

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

was held at Mells Barn on Tuesday 12 May 2026 at 7.00 pm. John Earl was in the chair, supported by 4 members of the Council. No residents were present
The Clerk, Joy Book was in attendance

01.05.26APM MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING OF 13 MAY 2025

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 May 2025 had been previously approved by the Council at the June 20245monthly meeting and were taken as read.

02.05.26APM APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Barry Clarke – Somerset Council Councillor, Cllr Clare Asquith, Cllr Steve West

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

03.05.26APM REPORT FROM SOMERSET COUNCILLOR: (No report submitted)

05.05.26APM REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN, BARN COMMITTEE: (Submitted by John Earl)

The committee continue to be optimistic concerning the new building to be erected at the south end of the paddock.

Being aware that both the planning authority and Heritage England would need to be involved we took the bull by the horns and presented a basic plan to the Somerset planning department. Several months later we had a reply where they advised us that they could not progress our plan without confirmation that Heritage England were satisfied with our intentions.

After many more months, we were eventually visited by the local representative for Heritage England and we discussed on site the proposed plan. We are now awaiting a report from Heritage England where they will ask us to answer certain questions i.e. the visual effect of the building on the surrounding area, it's association with the barn, the effect on the local wildlife, the construction materials, plus how we intend to deal with it at end of life and much more.

So, although optimistic, we are aware that this project could take a little time. Due to the additional financial pressures brought about by solicitors, land registry and planning fees the barn accounts show a loss this year however this was expected and catered for so the barn is in good financial shape.

The barn continues to be a wonderful asset to the village and I would once again like to thank my fellow trustees for the effort they put into running maintaining and protecting this building

06.05.26APM RECREATION GROUND REPORT: Mells Sports and Recreation Company
(Submitted by Christopher Pike)

It's been a busy year at the Rec.

The sports facilities are being well used, with both adult and youth football and cricket being well represented. A lot of work has gone into improving the quality of the pitches and surrounding area, and new goalposts have also been added.

The court area has had a much needed overhaul. The fencing has been replaced on three sides, and thanks to a generous donation from Hiedelberg the court area has been fully resurfaced. A cricket net has been added, and in addition to the existing tennis court a pickle ball court has also been marked out. There is further work to come in the next few months, with the court soon to be spray painted and a basketball hoop to be set up.

The rec has hosted a number of other events and activities during the year, including being part of the Spring Fete, a number of jumble sales and the Scenic 7. And, of course, the site remains in daily use for dog walking, the playground and various other social and community activities.

The current lease expires in September 2026, so discussions are underway between the Estate, the PDC and Mells Sport and Rec company to put in place arrangements to ensure this valuable community space can continue to operate as it currently does into the future.

07.05.26APM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON CURRENT YEAR'S ACTIVITIES (presented by Cllr Earl)

This year the parish council took action to increase the precept in line with other surrounding parish councils.

This will allow the council to be more proactive and to this end, the council is actioning a plan to increase grass cutting at some of the junctions, around our village where visibility is an issue. Footpath will also see more regular clearing.

Vehicle speeds through Vobster have been a concern for many years and efforts to obtain a 30 mile an hour speed limit through the village have been thwarted by Somerset Councils lack of money. The parish council will pay £500 for a Somerset Highways survey of the roads in question and it is hoped that the asked for speed limit will be approved. Should this be the case the parish council would be prepared to make funds available to help cover the £6000 to £10,000 fee required by Somerset highways to put the speed limit in place. The difference to be funded by Vobster Parishioners. Further talks involving the amount the PC would contribute will follow when Somerset Highways has confirmed it's fee.

It is also hoped that the parish council would be able to help in some way with funding for the recreation ground the children's play area and the cricket club should a request be made.

Councillors West and Henderson continue to attend quarry liaison meetings in a continued effort to keep noise issues to a minimum.

The plan for the parish council to take control of dog bin waste collection has proved satisfactory, resulting in fewer if any overflowing bins.

The garden area around the Cenotaph continues to be well maintained by the PC with the whole area looking well cared for. The triangle opposite the post office is once again grass covered and no longer a mud bath.

I would like to remind the villagers of Mells and Vobster that there are still two vacancies here on the parish Council an opportunity to make your presence felt.

Somerset counsellor Barry Clark is thanked for his regular attendance to parish council meetings and for keeping us up-to-date with SCC matters.

I also thank the parish counsellor for their continued efforts to make Mells an even better place for those who live here.

08.05.26APM PARISH DISCUSSION FORUM: No discussion took place.

Meeting closed at 7.05pm.

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

Print Name.....