A water main appears to have burst by The Talbot today and Bristol Water has been contacted. The works to repair the main may result in an improvement to some of the road surface.

- iii. **Vehicles parking long term in the Recreation Ground and Fairview:** The owner of the car has been approached several times. Somerset Council has looked at the van but have referred it to the police due to having two numbers plates on it, one of which shows that the vehicle is taxed and MOT'd, the other is unrecognised. The Audi in Fairview is being worked on and is being monitored. Signage is now ready to put up at the Recreation Ground to deter long term parking.

09.09.26 PLANNING MATTERS

i. **New applications:**

2026/1429/TCA: Willow – repollard. 1 Rectory Cottages, Selwood Street. For the Tree Officer.

2026/1668/TCA: Copper beech – prune top by 3m. Ems Cottage, Top Lane. For the Tree Officer.

ii. **Other planning matters:**

Lime Kiln site: Cllr Asquith has spoken to Mr Martin who has indicated that he is looking at putting approximately 20 touring caravan pitches at the top of the site with landscaping and industrial units at the lower end. There are many environmental hurdles to overcome before any development of the site can begin.

10.09.26 CORRESPONDENCE:

- i. **Heritage at Risk register:** The only site on the register for Mells is the Fussell's site which was agreed to be the only site in the area.

11.09.26 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: Lloyds as at 8 September 2026 - £21,690.26

Barclays as at 20 August 2026 - £13,064.41

i. **Payment of accounts – September**

Clerk's Salary & expenses (August)	£334.88
HMRC PAYE (Period 6)	£80.40
Grist Environmental (P345396) bin emptying – Rec Ground	£107.87
Easy website monthly fees - hosting & support) (4875)	£36.96
Cloud Payroll (CS-S27-06891)	£6.00
Lloyds bank monthly fee (491985887)	£4.75
Shaun Robinson – dog/litter bin emptying (Inv 13)	£117.00
SALC councillor training (3360)	£25.00

ii. **Receipts:** Second precept payment - £13,250.00

iii. **Quarterly accounts:** Previously circulated and approved.

iii. **Debrillator spares:** Clerk reported that the pads and battery for the phone box defibrillator are due to expire in October and was authorised to order replacements (approx. £300).

12.09.26 ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. **Streetlight out in Vobster:** This has been reported twice. Cllr Seviour will monitor.
- ii. **184 Saturday bus:** This is proving very popular.
- iii. **Tree down on Nunney road:** Pennys removed this very quickly at the weekend.
- iv. **Triangle of land by Post Office:** The Estate has been cutting this but the Parish Council will now take on the responsibility. Clerk to contact contractor.

13.09.26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 13 October 2026 at **7.15pm** in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Printed name: _____