

# NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

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## MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 6 October 2005

at the Palairet Hall Norton St Philip

**Present:** Councillors D.Archer, C.Gill, I Hasell, T.Hanney, P.Rich

**In attendance:** R. Campbell (clerk); 12 members of the public

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors, A. Purssord, T. Hodgson

#### **Public forum**

(i) Councillors, in particular Cllr Hanney, were congratulated on the successful outcome of work on securing the compulsory purchase order on Malt House / Bend Cottage.

5770 **Declaration of interests**

None

5771 **Urgent items**

None

5772 **Minutes of the previous meeting (8 September 2005)**

These were signed with the following amendment:

5760 (i) to read 'The Parish Plan has been endorsed unanimously by the Frome Area Board of Mendip District Council, the first such endorsement through this mechanism.'

5773 **Matters arising**

(i) Minute 5743 (i) Water Tower at Farleigh Hungerford: Mr Hartley's report has still not been received; he is in New Zealand until 13 October.

(ii) Malt House and Bend Cottage: Mendip District Council wish to dispose of these properties as soon as possible after the date for an appeal against the compulsory purchase order has passed. A report on the proposed conditions of sale will go to the MDC Cabinet in early December. There have been more than 20 expressions of interest in the site.

At this point Cllr Rich, Chairman announced that he had received a letter of resignation from Cllr Hanney, who was thanked for his years of service.

(iii) Leaking pipe at children's playground, Church Mead: the clerk to ring Mendip for an update.

Clerk

(iv) Electoral roll: there is no legal requirement to display this.

(v) Post Office – The need to speak to Mr Jacobs had been overtaken by events. There is no progress on a site for a post office.

5774

#### **Highways and traffic**

This item was taken next. Contributions were invited and received from members of the public on ways to make the village safer and more attractive

for pedestrians and residents.

Cllr Archer reported on a positive meeting of TAG (Traffic Action Group), at which an action list had been drawn up. He also outlined the increasing problems of excess weight, speed and volume of traffic in the village, the attempts that had been made to address them in recent years and the often negative response of the highway authority to the council's proposals, which included speed cushions in place of chicanes, an advisory speed sign which the council had offered to fund, footway provision and widening, 20mph speed limit in the centre of the village, and directional restrictions in the High Street. The long-term solution for the B3110 remained the diversion of traffic onto the A36.

**Agreed** that Cllr Archer will have a free initial consultation with a traffic consultant and report.

**Agreed** in principle to allocate £2,000 for a consultant to devise a medium-term strategy, not only but principally for the High Street (B3110), with a brief to reduce traffic speed and increase pavement widths and general safety.

**Agreed** to ask Mr Graham Jenkinson of TAG to prepare draft terms of reference.

**Agreed** that the terms of reference would be taken to Somerset County Council to ensure that SCC were part of the decision-making process, before the consultant is appointed.

Clerk

**Agreed** to make a leaflet drop throughout Norton St Philip advertising a meeting with David Heath, MP on Friday 28 October, at which immediate strategies devised by TAG to make the High Street safer would be raised for discussion.

Clerk

**Agreed** to write to County Councillor Michael St John expressing the council's disquiet at his lack of involvement in parish matters, particularly in relation to traffic, where his advice had been sought. The clerk to arrange for Cllr St John's address to be published in the *Parish News*, to make it easier for electors to contact him.

#### 5775 **Village Notice Board**

Cllr Rich advised that the owner of the wall in Bell Hill agrees in principle to a second notice board being erected, but wishes to see the specification before giving final approval. Some catalogue examples were considered. The clerk to produce firm specification and price.

Clerk

#### 5776 **Rebellion**

**Agreed** not to make the £100 payment to the W.I. approved in Minute 5746, as the W.I. had not paid over the money they raised during the Rebellion Weekend to the general fund but had contributed it directly towards a hearing loop system for the Palairt Hall.

#### 5777 **Village cleaning**

There was discussion about the advisability of making payments to volunteers. Many villagers gave free time and labour in a variety of ways.

**Agreed** (Cllrm Gill abstained) to pay an honorarium of £60 to Messrs Binns and Mayne for their work in clearing long grass at the Faccenda side of the

Mead. Cllr Hasell advocated written procedures to handle financial approvals. Agreed that the parish council should insist that bodies to which it makes block grants should have their own control procedures.

Clerk to produce draft financial regulations for consideration.

Clerk

5778 **Faccenda Site**  
No further news

5779 **Planning**  
(i) Charm Cottage, Norton St Philip – extension and internal alterations, revised applications. Agreed to recommend approval  
(ii) Lyde Green, The Barton – tree works (new application). Agreed to recommend approval  
(iii) Highbanks, Tellisford Lane – demolition of bungalow and erection of 3 dwellings (revised application). Agreed (Cllr Hasell abstained) to recommend refusal of permission.

5780 **Correspondence**  
Each councillor had been provided with a schedule of correspondence received.

5781 **Clerking**  
Agreed not to join National Association of Local Councils at present  
Clerk to ask his predecessor what program she had used for the council website, so that it could be updated include names and addresses of councillors, the parish plan and minutes of council meetings.

Clerk

5782 **Finance**  
Cllr Hasell noted that the credit balance held by the council, even allowing for earmarked sums, was considerably higher than the average. Clerk to obtain advice and comparative figures. Cllr Gill felt that this was the wrong time to spend reserves. Agreed to discuss the precept for 2006/07 in principle at the next meeting.

Clerk

**Agreed** to pay the following bills:

- (i) Somerset Landscapes – 4 cuts of Church Mead and 3 of the play area in August: £347.04
- (ii) Clerk – 28 hours plus expenses: £240.62
- (ii) Cllr Rich produced a bill from Church Mead Management Committee for insurance for £345 and this was paid.

Church Mead Management Committee wished to buy 3 new benches. They also wish to equipment for the play area. Committee to be asked to confirm that they will get 3 quotes and also that they will look at the dead tree on the Mead. To be discussed at next meeting

Clerk

5783 **Footpaths**  
Nothing current

5784 **Miscellaneous reports**

There were none.

5785 **Meetings**

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

Thursday 8 December, Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip, 7.45pm

The meeting ended at 10.20 pm.