

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 9 March 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), 6 members of the public

Apology for absence: Councillor C. Gill

Public forum

No items were raised

5866 Declaration of interests

There were none

5867 Urgent items

A planning application in relation to Wick Farm had been received that day. The clerk had obtained the agreement of Mendip District Council (MDC) to delay the Parish Council's response until 14 April if necessary. **Agreed** that Cllr Purssord would review the application and recommend whether a special meeting of the Council and/or a site meeting were required.

AP

5868 Minutes of the meeting of 16 February 2006

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

5869 Matters arising

(i) Malt House and Bend Cottage: No further development

(iii) Leaking pipe at top of church Mead. The pipe does not appear to have been replaced yet, but the relining appears to have stopped the leakage.

(iii) Village Notice board. Still on order

5870 Farleigh Hungerford

Water Tower. Cllr Purssord had spoken to Tim Hanney, who will contact Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society to discuss who might take over the tower from the Council

5871 Parish Plan

(i) Youth

There is to be a meeting of the youth group on 23 March. Cllr Hodgson will report on it to the April Council meeting

(ii) The Elderly

There will be a meeting with Dr Archer of the Beckington Family Practice on 21 March to discuss how facilities in the doctors' room at the Palairet Hall might be upgraded and to consider if the Hub might be a usable alternative. Cllr Hasell will report to the April Council meeting

(iii) Facilities

A letter had been received from MDC asking if the Council would site a plastics bottle bank in the village. Cate Le Grice Mack was happy to host the bank at Norwood Farm with the other recycling facilities, now reduced in size due to the weekly kerbside collections. The clerk to advise MDC of the offer and that the bank needs hardstanding. The clerk to thank Cate Le Grice Mack for her

Clerk

generous offer and copy her in to the correspondence to MDC. The clerk to note in the Parish magazine that envelopes may be included in the weekly kerbside collections.

Clerk
Clerk

(iv) Environment

Cllr McMillan said, in relation to the Wiltshire County Council Minerals and Waste Development report, that there was little sign of quarry stone lorries using the A366 through Norton.

PR

5872 Highways

(i) Parking restrictions in the High Street.

Cllr Archer reported on a meeting held 2 days earlier in the Fleur de Lys, Norton, to consider measures to improve traffic arrangements through the village. Five options had been considered: 1) To do nothing. 2) To prevent parking on the bend as far as The White House. 3) To have a break in the parked cars so as to provide shorter stretches for motorists to negotiate. 4) To move the parked cars to the opposite side of the road. 5) To vary the position of parked cars. Of the 13 High Street residents who voted, nine voted to do nothing. The chairman invited contributions from parishioners. The following points were made, in person and by letter read out:

- The root cause of the High Street problem is volume of traffic. If the parking arrangements were changed, volume would increase.
- Short-term solutions should be avoided. Would the 'shared space' concept work when there were few pedestrians? Signing to direct traffic onto the A36 should be encouraged.
- The problem is one of parking, not traffic. Traffic would not mount the pavement if no cars were parked. No one has a right to park outside their door.
- Parents are unwilling to walk children to school round the Chapel Row corner.
- Allowing parking to proliferate might discourage through traffic.

The chairman thanked parishioners for their contributions. Councillors then discussed the way forward and agreed that they felt a duty to take action. The lack of involvement of the County Councillor was deeply regretted by Cllr Hasell. The fact that Somerset Highways were not more actively involved was also regretted. Cllr Archer questioned how the success of a trial could be monitored. **Agreed** that Councillors Archer, Hasell and Rich would come up with a list of proposals for action and a method of gauging feedback on their effectiveness. Cllr McMillan counselled against giving up on Somerset Highways. The clerk to write to the police and Somerset Highways asking for advice, specialist knowledge and input.

DA, IH,
PR

Clerk

(ii) Cllr Hasell asked if the Council had Somerset's support for a shared space consultancy by Ben Hamilton-Baillie? Whilst it was realised that Somerset might not support the conclusions, it was felt that they were not opposed to the work being done.

Agreed that having regard to the assurances of support received from Somerset County Council, the Parish Council accepts Mr Ben Hamilton-Baillie's proposal of 7 November 2005 and asks him to carry out a consultancy on shared space in Norton St Philip High Street, to a maximum value of £2,000, as soon as possible.

Cllr Rich urged other councillors not to give up on the aims expressed in 'Reclaiming the Streets'.

(iii) Consultative letter from David Horne, Somerset County Council, re weight/length limit on A366.

Cllr McMillan felt this was passive consultation, when action is wanted. A copy of the Council's reply, to be drafted by Cllr Archer, should go to Tony Shire and Jeremy Callard. The letter to seek assurance that the consultation will reach a conclusion by the end of March deadline sought.

5873 **Planning**

(i) Roadmenders Cottage, NSP – works to and felling trees in conservation area – **recommend approval**

Clerk

(ii) Norton House, NSP – works to horse chestnut tree in conservation area – **recommend approval.**

Clerk

(iii) Enforcement – there was a brief discussion of two recent enforcement notices, which MDC now copies to the Council

5874 **Village cleaning**

Cards advertising the post of village cleaner had been displayed in local supermarkets

5875 **Faccenda Site and Bell Hill Garage**

Nothing further to report at present.

5876 **Correspondence**

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

5877 **Finance**

(i) Palairt Hall Management Committee's request for additional grant. A chair of the type the Committee wishes to buy was sat in by Councillors and met with their approval. **Agreed unanimously** to increase the Committee's grant by £1,000.

(ii) Agreed to pay £25 to Simon Shannon, to thank him for providing a room at the Fleur de Lys for several recent meetings.

(iii) Control of expenditure – agreed that a set of rules is required. Clerk to email model financial regulations to councillors who do not already have them.

(iii) Bills for payment.

Agreed to pay the following bill:

Clerk – February salary and expenses £229.77

Footpaths

5878

(i) The whereabouts of the portfolio of footpath maps is still unknown. The clerk to ask MDC if they can supply replacement maps (which would not contain the notes accompanying the originals).

Clerk

5879 **Harvest Plates**

Ruth Sherrin had obtained an estimate from the 'Antiques Road Show' held in the church, of £10 per plate in good condition and £5 for a plate in average condition. There are thought to be over 100 plates, most of them crazed. The clerk to thank Ruth and ask her if she is willing to carry out the selling, if the Council advertises them in the Parish News.

Clerk

5880 **Miscellaneous reports**

(i) Cllr Archer had inspected Lyde Green and agreed that car owners should be asked to park with respect for the Green.

(ii) Sid Drake had reported that Ringwell Lane was in an appalling condition

due to mud from over-large tractors accessing the field on the bend at the bottom. This had been reported to Somerset, who were likely to take proceedings.

5881 **Dates of next meetings**

Thursday April 13, Farleigh Hungerford Village Hall, 7.45pm

Thursday May 11, Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip, 7.45pm

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm.