

**UNCONFIRMED**

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

**Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 11 March 2025**

- 01.03.25 PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl – Chair, Cllr John Henderson – Vice Chair, Cllr Steve West, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr Claire Freeman, Cllr David Seviour, Cllr Clare Asquith  
**In Attendance:** Joy Book – Clerk  
**Members of the public:** 0
- 02.03.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Barry Clarke – Somerset Council, Cllr Vince Turner,
- 03.03.25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr West declared an interest in Item 09.03.25 i. 2025/0309/HSE.
- 04.03.25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
- 05.03.25 APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2025**  
Previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 06.03.25 SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**
- i. **Somerset Council faces a £52.2m budget Gap** for 25/26 and plans to increase Council Tax by 7.5%. In addition it has needed to seek government support to close this years remaining gap of £43m which will be bridged using a Capitalisation Direction which allows the Council to sell assets or borrow money and use the proceeds to fund the budget gap and the day-to-day running costs.
  - ii. **Parking hikes:** Proposed increases are to expand Sunday charges across the whole county, introduce overnight charges and new on street parking charges eg. Parking bays, Blue Anchor
  - iii. **Post 16 Transport Scheme – closes 20 March** - The Council is proposing to make a significant change to the policy, which enables eligible Post-16 (aged 16-18) and Post-19 (aged 19+) learners to access further education.
- 07.03.25 MATTERS ARISING**
- i. **Paddock lease:** The Parish Council is in the process of registering the lease with Land Registry and a solicitor is being sought to complete the necessary paperwork as it is more complex than first thought.
  - ii. **Pavilion lease and future of recreation ground:** Clerk to contact Directors requesting they attend the next meeting.
  - iii. **Councillor vacancies – Co-option:** No response to advert in magazine. More councillors are required and councillors were asked to seek suitable candidates.
  - iv. **Quarry noise:** The meeting with the quarry and residents was regrettably cancelled but will be rescheduled. There has been a noticeable increase in noise over the last month during the day which is probably attributed to the quarry working at a higher level and on the Mells side. To be monitored and if it continues, the quarry will be contacted for further explanation.
  - v. **Bus shelter graffiti – Vobster:** Work to be carried out when the weather is better. The layby nearby was recently cleared of 10 tyres and nearly 100 cans. Clerk has contacted Highways to request whether it can be filled in.

### 08.03.25 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

- i. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane:** The Estate maybe able to help with the collection and distribution of top soil to level the area.
- ii. **Area in front of Vobster Inn:** The work should be completed in the next couple of months.
- iii. **Speeding vehicles in Vobster:** This continues to be an issue. It is especially dangerous around the rush hours for any pedestrians due to the increase of vehicles. Highways has responded to the request to lower the speed limit and sent plans requesting confirmation of the area to the parish council would like covered by the new speed limit, if approved. Highways has no record of any accidents in the area in the last 5 years. Cllr West reported that two had happened in as many months but they are obviously not being reported.
- iv. **Park Corner:** No response from Highways to the request to expedite the works.
- vi. **Speeding traffic and mud on road - Lime Kiln Hill:** There has been a deterioration in the quality of the clearing of the road recently. **Clerk to contact.**
- vii. **Water seeping through tarmac – Little Green:** No response from Highways to the request to find a more permanent solution to the issue.

### 09.03.25 PLANNING

#### i. **New applications:**

**2025/0291/OUT:** Outline permission with some matters reserved with details of access for the erection of 1 no dwelling house – Hillcrest, Somers Hill (no objections)

**2025/0309/HSE:** Replacement porch - Willow Cottage Soho Cottage To Vobster Inn (no objections)

**2025/0301/TCA:** 34 x Yew - Reduce to an overall height of 2.7 meters. 2 x Western Red Cedars - (Left hand side) removing multiple uprights stems and (Right hand side) removing one large lower scaffold with secondary minor works on the remainder of the trees - Church of St Andrew New Street (for notification purposes only)

#### ii. **Other planning matters:** None

### 10.03.25 CORRESPONDENCE: None

### 11.03.25 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank account: Lloyds at 11 March 2025 - £1,852.20

Barclays at 20 December 2024 - £13,520.84

#### i. **Payment of accounts – December**

Clerk's Salary & expenses (February)	£334.68
HMRC PAYE (Period 12)	£80.60
12Cloud Payroll monthly fee	£6.00
Monthly bank fee	£4.25

#### ii. **Receipts:** None

#### iii. **Internet banking:** Cllrs Earl and Henderson are trying to navigate through the banking system to add Cllr Seviour's access to internet banking.

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

- i. **Pavement near Mells Park:** Cllr Freeman will report the mud on the pavement on Holes Lanes.
- ii. **Loose dogs and wildlife/farm animals:** Cllr West wished to highlight that this is a critical time of year for farm animals and wildlife. Loose dogs can be distressing for nesting birds and dangerous to livestock if they chase/attack.

**13.03.25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 8 April at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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

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