

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday 22 October 2002 at Farleigh Hungerford Village Hall

Present: Councillors C. Gill, T. Hanney (left after minute 5306), I. Hasell, P. Rich (Chair), D. Satchell, V. Solanki

In attendance: Sally Vince (clerk); 3 parishioners

Apologies for absence: None

Public forum

No parishioner wished to speak.

5300 Declaration of interests

None.

5301 Urgent items

None.

5302 Minutes of the previous meeting (20 September 2002)

These were signed with no amendments.

5303 Matters arising

(i) *Erection of BT poles* [5286(i)]. The clerk has written to BT and the Electricity Board and copied the letters to Mendip District Council. In the absence of any response these will be chased.

Clerk

(ii) *Church Green* [5286(ii)]. (a) Cllr Rich has apologised to the family of the child whose foot was caught in a hole left where one of the posts had been knocked out. Tony Day of the PCC confirmed all holes have been filled in. The Parish Council will suggest replacing the posts with something more substantial. The clerk will look into the Parish Council's involvement when the posts were erected.

Clerk

(b) The clerk will try to ascertain who owns the triangle of grass at the entrance to the Green.

Clerk

(iii) *Water tower at Farleigh Hungerford* [5288(ii)]. A second quote is being sought.

VS

(iv) *Village signs for Norton St Philip* [5288(iii)]. (a) Final costings have still not arrived. However, Jeff Bunting has said that WS Atkins will pay for replacement signs to the Parish Council's designs on the A roads; the Parish Council would be responsible for the costs of the B road signs.

(b) Cllr Hasell will try to get a clearer drawing of Monmouth's coat of arms.

IH

PR

(c) The direction sign outside the Old Forge has been twisted round to point at the wrong roads, and the fingers on the Tellisford Lane need replacing. Cllr Rich will ask Jeff Bunting to repair these.

(vi) *Millennium tree* [5288(iv)]. (a) The stone plaque has been erected. This cost £230, but no invoice has yet been received.

(b) The tree has been vandalised and it looks as though it will not be possible to save it. It was agreed that a notice should be put in the parish magazine offering a reward for information leading to the identification of the person or persons that carried out the vandalism. Posters will also be placed in the pubs.

PR

(vii) *Somerset Draft Corporate Plan* [5288(vi)]. There is no action to be taken on this.

(viii) *Consultation on the Somerset Waste Local Plan* [5289(iii)]. There is no action to be taken on this.

(ix) *Oak tree at Farleigh Hungerford* [5298]. This matter is outstanding.

MD

(x) Countryside Agency – invitation to comment on a draft map of registered common land and open country. Cllr Hanney will investigate various areas of land in the village to ascertain their ownership. The Parish Council rather than Mendip District Council is, apparently, responsible for the upkeep of any land designated as common land.

TH

5304 **Planning**

(i) Harts Forge, Town Barton, Norton St Philip – internal alterations. Cllr Hasell circulated his report prior to the meeting. It was agreed that there would be ‘No objection’ to this proposal.

Clerk

(ii) Broadway, Tellisford Lane, Norton St Philip – erection of single-storey extension to rear. Cllr Hasell circulated his report prior to the meeting. The application was supported unanimously.

Clerk

(iii) Land adjoining Mowers, Bath Road, Norton St Philip. This application has gone to appeal. It was agreed to write reiterating that the Parish Council’s preference for the style of building is for that of the latest application, i.e. to match houses in Monmouth Paddock, and enclosing Cllr Hasell’s report on the application. The original objection was solely because of wall demolition and loss of green space.

Clerk

(iv) Rowley Grange, Farleigh Hungerford – erection of a staff dwelling: appeal decision. The appeal was dismissed on grounds that the building would be ‘harmful to the Green Belt’.

5305 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence was circulated at the meeting. All correspondence items of note are within other items on this agenda.

