

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 16 February 2006

at the Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip

Present: Councillors D. Archer, I. Hasell, T. Hodgson, A. McMillan, A. Purssord, P.Rich (chairman)

In attendance: R. Campbell (clerk), 17 members of the public

Apology for absence: Councillor C. Gill

Public forum

(i) Noted that boards advertising forthcoming events, such as a sale of rugs, were permitted for a period not exceeding 10 days in a calendar year.

(ii) Lyde Green was reported to be suffering considerable damage from parking cars. Councillors were asked to investigate.

5866 Declaration of interests

Councillor Purssord declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11 (ii). He would take no part in its discussion

5850 Urgent items

There were none

5851 Minutes of the meeting of 12 January 2006

These were signed by the chairman as a true record without amendment.

5852 Matters arising

(i) Malt House and Bend Cottage: Mendip District Council will deal with the compulsory purchase through a General Vesting Declaration (GVD). The GVD notice has appeared and will remain posted for two months. The GVD will then be executed and, assuming no obstacle, after a further 29 days the land and property will be vested in Mendip District Council.

(iii) No further developments.

(iii) Village Notice board. Design has been approved by the wall owner, Jane Doonan. Clerk to write to her, confirming that if any damage is caused to the wall in erecting the notice board it will be made good by the Council at its expense.

Clerk

5853 Footpaths

(i) Reports on Hassage Path regrading

This item was taken next. The clerk had received confirmation by phone from Somerset County Council that no regrading had taken place and that the matter would not be considered by Somerset for a number of years. Clerk to obtain written confirmation of this and clarification of the process which takes place.

Clerk

5854 Farleigh Hungerford

Water Tower. No developments.

5855 Parish Plan

(i) Youth

Dominique done had agreed to join the youth action group.

(ii) The Elderly

In the absence of Cllr Hasell at another meeting, action group member Margaret

Hasell was invited to report. The elderly were concerned about the continuation of the doctors' surgery in the village. A meeting was to be held with Dr Archer. Possibilities included adapting the area in the Palaiet Hall or moving to the Hub or another venue.

(iii) Facilities

Royal Mail had advised Cllr Purssord that it will replace the wall box on Bell Hill with a pillar box outside Bell Hill garage, without charge. Written confirmation awaited. The bus survey was progressing. Cllr Purssord had received a reply to his letter about the lack of a plastics collection. This largely reiterated what was said in the handout. He had asked Norwood Farm if they had been approached about a plastics recycling bank and hoped to hear from Cate Le Grice-Mack.

(iv) Environment

Cllr Rich said that Cllr McMillan had studied the Wiltshire County Council Minerals and Waste Development report and asked if it was known if any quarry traffic went through Norton St Philip. Cllr Gill said that the 24-hour traffic survey camera had picked up four 8-wheel stone carriers. This was thought unusual, since such traffic had been stopped years before. Councillors wished to keep an eye on Wiltshire policies. Cllr Rich to clarify Cllr McMillan's concerns. Any response to Wiltshire to be made by 9 March.

PR

5856 **Highways**

(i) Parking restrictions in the High Street.

Agreed to take no further action on the proposal from Somerset Highways for temporary yellow lines on the south side of the High Street until further information was received.

Contributions from the public were invited by the Chairman. The following points were made.

* 10 cars had been counted the same evening parked in the section proposed for yellow lining. They were not tightly packed at the time of counting, and there were sometimes as many as 12 or 15. They acted as a natural traffic-calming measure whose removal would penalise High Street residents without providing any benefit. In reply to those who were concerned about vehicles currently mounting the pavement, it was suggested that parked cars be moved to the north-eastern side of the High Street and bollards put at the edge of the south-western pavement, which was wider, to provide a safe footway.

The chairman said that these comments would be forwarded to the Traffic Action Group (TAG).

* David Heath, MP's advice had been that all villagers should 'sing from the same hymn sheet' to achieve results. Yet High Street residents had not been informed of the outcome of TAG deliberations nor been consulted about the proposal for yellow lines. This proposal would encourage traffic to come through the village and was not a good idea. Traffic coming down the High Street rounded the bend by the Fleur too quickly for drivers to process information safely about traffic coming in the opposite direction.

