

**UNCONFIRMED**

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

**Minutes of Mells Parish Council held in the Barn on Tuesday 8 April 2025**

- 01.04.25 PRESENT:** Cllr John Earl – Chair, Cllr Steve West, Cllr Jan Seewooruttun, Cllr Alan Brady, Cllr Claire Freeman  
**In Attendance:** Joy Book – Clerk, Cllr Barry Clarke – Somerset Council  
**Members of the public:** 0
- 02.04.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr John Henderson – Vice Chair, Cllr Vince Turner, Cllr David Seviour, Cllr Clare Asquith
- 03.04.25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None
- 04.04.25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
- 05.04.25 APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 11 MARCH 2025**  
Previously circulated. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 06.04.25 SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**
- i. **Recycling sites Now Operating on Spring/Summer Hours:** All recycling sites have reverted to their spring/summer opening schedule. Residents wishing to take their waste to the recycling site can check online at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/find-your-nearest-recycling-centre/> for opening days.
  - ii. **Safe cycling and walking routes:** The aim is to secure funding over the next decade for significant new safe routes for cyclists and pedestrians across all Somerset's towns. Comment at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans/>
  - iv. **Tree planting register:** Somerset Council published a 10 year Tree Strategy in 2023 and aims to plant 240 hectares each year until 2033. By mapping your tree planting, it will help them to know if the county is on target to meet its important planting goals.
  - v. **Household Relief Fund:** This has been extended for another year and is for anyone who cannot afford to pay for essentials like energy bills and food. Applications can be made online via the Somerset Council website.
- 07.04.25 ANNUAL REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS**  
Financial Regulations, Risk Management Strategy, Social Media Policy, Recording at Meetings Policy, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct – previously circulated. One small amendment (the addition of the words 'the RFO' to 7.1) was made and then all documents were approved and will be reviewed again in April 2026.
- 08.04.25 MATTERS ARISING**
- i. **Paddock lease:** The lease has now been sent to the Land Registry by the solicitors.
  - ii. **Pavilion lease and future of recreation ground:** The Directors have agreed to attend the June meeting.
  - iii. **Councillor vacancies – Co-option:** No one has expressed an interest.
  - iv. **Quarry noise:** The meeting with the residents has taken place and Vince Pitt, Area General Manager has received a list of issues which he will respond to in due course. As the residents and Vince Pitt are in direct contact the PC will take no further action unless new issues arise.

- v. **Bus shelter graffiti – Vobster:** Cllr Brady has nearly completed the painting of the bus shelter and submitted his invoice for £110.

**08.03.25 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:**

- i. **Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane:** No further information.
- ii. **Area in front of Vobster Inn:** The truck is now in place but requires a little more work before it is completed.
- iii. **Speeding vehicles in Vobster:** Sara Davis, Traffic Engineer has no record of accidents or speeding issues so Highways would not be looking at introducing a speed limit reduction. However, if the PC wished to proceed with a new limit, they would need to fund it and this could be up to £10k, which includes the legal order. This would be beyond the financial reach of the PC. The PC could fund a small amount of the charge but the largest contribution would need to be found from other funding streams. The first step in the process is to complete an application form and submit a £500 non refundable deposit. To be revisited in a few months. Clerk to contact Faulkland Parish Clerk regarding their speeding device.
- vi. **Park Corner:** No further information.
- vii. **Speeding traffic and mud on road - Lime Kiln Hill:** There has been noticeably less mud recently although the weather has been drier. Cars are still travelling down the hill too fast and the local PCSO acknowledges that there is an issue. Cllr Brady to ask her to contact Highways.
- viii. **Water seeping through tarmac – Little Green:** No further information.
- ix. **Pavement near Mells Park:** No further information.
- x. **Layby by Vobster bus shelter:** Highways has responded that they will add this site to the future scheme proposal list for consideration by their Asset Management Team but stressed that this was low priority and unlikely that any action would be taken. Cllr West has asked whether it would be possible to fill the layby in at no cost to the Highways department. Clerk to present this to them.

**09.03.25 PLANNING**

- i. **New applications:**  
**2025/0400/VRC:** Removal of condition 3 (Holiday Accommodation Occupancy) on consent 2022/0979/FUL – Upper Vobster Farm – No objections  
**2025/0511/TCA:** Group of 6 remaining poplars and group of dead/dying ash behind. Fell both groups – Bilboa Cottage, Holes Lane. For information only  
**2025/0685/LBC:** Internal alterations – relocation of existing spiral staircase and creation of bathroom pods – Vobster Church Studio. Planning application received on the day of the meeting so Cllrs Earl and Seewooruttun will look at the plans and report back.
- ii. **Other planning matters:** None

**10.03.25 CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**11.03.25 ACCOUNTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Bank account: Lloyds at 31 March 2025 - £258.25  
Barclays at 20 March 2025 - £13,568.50

- i. **Payment of accounts – April**
- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| Clerk's Salary & expenses (March )                         | £334.68 |
| HMRC PAYE (Period 1)                                       | £80.40  |
| J W Witt (150311) bin emptying                             | £79.42  |
| Viscount Asquith's 1999 Settlement Trust - Rec ground rent | £192.00 |
| Easy website monthly fees (hosting & support)              | £39.60  |
| 12 Cloud Payroll (CS-S25-22357)                            | £6.00   |

Forrester Sylvester Mackett Solicitor - on account for Barn	
lease registration with Land Registry	£500.00
Alan Brady – bus shelter painting	£110.00

Due to the very low balance in the Lloyds account and the precept not expected to go into the account until the end of April, it was agreed to move £500 across from the Barclays account to enable the payments due out of the account in April to be made on time without the account going overdrawn.

- ii. **Receipts:** None
- iii. **Internet banking:** Cllr Seviour has now been accepted to use Lloyds internet banking.

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

- i. **White lining:** Highways has requested a list of the areas in the parish that may require the lining to be refreshed which the Clerk has submitted.
- ii. **Local theft:** A tractor was recently stolen in Buckland Dinham and Cllr Brady reported that the local PCSO had said that there were other instances of people acting suspiciously in the area and encouraged people to be vigilant and secure their valuable items.
- iii. Clerk to thank the quarry for the litter picking exercise over the last couple of weeks.

**13.03.25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday 13 May 2025 at 7.00pm in the Barn to include the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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

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

