

# NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

## MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING held 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday 20 August 2002 at Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip

**Present:** Councillors M. Davis, C. Gill, I. Hasell, P. Rich (Chair), D. Satchell

**In attendance:** Sally Vince (clerk); 5 parishioners

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors T. Hanney, V. Solanki

#### Public forum

A parishioner requested that the cast iron signs pointing to the mead be repainted and smartened up. Cllr Rich will look into this.

PR

#### 5270 Declaration of interests

None.

#### 5271 Urgent items

None.

#### 5272 Minutes of the previous meeting (26 July 2002)

These were signed with no amendments.

#### 5273 Matters arising

(i) *Welcome pack for new arrivals* [5260(i)]. Cllr Solanki is finishing this off. Could a draft please be sent to all councillors before the next meeting.

VS

(ii) *Water tower at Farleigh Hungerford* [5260(ii)]. We are still awaiting quotes for repointing.

MD

(iii) (a) *Village signs for Norton St Philip* [5260(iii)]. Jeff Bunting from WS Atkins has met with Cllr Rich and has agreed that the village signs on the A roads need replacing and that those on the B roads could be replaced at the same time. Cllr Rich showed the meeting a drawing of how the signs might look (the Duke of Monmouth's coat of arms at the top, the village name in the middle and the words 'Pitchfork Rebellion 1685' at the bottom; on a separate small brown tourist sign, reference is to be made to the 14th century church and inn). It appears that the cost to the parish may be £390 per sign, including erecting; Cllr Rich will check this figure. It was agreed that the sign should have a dark green background with the coat of arms in gold and the lettering in white; Cllr Rich will ask Mr Bunting if this is possible.

PR

PR

(b) Mr Bunting will ask the area technician to inspect the state of the hedges in the village, particularly around the village signs.

CG /  
TAG

(c) The Traffic Action Group will write to Brian Cull, Highway Services Manager, about tidying the chicanes and bollards.

(iv) *Millennium tree* [5260(iv)]. The rock will cost £70 per cu ft and the lettering £1 per character. It was agreed that the rock should be no bigger than 2 cu ft and the lettering should be

Planted to celebrate the Millennium  
1 January 2000

The rock should be a hard stone (Portland stone?) and the lettering inset. It is hoped that this will be organised by the next meeting.

VS

(v) *Malt House/Bend Cottage* [5260(v)]. Cllr Hanney is writing to MDC to request that they serve a Repairs Notice. Cllr Hanney will liaise with Cllr Rich before sending the letter.

TH /  
PR

(vi) *Somerset Draft Corporate Plan* [5261(ii)]. Cllrs Rich and Solanki will look at this for the next meeting.

PR /  
VS

5274 **Correspondence**

A small amount of correspondence was noted, in particular:

(i) Training for new councillors and chairs. Cllrs Rich, Hasell and Satchell were interested in attending the training.

(ii) Somerset Rural Youth Project, Moped Loan Scheme. The clerk will place a notice in the noticeboard.

Clerk

5275 **Faccenda site**

(i) Cllr Rich has met with Alice Ordidge from Savills. Savills has met with Mendip District Council on two occasions to discuss planning applications, and will be submitting two applications, one for outline permission for six dwellings and one to renew the permission for light industrial use on the footprint of the original factory. These will be submitted in September and will be discussed at the Frome Area Board in December or January.

(ii) Cllrs Rich and Hasell and Cate Mack are meeting with Graham Jeffs and Derek Hooper of Mendip District Council on 27 August.

5276 **Parish Plan**

(i) All councillors were copied with the amended progress report from the Parish Plan Steering Group prior to the meeting.

(ii) The steering group has been passed research information on the need for new facilities for the preschool group and this information will be included in the Parish Plan.

(iii) Cllr Gill will liaise with Cllr Hasell on the section of the report that deals with the need for a new village hall to meet the needs of preschoolers and other primary users of the hall.

