

HALECOMBE QUARRY COMMUNITY FUND

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th March 2025

Present:	Andy Cadell – AC	Strategic Planning Manager – Tarmac
	Luke Wilson LW	Operations manager – Tarmac
	Colin Arnold - CA	Somerset Council – Planning & Development
	Ian Tier - IT	Somerset Council – Finance manager
	Philip Ham – PH (Chair)	Somerset Councillor
	Paul Bell – PB	Coleford Parish Council
	Vicki Taylor – VTa	Leigh on Mendip Council
	Vicki Trundle – VT	Leigh on Mendip Council
	John Henderson - JH	Mells Parish Council
	Andrew Bramston – AB	Whatley & Chantry Parish Council
	Vickie Watts - VW	Administrator

1. Apologies

Somerset Cllr Barry Clarke sent apologies.

2. Approve minutes from the last meeting: 18th September 2024

Those present agreed that the minutes previously circulated accurately reflected the meeting held on the 18th September 2024.

3. Update on Completed projects

The award made to Leigh on Mendip Recreation Ground at the September 2024 meeting for 3 boulders had not yet been completed due to issues in communications. It is understood that the boulders have now been selected and the delivery should be taking place imminently. It was agreed that once the boulders have been weighed during loading an invoice will be raised which will be paid by the community fund.

The applicants of previous successful applications had submitted the completed project forms to give a summary of how they have had a positive impact on their communities.

4. Receive financial report

IT confirmed that:

01/04/2024 opening balance:	£10,274.92
During the year Tarmac paid in	£ 9,577.11
Total awards for March & Sept 2024	£10,101.61

Current value of the Community Fund	£ 9,750.42
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This doesn't include the value of the boulders for Leigh on Mendip Recreation Ground which total £370.

The amount available for allocation for the Community fund at this meeting is £9380.42

The Long-Term Management Fund currently totalled £202,334.97

5. Consider whether to allocated monies from the Community Fund to make up any reported shortfall between the two interest rates (Identified between the rate of the RPI over the previous calendar year and the rate if interest actually applied to the LTMF during the same 12-month period) to the Long-Term Management Fund

IT confirmed that the interest rate is currently 5.1% and RPI is 2.77%. After discussion it was agreed that there would be no transfer to the long-term management fund.

6. Consideration of applications received:

All applications, quotations and other supporting documentation had been previously circulated to the committee.

01_03.25 Mells with Vobster PCC
Project details: Tree work including shaping of 34 yew trees
Amount requested: £7,344.00
Decision: Application **deferred**. The window for tree work has passed. Permission needs to be provided to show that the work can go ahead & further quotes to be provided to show value for money. Suggest a new application be submitted as a new bid for consideration at the September meeting.

02_03.25 Friends of Whatley CIC
Project details: Set up costs and specifically to acquire a portable skittles alley.
Amount requested: £3,089.49
Decision: Application **approved for partial award of £2,500.00** providing evidence can be provided to show that a temporary alley can be used in the Skittle League and that they have permission to use the alley in the Church. If the above is confirmed, then the application needs to be resubmitted by the Parish Council so that they can purchase the alley, reclaim the VAT and then gift it to the Friends of Whatley.

POST MEETING NOTE: Whatley Parish Council have submitted the revised application form as mentioned above.

03_03.25 Friends of Leigh on Mendip School
Project details: Construction of an outdoor, fully waterproofed, lockable structure
Amount requested: £5,000.00
Decision: Application **refused** as it does not benefit the wider community and is for the statutory delivery of education, which is not part of the remit.

04_03.25 Mells and Vobster United Football Club
Project details: Replace goal posts
Amount requested: £2,400.00
Decision: Application **approved for partial award of £2,000.00**, although the form needs to be resubmitted by the Parish Council so they can purchase the goals, reclaim the VAT and gift them to Mells and Vobster United Football Club.

POST MEETING NOTE: Mells Parish Council were not prepared to submit the application on behalf of the Football club so the award is to be paid directly to the football club as per the submitted application.

05_03.25	Mells Nursery
Project details:	Desktop PC
Amount requested:	£799.00
Decision:	Application refused as the item requested is for the benefit of a commercial business and therefore doesn't fit the remit for the fund.

As a result of the above decisions, the value of grants awarded at this meeting (pending confirmation) totalled **£4,500.00** against available reported funds of **£9380.42**. The balance of **£4,880.42** will be carried forward to be allocated at the next Community Fund meeting.

7. Any other business

AC confirmed that he was speaking with a company (EQ Communications) who would be assisting in updating the quarry website to include a new section covering the promotion of the Community fund, how the funds are raised, the type of projects which would be considered, how to apply and details of successful applications etc, which will be a welcome addition. The same company will also work on the development of a plaque to be erected at the site of successful projects.

Action: AC / VW to progress

8. Date of the next meetings

Wednesday 17th September 2025 @ 10am to be held at the meeting room at Rookery Farmhouse, Halecombe Quarry.