The chairman referred to the recent TAG report on parking restrictions in *Parish News* and said that TAG would welcome input from all concerned with village traffic. He agreed that it was important to slow down the traffic coming from the Bath direction.

* An experiment with temporary traffic lights was advocated, since they had cut through traffic considerably during road resurfacing. They had been used successfully in Painswick, Glos. Norton's High Street had a bend at each end, which made other solutions difficult.

* How could the council ensure that an experiment was indeed temporary? Cllr Rich felt there could be resistance to traffic lights, probably four-way, in the centre of a conservation village. The interests of the whole village had to be taken into account in solving this problem.

Cllr Gill expressed surprise at the high number of cars counted in the stretch proposed for lining. He felt that the proposal still left a long length for a motorist going up the High Street to commit to. He mentioned Somerset's practice of engineering shorter stretches that could be dealt with better by visual negotiation and advocated two stretches of parked cars with a gap in the middle. There would need to be assurance that any experiment was just that.

(ii) High Street redesign

Agreed to defer a decision on this until the next meeting. Councillors wished in particular to hear from Cllr Archer. Cllr Gill felt there needed to be a clear proposal and a clear brief from the consultant, Ben Hamilton- Baillie.

(iii) Traffic Audit visit

This was referred to in terms of the Bath end chicane and the need to maintain it, if it were not to be removed in the near future.

5857 **Planning**

(iii) Southfields Farm – appeal against refusal of planning permission for holiday cottage. This item was taken next. The applicant, Mrs Applegate, spoke at the Chairman's invitation. The clerk to confirm to Mendip that the only grounds on which the Council now objects is the roof tile material (5810).

Clerk

(i) Old Hopyard, Wellow Lane, NSP – works to ash trees in conservation area – recommend approval.

Clerk

(ii) Harts Forge, Upper Farm Close – opening in boundary wall, step in porch, timber gates. Cllr Purssord's abstention in this matter meant that the meeting was inquorate. Clerk to advise Mendip of this and to note as follows 'the Council draws your attention to the fact that an identical application for listed building consent was recommended for approval by the Council and approved by Mendip.'

Clerk

5858 **Village cleaning**

Agreed to accept Dominique Done's kind offer to lead a youth team to remove graffiti in the village, subject to her having due regard to the dangers of the solvent, which it is understood would be supplied by the police.

Clerk

5859 **Faccenda Site and Bell Hill Garage**

Nothing further to report at present.

5860 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence received since the last meeting had been provided to all councillors

5861 **Finance**

(i) Request by Palairet Hall Management Committee for increase in grant. Geoff Clark, committee treasurer, advised that purchasing new chairs for the Palairet Hall at one time in the current financial year, rather than gradually, could make a considerable saving. Councillors were generally favourable towards this proposal but deferred formal consideration until the committee had obtained and approved sample chair.

(ii) Draft financial regulations / standing orders – deferred to next meeting.

(iii) Control of expenditure – deferred to next meeting

(iii) Bills for payment

Agreed to pay the following bills:

- (i) Moore Stephens – audit fee for year ended 31.03.05 £170.38
- (ii) Clerk – January salary and expenses £243.26
- (iii) Palairet Hall Management Committee – hire of hall £20

Payment of the annual rent of £10 to the Trustees of the Palairet Hall was approved.

Footpaths

5862

- (i) The former clerk had reported that she did not have the footpath portfolio.
Clerk to ask her to make doubly certain

Clerk

Harvest Plates

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An inventory of council property in 1908 included 346 harvest home plates. Over 100 remained. **Agreed** to accept Ruth Sherrin's offer to have these valued at the forthcoming Antiques Road Show in church, and report.

Clerk

Miscellaneous reports

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There were none.

Dates of next meetings

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Thursday March 9, Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip, 7.45pm
Thursday April 13, Farleigh Hungerford Village Hall, 7.45pm
The meeting ended at 9.40 pm.