CG / IH

- (iv) Cllr Rich will provide Cllr Hasell with data re a survey for support for a new village hall, which was carried out at the end of 1999. PR
- (v) Cllr Hasell will amend the report if necessary to take account of information in Mendip District Council's report 'Housing Strategy 2002–2005/6'. IH
- (vi) A specialist consultant in the area of analysing the requirements of young people has suggested that the initial concept of carrying out a limited survey with completion by the autumn is not only flawed but would not be successful. A more comprehensive survey should be carried out over a much longer time period (e.g. a year). This will be possible only if funding is available from the Countryside Agency. The steering group will be applying for funding from the Agency. IH
- 5277 **Traffic Action Group**  
Cllr Gill has drawn up a draft terms of reference for the Traffic Action Group. These have not yet been agreed by the other members of the group. A revised document will be presented to the meeting in September. CG
- 5278 **Palaiet Hall**  
Cllr Satchell gave an update on Palaiet Hall matters. Costings are being sought for the conversion work for a disabled toilet and kitchen fittings. The toilet needs to be in place by April 2004 to comply with the law. The management committee will apply for grant aid for 50 per cent of the cost. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £10,000–£12,000.
- 5279 **Highways**
- (i) Cllrs Rich and Hasell attended a Highways Agency meeting regarding the closure of the A36. North bound traffic will be rerouted through Norton St Philip on the B3110. Cllrs Rich and Hasell have written to a number of people (Secretary of State for Transport, the Shadow Secretary, the Leader of Somerset County Council, the transport portfolio holder for Somerset County Council, the leader of Mendip District Council, David Heath MP, County Councillor Michel St John, District Councillor John Batten, and Peter Bartlett of the Highways Agency) objecting to the rerouting and expressing major concerns about the extra traffic through the village.
- (ii) Cllr Hasell believes that the Highways Agency has not complied with its statutory obligations in planning the rerouting.
- (iii) The local press has been to the village to talk to Cllr Rich and an article should appear in this week's *Standard*. It was agreed that a press release should be sent to local and national newspapers and radio stations. Cllrs Rich and Gill will organise this. PR / CG
- (iv) It was agreed that an analysis of traffic movement through the village should be carried out before the A36 closure and then again afterwards. Cllrs Gill and Rich will put a notice in the parish magazine asking for volunteers to carry out the survey. PR / CG

5280 **Joint meeting of Norton St Philip and Hinton Charterhouse parish councils**

A message has been left for the Chairman of Hinton Charterhouse Parish Council suggesting a meeting should take place sometime in the first two weeks of September.

5281 **Finance**

(i) *Audit.* The Parish Council is very grateful to Geoff Clark for carrying out an internal audit on the accounts. The Chairman has also looked at the figures.

(ii) The accounts were presented to the meeting and agreed. [An income and expenses account had been presented at the annual meeting in May.]

(iii) The Statement of Assurance was discussed and approved by councillors.

(iv) The Chair signed the annual return. The clerk will send this to Moore Stephens, the external auditor. Clerk

(v) It was agreed that the clerk will present monthly figures to Cllrs Rich and Solanki.

(vi) The following cheque was agreed and signed:  
£342.29 (£291.30 excl. VAT) to Somerset Landscapes for grass cutting on Church Mead

5282 **Planning**

(i) Rowan House, 1 Longmead Close – erection of conservatory. Cllr Hasell had circulated his report prior to the meeting. Councillors have no objection to this application. Clerk

(ii) Land adjoining Mowers, Bath Road, NSP – erection of dwelling with new access. Cllr Hasell had circulated his report prior to the meeting. Councillors agreed 4:1 to object to this proposal and comment: Clerk

‘This proposal involves the loss of a grassed area and a wall and replaces it with a parking area. A better solution would be to retain the wall with the consequent loss of some parking.’

(iii) Rowley Grange – erection of single-storey pitched roof building. Permission has been granted, with conditions.

(iv) Barton Manor – change of use from residential home. Permission has been granted.

(v) Land at Downfield Farm, Farleigh Road, Norton St Philip – occupation of dwelling by persons not employed in agriculture. This application is for information only.

(vi) Planning control annual report. Passed to Cllr Hasell.

(vii) Mendip District Council's 'Housing Strategy 2002–2005/6' report.  
Passed to Cllr Hasell.

5283 **Miscellaneous reports and information**

None.

5284 **Dates of next meeting**

Friday 20 September in the Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip.

The meeting ended at 10.25 p.m.