

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 13 July 2006

at the Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip

Present: Councillors C. Gill, I. Hasell, A. McMillan, A. Pursord, P. Rich (Chairman)

In attendance: R. Campbell (clerk), 2 members of the public

Apologies for absence: Councillors D. Archer, T. Hodgson

Public forum

(i) The village sales and wants ads notice board is now operational.

(ii) Adults, probably visitors to The George, have been seen using the children's playground facilities. The clerk to write to Wadworth's brewery asking for a contribution.

Clerk

(iii) It was suggested that parishioners walk the frontage of their properties and cut back any overhanging branches

5915 Declaration of interests

There were none

5916 Urgent items

PC representatives on village committees. Cllr Hodgson will continue as Church Mead Management Committee representative. Cllr Rich will represent the council on the Palairet Hall Management Committee, Cllr Pursord taking over from him before the end of the year. The clerk to notify the Palairet Hall Committee.

Clerk

5917 Minutes of the meeting of 08 June 2006

These were signed by the chairman as a true record with the following amendments: *Apologies for absence* to read 'Councillors D. Archer, P. Rich'. *Item 5902 (i)*. Insert additional sentence at end – 'Cllr Pursord will prepare a list of potential adoptees.' *Item 5903* In final sentence, amend 'people cremated elsewhere,' to 'parishioners cremated,'.

5918 Matters arising

(i) Malt House and Bend Cottage: no further news. Auction in September.

(ii) Village Notice board: thanks were expressed to Geoff Clark and Derek Archer for putting it up and to Rosemary Yarker for managing it.

(iii) Safe routes to school: councillors confirmed that they preferred a path from each High Street Mead entrance, running down either side of the Mead and meeting at the church gate.

5919 Farleigh Hungerford

(i) Water Tower: Cllr Pursord reported that English Heritage were not interested in acquiring the tower. He would contact the Industrial Archaeological Society and report. Councillors then discussed their options in relation to the council's ownership and safety management of the tower. The clerk to obtain details of the agreement by which the tower was acquired.

AP

Clerk

(ii) Grass cutting around tower: Dr Kingstone was thanked for his continued cutting of the grass. The clerk had distributed leaflets to houses in the vicinity of the tower, asking if anyone could take over this task, for which the council had

offered a contribution.

5920 **Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance**

Councillors discussed the council's obligation towards the upkeep of the churchyard and their attitude to contributing funds for the creation of a garden of remembrance, for which costings were supplied. A number of viewpoints were expressed. Some councillors considered the existing arrangement of wall plaques more meaningful than a general garden; others found the space-saving qualities of the proposed garden of remembrance compelling and the costing reasonable. Cllr Gill considered the issue an important one, which should not be hurried.

Councillors **agreed** to the principle of an annual contribution towards upkeep of the churchyard.

They noted that no contribution had been made in recent years. Cllr Rich felt that the council's duty was to ensure that any public money contributed was well spent, but to leave details of management schemes to the church.

5921 **Parish Plan**

Cllr Rich reminded councillors that many of the actions should have been completed.

(i) Youth: Cllr Purssord said that the Mendip Corporate Plan discussed the creation of youth facilities in partnership with others.

The clerk to ask Cllr Hodgson to talk further to Dominique Done, who was keen to help improve facilities..

(ii) The Elderly: Nothing to report

(iii) Facilities: Beckington, Hinton Charterhouse and Rode had now replied to the letter about co-operating on bus route and frequency improvement. Cllr Purssord noted that provision was relatively good.

(iv) Environment: Nothing to report

5922 **Highways**

(i) Mr Ben Hamilton-Baillie's interim report: Cllr Gill noted that it paid relatively little attention to the High Street itself. Cllr Rich felt that it was a long-term proposition.

Agreed to ask TAG for their recommendations for amendment in order to produce a consistent, publishable version that the council would be happy to see as a document for public discussion.

(ii) Councillors expressed their dissatisfaction with the letter from Jonathan Callard at Somerset. They considered that the proposal for a length limit contained in it went only a little way to satisfying their policy of removing heavy lorries from the A366.

5923 **Village cleaning**

Cllr Purssord stressed the importance of checking the insurance arrangements of any contractor employed by the council

5924 **Faccenda Site and Bell Hill Garage**

Cllr Rich understood that Faccenda would not budge from their asking price for the site. He had had a discussion with Mr Rose of Bell Hill Garage about the latter's potential interest in moving to the site. Cllr Hasell said that the South West Spatial Strategy states that development in villages will only occur where it meets village needs. He had written to Kevin McLeod, presenter of television's *Grand Designs* programme, drawing his attention to the Faccenda land as a possible site for Mr McLeod's proposed project to build well-designed

affordable housing.

5925 **Planning**

There were no planning applications to consider. Councillors received updates.

5926 **Correspondence**

(i) A list of correspondence received since the last meeting was examined. Councillors took various items of interest to read and consider

5927 **Finance**

(i) *Financial Controls* – held over.

(ii) *Bills for payment*: The following items were **unanimously approved** for payment and cheques signed:

Ben Hamilton-Baillie, consultancy fee – £2000.00+VAT = £2350.00

Clerk's salary and expenses – June 27 hours £234.93 + expenses £5.00 = £239.93

Paddy Rich – refund of expenses re Annual Parish Meeting £22.72

Derek Archer – refund of expenses £13.31

AM, PR

Footpaths

5928

Nothing to report

5929 **Miscellaneous reports**

None

5930 **Dates of next meetings**

Thursday 14 September, Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip, 7.45pm

Thursday 12 October, Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip, 7.45pm

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm.