

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held 7.45 p.m. on Wednesday 24 April 2002 at Farleigh Hungerford Village Hall

Present: Councillors M. Davis, C. Gill (Chair), T. Hanney, I. Hasell, P. Rich, V. Solanki (left after minute 5216)

In attendance: Sally Vince (clerk); 15 parishioners

Apologies for absence: None

5206 **Declaration of interests**

None.

5207 **Urgent items**

None.

5208 **Co-option of councillor**

Four parishioners had expressed an interest in the vacant position for a councillor.

Cllr Rich proposed Veronica Parker; Cllr Hasell proposed Edith Finlay; Cllr Hanney proposed David Satchell.

A ballot was held and since there was no clear majority vote there was a second ballot for the two nominees with the highest votes; the second vote was equal and the Chair was given the casting vote. David Satchell was elected as the co-opted councillor. The clerk will contact him.

Clerk

5209 **Minutes of the previous meeting (22 March 2002)**

These were signed with no amendments.

5210 **Matters arising**

(i) *Strengthening work on the bridge at Farleigh Hungerford* [5187(i)].

The clerk has requested written confirmation from Frank Lake of WS Atkins that the weight restriction on the bridge will not be lifted once strengthening work has been carried out. The clerk will chase a reply.

Clerk

(ii) *Malt House/Bend Cottage* [5187(ii)]. Cllr Hanney has established from David Clark at Mendip District Council that the owner of the cottages has not yet paid the bills sent him for the remedial work carried out by MDC; he has until Friday to pay these. David Clark said that there has been a lot of interest from potential purchasers for the properties, although it could take two years for the council to compulsorily purchase the buildings, if necessary. MDC has reiterated its concern in the future of the buildings. Cllr Hanney will monitor the situation.

TH

(iii) *Welcome pack for new arrivals* [5187(iv)]. Cllr Solanki has added some details to the pack. Cllr Gill will e-mail Cllr Solanki with some additional information. Once the pack has been revised it will be distributed to all households in the parish. CG / VS

(iv) *Water tower at Farleigh Hungerford* [5187(vi)]. Cllr Davis has checked the work that needs doing to the water tower and has asked Mr Applegate at Hinton Charterhouse to quote for the work. Cllr Davis will chase the quote. MD

(v) *Village signs for Norton St Philip* [5190]. Cllr Rich confirmed that Somerset County Council will replace existing A-road signs with identical ones at no cost. Cllr Rich will look at alternatives, such as including a brief reference to Norton St Philip's history, for which the Parish Council may have to contribute towards the cost. The Parish Council will have to pay at least part and possibly all the cost for replacing the B-road signs. All councillors are in agreement that the road signs should be replaced, depending on cost. PR

(vi) *Millennium tree* [5200]. It appears that Joe Leber probably won't be able to help with the lettering of the plaque, but may be able to help with the stone. Cllr Solanki is waiting for Mr Leber to get back to him. VS

(vii) *Early bus to Frome* [5175(iv)]. Badgerline has responded to the clerk's letter to say that the request for an early bus to Frome had been passed on to the relevant person, but there has been no correspondence since. The clerk will chase. Clerk

5211 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence was copied to all councillors with the agenda.

(i) Brenchley Parish Council has written to ask how successful Norton St Philip's traffic calming scheme has been. The Chair will draft a reply. CG

(ii) Mendip District Council's report 'Review of Air Quality in Frome and Surrounding Areas' was passed to Cllr Hanney.

(iii) WS Atkins has requested the name of someone on the Parish Council who will act as a contact for highways matters. This was passed to Cllr Solanki. VS

5212 **Code of Conduct**

Cllr Hasell proposed and Cllr Rich seconded that the Code be adopted. Five councillors were in favour and there was one abstention. The clerk will inform the Monitoring Officer in time for the parish to be included in MDC's block advertisement informing the public of the Code's adoption. Clerk

Councillors now have 28 days to complete the new Declaration of Office and two months to complete their Declaration of Interests. All

5213 **Parish Plan**

(i) Cllr Hasell reported that 164 villagers attended the Parish Plan meeting held on 7 April and the steering group is now analysing the votes. There have been 30–35 kitchen table discussions.

(ii) The next stage is the formulation of proposals.

(iii) In order to check that the process is robust so far, the steering group will be holding a meeting on 23 May with Naomi Wright and others from the Countryside Agency. The steering group will provide all councillors with the report they will be giving the Countryside Agency by 15 May.

IH

5214 **Mendip Draft Planning Policy**

At the last Parish Seminar a report was given on the drive to get tougher with enforcement of planning applications across the country. It was agreed that the Parish Council need not respond to this at this time.

5215 **Traffic meeting**

(i) This will be held in the Palairet Hall on 7 May. Cllr Gill will complete the traffic statement.

