

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held 6.30 p.m. on Friday 22 November 2002 at Norton St Philip School

Present: Councillors M. Davis, C. Gill, T. Hanney, I. Hasell, P. Rich (Chair),
In attendance: Sally Vince (clerk); PC Tracey Spencer; Jonathan Layzell, Senior
Rural Housing Enabler for Somerset Community Council
Apologies for absence: Councillors D. Satchell, V. Solanki

Public forum

There was no public forum.

5318 **Declaration of interests**

None.

5319 **Urgent items**

None.

5320 **Minutes of the previous meeting (22 October 2002)**

These were signed with no amendments. It was noted that the name of the design engineer from WS Atkins is John Wright, not Martin Wright as stated in minute 5309(i).

5321 **Church Mead, Norton St Philip – pavilion fire**

(i) The pavilion was destroyed in a fire in the early evening of Sunday 17 November.

(ii) PC Spencer said that there were no real witnesses at the moment and no forensics. The police are still investigating the crime and the fire officer has said that it was ‘probably suspicious’.

(iii) There are rumours that a ‘young person’ was seen running away from the pavilion shortly before the alarm was raised. Youth of the village have been overheard to say that they know who that was.

(iv) Cllr Rich will put an article in the parish magazine asking villagers if they have any information, for example did anyone arrive home smelling of smoke whose whereabouts were unknown at the time the fire started.

PR

The article will also ask whether anyone has seen strangers in the village on the days of the fires at Malt House/Bend Cottage and the pavilion (all but one on a Sunday evening). Villagers will be asked to be extra vigilant.

(v) PC Spencer will organise for a press release for the *Somerset Standard* asking whether parents know the whereabouts of their children on Sunday night, and whether anyone arrived home smelling of smoke.

(vi) PC Spencer will speak to CID and the fire service to see if any link can be established with the arson attacks at Malt House/Bend Cottage.

(vii) PC Spencer will request a more visible police presence in Norton St Philip on Sunday evenings.

(viii) Councillors were asked to pass names to the police of anyone mentioned in connection with the fires.

5322 **Jonathan Layzell, Senior Rural Housing Enabler, Somerset Community Council**

(i) Jonathan Layzell is investigating the possibility of carrying out an in-depth housing needs survey in Norton St Philip and is requesting backing from the Parish Council to go ahead with it.

(ii) Cllr Hasell reported that a lot of data had been collected on housing needs as part of the Parish Plan work. So far, older residents have been surveyed to find out the need for houses for downsizing, sheltered accommodation and so on. Surveys are currently under way on the needs of younger people. Mr Layzell said that the surveys done so far would provide a good indication of housing needs, but he may have to do a more extensive survey to elicit more information.

(iii) The Parish Plan steering group will invite Mr Layzell to their next meeting.

(iv) Mr Layzell will talk to the Wessex Reinvestment Trust to ask them how they see their role.

5323 **Matters arising from the meeting of 22 October**

(i) *Erection of BT poles* [5303(i)]. S+S (the trading name of SSE Power Distribution Ltd) has replied: 'I appreciate your concern about the visual impact of poles in Norton St Philip, particularly as it is a conservation village, and can confirm that there are no changes to the regulations that permit BT to request attachment to electricity poles. There are currently no plans by S+S for any additions or alterations in the village.'

The clerk will ask for confirmation from BT.

Clerk

(ii) *Church Green* [5303(ii)]. (a) The clerk will look into the Parish Council's involvement regarding the posts around the green.

Clerk

(b) Cllr Rich will speak to Tony Day and Peter Yarker about the posts on the Green.

PR

(b) WS Atkins has confirmed that the triangle of grass at the entrance to the Green belongs to Highways.

(iii) *Water tower at Farleigh Hungerford* [5303(iii)]. Cllr Hanney is seeking two more quotes for repairing the tower.

TH

(iv) *Village signs for Norton St Philip* [5303(iv)]. (a) It may be possible to incorporate new signs into funding for the new speed limits (see minute 5324(vi) below).

(b) Cllr Hasell will try to get a clearer image of the Monmouth coat of arms that it is hoped will be incorporated into the signage, and find someone to draw a simpler version of it.

IH

(v) *Oak tree at Farleigh Hungerford* [5303(ix)]. Cllr Davis has spoken to Mendip District Council, which has promised that someone will come to look at the tree. Cllr Davis will chase this.

MD

(vi) *Countryside Agency – invitation to comment on a draft map of registered common land and open country* [minute 5303(x)]. It was agreed that no response needs to be made to the Countryside Agency, but that it would be a useful exercise to gradually build up a map of who owns small pockets of land throughout the parish that are not within the obvious boundaries of properties, for example the land on which the millennium tree is planted. Cllr Hanney will start this, with help from Cllrs Solanki and Satchell.

TH /
VS /
DS

(vii) *Malt House / Bend Cottage* [minute 5306]. (a) A chartered surveyor has done an in-depth survey of the buildings for Mendip District Council. This is the start of the process for the Repair Order. The Repair Order will be sent to the owner's solicitor, after which he will have six weeks to carry out the repairs. If the owner does not carry out the work, Mendip District Council will organise any necessary work.

(b) Cllr Rich is waiting to hear back from Peter Lacey of the Somerset Association for Local Councils on whether there is a short-cut to obtaining a compulsory purchase order.

(viii) *Faccenda site* [minute 5307]. There is nothing to report on this matter.

5324 **Traffic Action Group**

(i) Cllr Gill presented a draft bulletin for the parish magazine. Councillors agreed it should be published.

(ii) Norton St Philip and Hinton Charterhouse Parish Councils met on 6 November. Hinton Charterhouse Parish Council are in agreement that they would like to see less traffic on the B3110.

(iii) Cllr Gill attended a Bristol/Bath South Coast Transport Study workshop, which talked about the A36. The Traffic Action Group will be putting together a considered representation to the consultants on this project.

(iv) A survey of large goods vehicles was held on the A road and the B road through Norton St Philip on 21 November. For comparisons, another survey will be held when the A36 is open again.

(v) It was clarified that it is not illegal for coaches to be driven through the village, but the coach companies do not do so as a matter of goodwill.

(vi) Councillors Gill and Rich, together with John Kendal of the Traffic Action Group, have met with Jeff Bunting from WS Atkins to discuss 20 mph limits through Norton St Philip. It is expected that there will be a 20 mph limit throughout the whole village by next April. County Councillor Mike St John's support is needed for this. Cllr Gill has emailed him but has not yet received a reply.

(vii) Footway repairs. (a) WS Atkins has written to confirm the work it intends to carry out outside the Plaine 'in the next several months', and this was passed to Cllr Gill. Cllr Gill will ask Derek Archer for specifications for the placing of bollards, since from the drawing submitted by WS Atkins they seem to be set too far in from the roadside. Cllr Gill will also get clarification on the type of stone they intend to use for the paving.

CG

CG

(b) Cllr Gill has yet to draft the statement of case for footway alterations.

CG

(viii) Thank you to Cllr Gill and the Traffic Action Group members for the hard work put into all matters regarding traffic.

(ix) More volunteers are needed to join the Traffic Action Group.

5325 **Church Mead**

(i) An assessor will be coming to assess the damage from the fire (see minute 5321 above). In the meantime, the Church Mead Committee will fence off the area.

(ii) The Church Mead Committee will look into whether the insurance company will insure another wooden building, and if so whether the premiums will be increased.

TH

(iii) The Church Mead Committee will talk to the Fire Prevention Officer about the siting of the new pavilion, since the Fire Brigade had some difficulty getting to the current site.

TH

5326 **Youth**

(i) The tots' slide on the Mead has been vandalised. The memorial plaque on the seat on the Mead has been ripped off.

(ii) As part of the Parish Plan process parents will be asked if they think there is a problem with youth in the village and if they would like to get together as a Youth Action Group to think of solutions.

IH

5327 **Planning**

(i) Church Farm, Farleigh Hungerford – conversion of barns to two dwellings. Councillors had no objection.

Clerk

(ii) 7 High Street, Norton St Philip – erection of two-storey extension. Councillors had no objection. It is understood that Mendip District Council has already turned down this application. The clerk will investigate.

Clerk

(iii) Broadway, Tellisford Lane, Norton St Philip – extension of single-storey extension to rear. Mendip District Council has granted permission.

(iv) 1 Manor Barn, Norton St Philip – Conversion of existing garage to additional living accommodation including alterations to the roof. Mendip District Council has granted permission.

(v) Hart's Forge, Town Barton, Norton St Philip – internal alterations. Mendip District Council has granted permission.

(vi) Spring Leaze and Whites of Frome. The enforcement officer has visited these sites and has found no evidence of unlawful building.

5328 **Correspondence**

All correspondence that needs to be actioned is dealt with under other items in these minutes.

5329 **Village Plan**

(i) See minute 5322 regarding housing needs surveys.

(ii) See minute 5326(ii) regarding the proposal of a Youth Action Group.

(iii) The steering group has produced a newsletter setting out its findings so far, which has been delivered to all households in Norton St Philip. All villagers have been invited to a discussion in the Palairet Hall on 24 November.

5330 **Highways**

WS Atkins has sent details of reorganising the junction of the A36 with the A366, towards Farleigh Hungerford. Councillors welcomed these changes.

5331 **Palairet Hall**

There is nothing to report.

5332 **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

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

PR

5333 **Finance**

(i) A bill has been received from Sodexo for grass cutting at the water tower in Farleigh Hungerford. Cllr Rich will find out from Colin Francis whether or not he has been doing this work. It was agreed that Sodexo should be paid for the work if it is indeed them that has been carrying it out. The clerk will liaise with Cllr Rich over this.

Clerk /
PR

(ii) The clerk will find out who empties the public litter bins in Norton St Philip.

Clerk

- (iii) The following cheques were agreed and signed:
£9.00 to Somerset County Council for hire of the school hall for the meeting between Norton St Philip and Hinton Charterhouse Parish Councils
£108.00 to Ian Hasell for reimbursement of photocopying costs for the Village Plan newsletter

£500.00 had been paid to Ruth Allen on 13 November for preparation of the Village Plan newsletter

- (iv) Church Mead grant. The grant did not cover the last month's grass cutting, which was paid by the Mead Committee. It was agreed to look at raising the grant for next year when the budget is discussed at the next meeting.

- (v) The precept will be discussed in detail at the next meeting.

5334 **Miscellaneous reports and information**

At the chairman's request, the clerk wrote a letter to the Countryside Agency on 11 November in support of the Post Office's bid for a grant.

5335 **Dates of next meetings**

- (i) The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12 December, providing the clerk can book a room.

- (ii) It was agreed that, depending on the availability of the hall, all meetings next year will be held on the second Thursday of each month.

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.