

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 8 July 2004 at Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip

Present: Councillors D. Archer, I. Hasell, A. Purssord, P. Rich

In attendance: Sally Vince (clerk); 6 members of the public

Apologies for absence: Councillors C. Gill, T. Hanney

Public forum

(i) Potholes in Ringwell Lane have still not been filled in. The clerk will contact Highways to remind them about the work. Clerk

5594 Councillor vacancy

Cllr Hasell proposed and Cllr Archer seconded Tony Hodgson for co-opted councillor. All councillors were in agreement. The clerk will write to Mr Hodgson inviting him on to the parish council. Clerk

5595 Declaration of interests

None.

5596 Minutes of the previous meeting (10 June 2004)

These were signed with no amendments.

5597 Councillor responsibilities

Since not all councillors were present, this item will be deferred until the next meeting.

5598 Urgent items

None.

5599 Matters arising

(i) If a councillor is unable to make a meeting, he is asked to inform the clerk or the chair of any actions that need to be updated at the meeting.

(ii) Minute 5583(ii), water tower at Farleigh Hungerford. Ongoing. TH

(iii) Minute 5583(iii), noticeboards. Refurbishment of the noticeboards on Bell Hill and Farleigh Hungerford is now complete. Councillors thanked Geoff Clark for his work on these. The noticeboard at Tellisford Lane is in the process of being refurbished by Cllr Hanney. TH

(iv) Minute 5583 (iv), evening and weekend buses. The 267 service appears to still be in operation and as far as is known will continue to be.

(v) Minute 5583 (vi), gates to Mead. Work will start in two weeks' time.

(vi) Faccenda site. There is no further news on this.

5600 **Post office**

Ian and Janet Middleton-Stewart spoke about their reasons for not continuing with the post office, which included: the post office is not up to standard, the parking is bad, the shop is small so they can't provide a wide enough service, the premises are not suitable to enable them to comply with the Disability Act, financially things are very difficult, the working day is very long, it is impossible to get away from the job.

A few buyers have looked at the shop but none has yet followed up. Mr and Mrs Middleton-Stewart have given three months' notice to the Post Office. They 'have a deep sense of sadness' at leaving the shop and Norton St Philip.

Councillors expressed their appreciation for the work that Ian and Janet have put into the shop and Post Office.

Cllr Gill has been in contact with Jane Eldon at the Post Office, which is looking into the options available for running a post office in the village. Councillors will work with the Post Office if appropriate to look at the alternatives.

5601 **Parish Plan**

(i) Cate Mack has informed Cllr Rich that the steering group is not yet in a position to complete the plan fully because information is outstanding. It will be ready by the end of this month. Cllr Rich will speak to Cate Mack to impress upon the steering group the importance of getting a final draft of the plan by the end of the month. PR

(ii) Time is running out for submitting bills to the Countryside Agency. A quote is needed for the final production costs. Cllr Hasell will ask for a deferment for submitting the final bill. IH

(iii) It is understood that Cllr Gill will provide information on housing needs. CG

5602 **Planning**

(i) Land adjacent to Old Orchard, Manor Farm, The Barton, Norton St Philip – erection of detached dwelling. A letter has been received from a parishioner strongly objecting to this application. Last month councillors voted no objection. The clerk will advise sending this letter to Mendip District Council. Clerk

(ii) The George, High Street, Norton St Philip – erection of signage. No objection. Clerk

(iii) Underhill, 3 Fair Close, Bell Hill, Norton St Philip – felling of trees. No objection. Clerk

(iv) Springleaze Farm Shop, Farleigh Road, Norton St Philip – notice of appeal. There will be a public hearing on 24 November. Comments must be sent to the Planning Inspectorate by 23 July. Cllr Purssord will draft a AP

response from the Parish Council objecting to the application.

5603

Correspondence

- (i) Cotswolds Conservation Board – appointment of parish council nominees. Passed to Cllr Rich. PR
- (ii) Somerset and Exmoor National Park Joint Structure Plan – deposit draft for comment. Passed to Cllr Hanney. TH
- (iii) Consultation on Draft Mendip Parking Strategy. Passed to Cllr Pursord, for comments to Cllr Hasell in time for the Frome Area Board meeting on 27 July. AP
- (iv) Consultation on Draft Somerset Compact ('Equal Partners: Working Together for the People of Somerset'). Passed to Cllr Rich. PR
- (v) Annual meeting of parish councils and Somerset County Council. Cllrs Rich and Hasell will attend. PR / IH
- (vi) Mendip District Council Best Value Local Performance Plan 2004/05. Passed to Cllr Rich. PR

5604

Finance

- (i) The following cheques were agreed and signed:
- ▶ Geoff Clark – expenses re refurbishment of noticeboards £15.00
 - ▶ Somerset Landscapes – grasscutting on the Mead £252.00 + £44.10 VAT = £296.10
 - ▶ Mirage Signs – Community Speedwatch signs £102.00 + £60.00 + VAT £28.35 = £190.35
 - ▶ Somerset County Council – rent of school hall for meeting £9.00
 - ▶ Sally Vince – clerk's salary £124.00 + expenses £5.00 + repayment of Frome Signs bill for £30.55 for clips speedwatch signs = £159.55
 - ▶ Nick Davies – honorarium for work on Faccenda site appeal £300.00. Cate Mack will be asked to write on the parish council's behalf.
 - ▶ Robin Campbell – writing village plan £800.00 + VAT = £940.00 (cheque agreed last month and signed in between meetings).

5605

Footpaths

- (i) Cllr Pursord has spoken to the owner of the property in Town Barton that has vegetation overhanging the footpath. The owner will deal with this. It was pointed out that there is other vegetation along the foot of the wall (which is not the responsibility of the same householder).
- (ii) It was agreed that an advertisement for a cleaner should be put into the parish magazine. Cllrs Rich and Archer will word the advertisement. It was agreed that work should be for one day a week for six months, which will be reviewed after this time. PR / DA
- (iii) Cllr Pursord will look at the need for footpath direction signs.

- 5606 **Highways and traffic**
- (i) TAG has drafted a letter to Somerset County Council, which will be sent with the updated report of traffic through Norton St Philip. Councillors approved the letter and report. The clerk will send the letters when the report has been printed. Clerk
- (ii) A budget of £50 was agreed last meeting for printing the report in colour. Councillors agreed to increase the budget to £150. Cllr Archer will organise getting the reports printed. DA
- (iii) Traffic in the High Street. Cllr Pursord is still trying to find an expert in traffic management to suggest to look at this problem. AP
- (iv) It was agreed that at the next meeting councillors should look at 'Reclaiming the Streets' with a view to updating it with emphasis on the High Street. Next meeting
- (v) Parish/Town Council Questionnaire on highway related services. Cllr Archer will complete this. DA
- (vi) Access for disabled scooters and child buggies. Rosemary Yarker and Cllr Archer have identified where dropped kerbs are needed. Cllr Archer is trying to contact Frank Lake about this. DA
- (vii) The five-bar gate on to Church Mead from Fair Close is not wide enough by one brick. The clerk will investigate grants for the work needed to widen the gap and then contact the Church Mead Committee and the owner of the gate. Clerk
- 5607 **Miscellaneous reports and information**
- (i) Colette Clark will clean the telephone box. The clerk will notify BT that a pane of glass is broken. Clerk
- 5608 **Meetings**
- A meeting will be held in August only if needed.
Thursday 9 September 2004, Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip
- The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.