

# NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

## MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 8 September 2005  
at the Palairet Hall Norton St Philip

**Present:** Councillors D. Archer, C. Gill (chair), I Hasell, T. Hodgson,

**In attendance:** R. Campbell (clerk); three members of the public

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors T. Hanney, A. Pursord, P. Rich

#### Public forum

(i) A letter had been published in the Parish News from Mrs Beverley Phillips, appealing for more effective action to tackle traffic issues in the High Street. Cllr Hasell had sent a letter to the Parish News. Cllr Archer had tried to contact Mrs Phillips on a previous occasion.

(ii) Noted that the electoral roll was no longer displayed in the Church porch.

#### 5755 Declaration of interests

None

#### 5756 Urgent items

Clerk to ascertain legal requirement, if any, for inclusion of names and display of electoral roll and report at next meeting.

Clerk

#### 5757 Minutes of the previous meeting (14 July 2005)

These were signed without amendment.

#### 5758 Matters arising

(i) Minute 5743 (i) Water Tower at Farleigh Hungerford had been inspected by Hartley but the report had not yet been received.

(ii) Malt House and Bend Cottage: decision of compulsory purchase expected shortly. English Heritage had given their full support.

(iii) Post Office – Cllr Rich to report at next meeting

PR

(iv) Leaking pipe at children's playground, Church Mead: results of the test for foul water awaited.

#### 5759 Village Notice Board

The cost of boards in the catalogue provided to the council appeared high. Clerk to find alternatives, if possible sympathetic to style of existing board. To be discussed further when Cllr Rich reports on his informal meeting with the wall owner about siting.

Clerk

PR

#### 5760 Parish Plan

(i) The Parish Plan has been endorsed unanimously by the Frome Area Board of Mendip District Council, the first such endorsement through this mechanism.

(ii) Cllrs Rich and Hasell to attend a meeting of the Mendip Strategic Partnership in Wells on 4 October, as observers. The Community Council of Somerset will explain how parish plans fit into the new Local Development Framework (which will replace the current Mendip Local Plan) and the role of the Strategic Partnership.

IH,  
PR

(iii) The Parish Plan will be presented to the following meeting of Mendip Strategic Partnership, on 29 November, the first plan submitted to this body for adoption. If successful, the Plan should enjoy similar status to that which it would have achieved as Supplementary Planning Guidance under the former system.

(iv) Implementation: Margaret Hasell, a member of the Services for the Elderly action group, had met the Fellowship Club to discuss medical support in the village. A meeting with the practice manager at Beckington surgery to be set up.

(v) Cricket pavilion: noted that electricity supply may have to be installed in the future and should be planned for in advance. Cllr Hodgson to ask chairman of Church Mead Committee to provide a firm estimate of cost.

AH

5761 **Rebellion**

Nick Brown had advised that the profit was £4,810.60. The PCC's 50% had been deducted and retained and a cheque for £2,405.30 would shortly be handed to the council for distribution in accordance with minute 5746.

5762 **Village cleaning**

The matter of an honorarium for volunteers who had cleared long grass at the Faccenda side of the Mead was deferred until the next meeting, so that Cllr Rich could report on his earlier discussion with them

Clerk to ask Cllr Rich to advise the volunteers that the matter was being considered

Clerk

5763 **Faccenda Site**

No further news

5764 **Planning**

Mendip District Corporate Plan 2005/06. Agreed to discuss Cllr Pursord's observations at the next meeting

Planning applications:

(i) 2 High Street – single storey extension. Agreed to recommend that the decision be left to the planning officer following consultation responses.

(ii) Bridgefoot Cottage – replacement windows (retrospective). Agreed to recommend that the decision be left to the planning officer following consultation responses.

(iii) Farleigh College – re-siting of steel pole for satellite dish. Agreed to recommend that the decision be left to the planning officer following consultation responses.

(iv) Lyde Green, The Barton – tree works. Agreed to recommend that the decision be left to the planning officer following consultation responses.

5755 **Correspondence**

Each councillor had been provided with a schedule of correspondence received.

A parish survey had been received from Somerset County Council. This was completed, expressing the council's generally low satisfaction with the responsiveness of SCC.

5766 **Finance**

(i) Payment of bills on behalf of Church Mead Management Committee: Agreed that bills must continue to be considered individually at council meetings, as VAT is being reclaimed by the council and the money is raised as part of the annual precept. Agreed to discuss the control of expenditure as an agenda item at the next meeting.

(ii) A bank mandate allowing the clerk to move money between accounts to be signed by the chairman, Cllr Rich, at next meeting.

(iii) The following cheques were agreed and signed:

- ▶ Somerset Landscapes Ltd £681.15
- ▶ Palairret Hall Management Committee, rent £20.00
- ▶ Clerk's salary 207.75 + expenses £15.00 = £222.75
- ▶ Camille Young, clearance of Fairclose side of Mead, £485
- ▶ Derek Archer, photocopying expenses re 'The Case for a 17 Tonne Weight Limit on the A366', £32.40.

5752

**Highways and traffic**

(i) Agreed to proceed with the installation of three steel bollards outside the Plaine at the council's expense. Nothing further had been heard from Somerset Highways and no reply had been received to a query about the status of one of the current flexible bollards, destroyed by traffic.

(ii) High Street: this is to be resurfaced at the end of September. Information has been given to Cllr Hasell in his capacity as District Councillor that the road will be closed for three weeks from 27 September.

Clerk to write to Highways, summarising complaints about lack of progress on highways matters in the village and seeking information about the bollards and exact dates for and nature of resurfacing.

Clerk

Clerk to draft a letter to the new corporate director of the Environment department advising that council considers customer satisfaction surveys a waste of time and asking her to address the real issues regarding roads in the parish.

Clerk

David Heath MP will chair a meeting in the village about traffic issues at 7.30pm on a Friday night, date to be agreed.

5753 **Miscellaneous reports**

Cllr Hasell advised that the boundary Commission was reviewing district

council ward boundaries. For Nordinton ward, which he represents on Mendip District Council, there are three proposals:

- (i) The status quo of 46 councillors.
- (ii) A reduction to 39 councillors, in which Nordinton would lose Buckland Dinham but gain Kilmersdon.
- (iii) A more radical restructuring, reducing to 26 councillors. Under this proposal Nordinton would lose Buckland Dinham but gain Rode, Beckington & Berkeley Down. Whilst cost savings would ensue, he felt it would become much more difficult for conscientious councillors with rural wards (as opposed to urban ones with dense populations) to do their job properly.

5754

**Meetings**

Thursday 13 October\*, Palairt Hall, Norton St Philip, 7.45pm

Thursday 10 November 2005, Farleigh Hungerford Village Hall, 7.45pm

The meeting ended at 9.50 p.m.

\*This date was subsequently amended to 6 October