CG

(ii) Cllr Hasell reported that the Parish Plan meeting and kitchen table discussions have revealed nothing contradictory to the statements in the draft traffic statement.

5216 **Church Mead Pavilion**

(i) The Chair of the Church Mead Management Committee had circulated a report on the need for a new pavilion prior to the meeting and summarised it verbally at the meeting.

(ii) After much discussion between the Parish Council and the parishioners present at the meeting, councillors agreed to support in principle the construction of a new pitch-side pavilion on the existing site costing in the region of £15,000.

(iii) A vote was taken on whether the Parish Council should pay for the planning application for the new pavilion: five councillors were in favour and there was one abstention.

(iv) The Parish Council has asked the Church Mead Management Committee for more detailed financial plans, including a maintenance plan, for the next discussion on this matter.

5217 **Highways**

(i) *Maintenance of the A36*. There have been rumours that the A36 will be closed (possibly completely) from September to December this year. Peter Bartlett, the engineer for this work, has said that no decision has yet been made on planned diversions, but if the village is likely to be affected, they will consult with the Parish Council first.

- (ii) The clerk has written to WS Atkins regarding the poor road surface in the High Street, which has caused an elderly person to fall. The clerk will chase a reply. Clerk
- (iii) HGV routing signs. Chris Young at Somerset County Council has said that there is no plan to remove the signs, since HGVs must be routed somewhere and at the moment the load is distributed over several routes, including through Norton St Philip. The clerk will write to Chris Young to ask on whose authority the signs were erected and why they are staying, since Norton St Philip is not included in the county plan for routing. Clerk
- 5218 **Village cleaning**
- (i) Cllr Rich has not yet spoken to Colin Francis regarding his employment status. PR
- (ii) A date is to be set for when Norton St Philip villagers will be invited to take part in a village cleaning day. This will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 5219 **Finance** Clerk / VS / PR
- (i) The clerk will liaise with Cllrs Rich and Solanki regarding the annual accounts.
- (ii) The following cheques were agreed and signed:
£115.51 (excl. VAT £98.30) to Somerset Landscapes for grass cutting on Church Mead.
£10 to Palairet Hall Management Committee for rent of the hall for Parish Council meetings.
£10 to Palairet Hall Trustees.
£536.58 to Sally Vince (clerk's salary £505.72; clerk's expenses £30.86)
£200 to Farleigh Hungerford Village Hall, grant for the upkeep of the hall.
- (ii) Grounds maintenance at Farleigh Hungerford. Cllr Rich will ask Colin Francis if he will cut the grass around the water tower. PR
- (iii) Litter bin for the Fleur de Lys. The litter bin requested by the pub will cost £56.29 + VAT. All councillors are in favour of this expenditure. Cllr Hasell will liaise with the clerk on the ordering of the bin. IH / Clerk
- (iv) Church Mead Management Committee has requested that two dog waste bins and two picnic benches be ordered for Church Mead. The total cost is £865.12 (£1,016.52 including VAT). All councillors are in favour of this expenditure and the clerk will place the order. Clerk
- (v) An internal auditor must be appointed to look at the annual accounts. Cllr Rich will ask Nick Brown if he would be interested in doing this for the Parish Council. PR

(vi) *Web site.* The revised Web site is available on the Internet (at www.nortonstphilip.p-c.org.uk). A .gov.uk Web site address will cost in the region of £110. Councillors agreed this is an unnecessary expenditure.

It was agreed that a copy of the approved minutes should be left at the Post Office for parishioners to read.

Clerk

(vii) The clerk will write to Mendip District Council informing them that there will be another bin (outside the Fleur de Lys pub) for emptying. In addition, she will bring to their attention that the bin outside the school is not being emptied by the refuse collectors.

Clerk

(viii) The clerk will ask Cllr Vi to inform the Highways Department that the grit bin outside the school has no grit in it and is being used for rubbish.

Clerk /
VS

5220 **Planning**

(i) 5 Longmead Close, Norton St Philip – erection of a single storey extension. The Parish Council has no objection.

Clerk

(ii) Rowley Grange, Farleigh Hungerford – erection of a staff dwelling: notice of an informal appeal to be held in September.

(iii) Townsend, Town End, Norton St Philip – installation of conservation rooflights. MDC has granted permission.

(iv) The Council for the Protection of Rural England is holding a skills seminar on how to look at planning applications, to be held at Strode College on 14 May. The clerk will copy the details to Cllrs Gill and Hasell.

Clerk /
CG / IH

5221 **Miscellaneous reports**

A parishioner from Farleigh Hungerford asked whether it would be possible to have a footpath between the castle and the entrance to the lane leading to Tellisford. It was agreed that this should be included in the traffic plan along with the request to provide more pavements in Norton St Philip. Cllr Davis will draw a plan of the ideal location for the footpath.

CG

MD

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.

Signed

Name:

Date: