

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL
(Mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)
Annual Parish Council Meeting

was held at Mells Barn on Tuesday 13 May 2025 at 7.00 pm. John Earl was in the chair, supported
by 7 members of the Council. No residents were present
The Clerk, Joy Book in attendance

APOLOGIES: Cllr Barry Clarke – Somerset Council Councillor

01.05.25APCM TO ELECT CHAIR FOR 2025/2026
Nominations for the position of Chair were called. Cllr Henderson proposed Cllr John Earl. Cllr Seewooruttun seconded the proposal.

02.05.25PACM TO ELECT VICE CHAIR FOR 2025/2026:
Nominations for the position of Vice Chair were called. Cllr Earl proposed Cllr John Henderson. Cllr Seviour seconded the proposal.

03.05.25APCM SIGNING OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FORMS:
Cllr Earl and Cllr Henderson signed and dated the acceptance forms.

04.05.25APCM APPROVAL OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2024/2025: Previously circulated. All in favour of accepting the accounts as presented. The Chair and Clerk/RFO then signed and dated them.

05.05.25APCM REVIEW OF REPRESENTATION TO EXTERNAL BODIES

Police representative	Cllr Alan Brady
Quarry Liaison Committees representatives	Cllr West/Cllr Henderson
Footpaths	Cllr Claire Freeman
Planning officers	Cllr Earl & Cllr Seewooruttun
Local Community Network representatives	Cllr Asquith & Cllr Brady
Responsible Financial Officer	Joy Book, Clerk

Meeting closed at 7.10pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Print name: _____

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01.05.25APM MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING OF 9 MAY 2023

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2024 had been previously approved by the Council at the June 2024 monthly meeting and were taken as read.

02.05.25APM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Barry Clarke – Somerset Council Councillor

All reports were circulated prior to the meeting so were tabled as being read by all those present.

03.05.25APM REPORT FROM SOMERSET COUNCILLOR: (No report submitted)

05.05.25APM REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN, BARN COMMITTEE: (Presented by Cllr Earl)

The start of exciting times for the barn. We have at last secured a 30 year lease on the paddock which will allow us to apply for planning permission for a new building to be erected at the south end of the paddock. Architects have already been instructed. The estimated cost is somewhere around £350,000 so we need to work hard on the fundraising trail. We are a long way off yet of course as we will need agreement from English Heritage, the landlord and the planning authority. We're looking at a very green and environmentally friendly design and we will improve access to toilet facilities for the disabled. We plan to build on piles so there will be no concrete base so at 'end of life' the building can easily be removed with minimal effort and no damage to the paddock.

The barn building itself continues on a rolling lease. Neither the management committee or the PCC seem to be able to move things forward with the diocese even after our solicitor requesting new lease.

It's been an expensive year this year for the barn with solicitors fees for the paddock lease and the fees for the land registry(circa £4K for both) plus we finally got round to filling the big hole in the car park. That was some £6000 but we were fortunate in saving £2500 or maybe slightly more on materials which were supplied FOC by the quarry. This of course in addition to our usual expenses.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a wonderful asset in our village and I would like to thank my fellow trustees for the effort they put in to running, maintaining and protecting this building.

06.05.25APM RECREATION GROUND REPORT: Mells Sports and Recreation Company (No report submitted)

07.05.25APM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON CURRENT YEAR'S ACTIVITIES (presented by Cllr Earl)

The triangle opposite the post office has now had topsoil added and the intention is by next year this area will be covered with wildflowers. It's also been noted that some visitors to the village are now using the penny farthing bicycle racks.

The parish council has taken control of emptying the dog & litter bins in the village. This gives us more flexibility with emptying and should reduce occasions of overflow.

Through Cllr West, the PC has been incremental in bringing together concerned Mells residents and quarry management in an effort to see a way forward regarding noise issues.

The garden area around the cenotaph is now regularly attended and the whole area looks much tidier

Banking gremlins have been addressed and both accounts are now working as they should and the signatories are all able to access the necessary accounts.

Legal requirements means that the barn lease will need to be held by the parish council and not the barn management committee as previously assumed, but at this time we are still awaiting contact from the diocese. So we are continuing on a yearly roll over. We do however have a new 30 year lease on the paddock the landlord here being not the diocese but the estate.

The area outside the Vobster Inn has been completed in line with the planning permission granted by highways. The Parish council continues to push for permission to infill the layby just before the bus stop at Vobster Cross. The council continues to engage with highways regarding a speed limit requirement through the village of Vobster with little success.

The PC is still having talks with the relevant parties regarding the recreation ground upcoming lease renewal and ongoing annual expenses

Once again, I would like to thank Somerset Councillor Barry Clark for keeping the parish council up-to-date with SCC matters.

08.05.25APM PARISH DISCUSSION FORUM: No discussion took place.

Meeting closed at 7.05pm.

Signed..... Date.....

Print Name.....