- 5306 **Malt House / Bend Cottage** VS
- (i) The electrician has submitted a bill for security lighting. Cllr Solanki will ask him to resubmit it addressed to the owner of the premises and send it to Mendip District Council for forwarding.
- (ii) It was agreed that Cllr Rich will ring SALC (Somerset Association for Local Councils) for advice on the procedure and timescale for obtaining a Compulsory Purchase Order.
- 5307 **Faccenda site**
- There is nothing to report on this matter.
- 5308 **Village Plan**
- There is little reportable progress on this matter. A steering group meeting will be organised soon. The plan is still on target for completion by the end of the year.
- 5309 **Traffic Action Group**
- (i) TAG has met with Martin Wright, a design engineer from WS Atkins, to discuss the state of footpaths in the parish. TAG has also consulted with owners of the houses by the footpaths in question.
- (ii) A document regarding footpaths was distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting. The Parish Council approved the proposals.
- (iii) The clerk will write to Somerset County Council to confirm that the Parish Council wants to proceed as soon as possible with repairs to the pavement outside the Plain and that new and wider footpaths should be bid for in the next financial year. The clerk will contact Somerset County Council to ascertain the procedure for submitting bids. Clerk
- (iv) Cllr Gill will e-mail the clerk with an updated report and Cllr Hasell will post an annotated map to the clerk. CG / IH
- (v) Closure of the A36. The traffic is getting noticeably busier in the evenings and at weekends, but is not so bad during the day.
- (vi) Cllr Solanki has written to National Express to complain about their coaches being driven through the village; a spokesperson has assured him that the drivers will be stopped from coming through the village.
- (vii) There is an apparent reduction of HGVs through the village since work started on the A36. It was agreed that TAG should organise a traffic survey concentrating particularly on HGVs so that a case can be made for requesting strategic diversions.
- (viii) Cllr Gill will let all councillors know the action they should take if they spot an HGV travelling through the village on the B road, which has a 7½ tonne limit.

(ix) It was agreed that TAG should be mandated to take what action it feels is necessary, rather than come to a full Parish Council meeting for approval.

5310 **Highways**

(i) Cllr Solanki has spoken with Jeff Bunting from WS Atkins. Mr Bunting will send Cllr Solanki a map of the village on which the Parish Council can mark where it would like to see 20 mph signs.

(ii) Cllr Rich spoke today with Jeff Bunting and he has suggested that the 20 mph limit should start where the current 30 mph sign is coming from Faulkland, up to Upper Farm Close on the Farleigh Hungerford road. The 30 mph limit should then start 300 m further outside the village.

(iii) Mr Bunting has agreed to meet with Cllrs Rich and Gill to walk the route of the proposed 20 mph limit, which must make reference to safety within the vicinity of the school.

5311 **Joint meeting of Norton St Philip and Hinton Charterhouse parish councils**

This will go ahead on Wednesday, 6 November. Details of time and place will follow.

5312 **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Cllr Rich will study this and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

PR

5313 **Palairret Hall**

The Palairret Hall Management Committee has received a grant for 50% of the figures submitted from Mendip District Council for installing a disabled toilet. The total cost of the works will be in the region of £10,700 and the grant is for £5,342. This grant must be spent in this financial year (i.e. by April 2003). The Parish Council was asked to allow anticipation of next year's grant by about £700 to help pay for the improvements and this was agreed. It was also agreed that the new flooring costs could be placed through the Parish Council to reclaim VAT of about £300, which could offset the total costs. The work is due to be carried out in January.

5314 **Finance**

(i) The following cheques were agreed and signed:
£167.80 (£142.80 + 25.00 VAT) to Somerset Landscapes for grass cutting on Church Mead
£20.00 to the Palairret Hall Management Committee for hall rental for meetings
£870.00 to Sally Vince for clerk's salary (£800.00) and expenses (£70.00) for the six months 1 April to 30 September
See also minute 5315 regarding cheque to Mendip District Council for £74.91 (inclusive of VAT) relating to the Mead pavilion.

(ii) Councillors agreed that the clerk's salary should be increased in line with SALC's annual recommendations to £7.693 per hour (from 1 April 2002).

5315 **Church Mead**

New pavillion. The Church Mead Management Committee has requested that the Parish Council pay the fees for Mendip District Council's building regulation checks. This is £74.91 (inclusive of VAT) Plans Examination charge, required immediately, and £224.72 (inclusive of VAT) site inspection fee, required once the work has started. All councillors were in favour of supporting this request and a cheque for £74.91 was made out to Mendip District Council and signed.

5316 **Miscellaneous reports and information**

The clerk will ask the Enforcement Officer at Mendip District Council to check on what it believes to be unauthorised building along the Farleigh Hungerford road out of Norton St Philip, in particular Spring Leaze Farm, Whites of Frome and Farleigh Wood.

Clerk

5317 **Dates of next meetings**

Friday 22 November in Norton St Philip Village School.
It will be decided later if a meeting should be held in December; the date will in any case be changed from the publicised one.

The meeting ended at 10.00 p.m.