

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 14 September 2006
at the Palairet Hall, Norton St Philipj

Present: Councillors D. Archer, C. Gill (Chairman), I. Hasell, T. Hodgson, A. Purssord,

In attendance: R. Campbell (clerk), 5 members of the public

Apologies for absence: Councillors A. McMillan, P. Rich

Public forum

(i) Concern was expressed about late delivery of post. Councillors agreed to take this under Urgent items

(ii) Concern was expressed about the safety of the Tellisford Lane bus stop. This was also to be taken under Urgent items

5931 **Declaration of interests**

Cllrs Gill and Purssord declared personal interests in relation to Agenda item 9 (i), the Hamilton-Baillie report.

5932 **Urgent items**

(i) Late delivery of post. It was reported that a new roster had been introduced by Royal Mail which meant that some parishioners were not receiving their post until mid-afternoon. The clerk to write to Royal Mail a) complaining about late delivery and b) supporting the village postman in relation to his working hours, with copies to the trade union representative and the Bath & Mendip Post Office Advisory Committee.

Clerk

(ii) Frome Road bus stop. The bus stop on the side going towards Bath was overgrown and inadequate to accommodate the five school children who disembarked there. A parent had contacted First Bus. Cllr Purssord will contact Somerset. The clerk to write to First Bus.

AP / Clerk

5933 **Minutes of the meeting of 13 July 2006**

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

Matters arising

5934

(i) Malt House and Bend Cottage: Cllr Hasell will attend the auction on 18 September.

(ii) Safe routes to school: It was reported that a demonstration in the High Street as part of National Walk to School Week is planned for early October.

Farleigh Hungerford

5935

(i) Water Tower: Cllr Purssord reported that Somerset Archaeological Society did not own property. Having examined the tower and re-read the condition report, he recommended to councillors a course of maintenance he thought it prudent to carry out. Ownership: It was believed that the tower and surrounding land had been properly conveyed to the council. Cllr Rich had undertaken to obtain the deeds from NatWest bank, Frome to verify this. Cllr Hasell considered the tower to be a continuing and unjustifiable drain on public funds. **Agreed unanimously** to offer the tower and surrounding land for sale when ownership had been confirmed.

PR

(ii) Grass cutting around tower: The clerk to write to Dr Kingston again thanking him for cutting the grass, telling him that the tower would shortly be offered for sale and advising that the council would not take over the grass cutting.

5936 **Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance**

Councillors discussed the note of a meeting Cllr Rich had had with Rev'd Nigel Done. Cllr Gill said that a contribution to the running of the churchyard should be considered as part of budget planning for 2006/07. He questioned whether a garden of remembrance was the only solution to the apparent lack of space for plaques commemorating those who had been cremated. Cllr Hasell agreed that the council should consider its long-term responsibility at budget time. He did not approve of retrospective contributions, but thought that a number of future years' contributions might be put together to support a particular project. Cllr Purssord regretted that the PCC had not approached the council at an earlier stage of planning for the garden of remembrance. **Agreed unanimously** that the council's intention is to make provision for a continuing contribution to the maintenance of the churchyard. As far as the organisation of the churchyard and its medium-term maintenance is concerned, the council will continue discussions with the PCC and the Rector.

5937 **Parish Plan**

Cllr Rich had supplied a reminder list of action items and their timescale from the Parish Plan. Councillors Gill and Hasell questioned whether it was helpful to include the parish plan as an agenda item every month. They considered that the detail should be dealt with elsewhere and decisions agreed by the council. Cllr Purssord, as chair of the facilities working group, considered that this was already happening.

(i) Youth: Cllr Hodgson had met Dominique Done and Alice Tollworthy. 10-15 year olds (who were members of the Grabbit and Shout youth group) had asked for a shelter in which they could meet in wet weather. No equipment had been asked for.

(ii) The Elderly: Cllr Hasell had contacted Beckington surgery on a number of occasions to discover whether the practice wished to continue the weekly village surgery in the Palaret Hall or move elsewhere, possibly to the Hub; but he had received no answer. He noted that membership of the Fellowship Club was dwindling, with fewer newly retired people joining than in the past.

(iii) Facilities: no news on improving the bus service, the only item from the plan still to be dealt with.

(iv) Environment: No report

5938 **Highways**

(i) The Traffic Action Group (TAG) recommended that the council accept Mr Ben Hamilton-Baillie's report as a long-term objective, but did not consider it feasible until a) alternative parking for High Street residents is found; b) a 7.5 tonne weight limit is applied to the A366; c) through traffic on the B3110 is reduced by increased use of the A36.

Cllr Gill felt the proposals were unrealistic in view of the volume of traffic currently coming through the village. He did not find the report represented a management strategy for the High Street, to obtain which had been the aim of the campaign started by resident Beverley Phillips. He recommended each councillor go through the report and note down anything unclear or problematic. Cllr Hasell agreed the proposals would be unworkable unless a 7.5 tonne limit were put on the A366. Cllr Purssord said that most of his objections to it would be satisfied by such a ban. He felt coaches were currently a worse problem than lorries. Cllr Archer pointed out that the report aimed to air a number of proposals; it was not a detailed plan.

Councillors **agreed** to express support for the principles of the report and to acknowledge TAG's view that it would not become useful until three fundamental issues had been resolved. They wished to clarify aspects not now clear to them, before moving to a public discussion as a prelude to possible adoption of the plan as policy.

(ii) Councillors felt that Somerset had failed to deliver by the agreed date on their promises in relation to a weight limit on the A366. Cllr Archer presented a draft letter on the issue. Cllr Gill will review this. The clerk to write to Somerset.

DA / CG /
Clerk

(iii) Bath end chicane. Once again councillors discussed the danger of this site, **Agreed** to write to Mendip asking them to remove the chicane (previously offered) and advising them that the parish council intends to replace it with a flashing speed sign (speed visor) at the council's expense, possibly to be sited on private land

Clerk

5939 **Village cleaning**

(i) An estimate for tackling the backlog of village path and hedge maintenance was awaited from Mr Crowe.

(ii) Cllr Archer had spoken to Nigel Brokenshire about regular maintenance. **Agreed** to await Mr Crowe's quotation before taking the matter further.

(iii) Colette Clark and Vivienne Holman were thanked by the council for clearing the path by the side of the churchyard. **Agreed** to pay £5 per person-hour for any such work undertaken. A notice to be put in the Parish News seeking further parishioners to adopt a path on this basis; also to encourage parishioners to walk the frontages of their own properties and clear paths and cut back low-hanging vegetation.

Clerk

5940 **Faccenda Site**

Nothing to report

5941 **Planning**

(i) Applications. Councillors **agreed unanimously** that the following applications be left to the decision of the planning officer after consultation reports had been received:

The Old Orchard, Norton St Philip – erection of conservatory to rear
Norwood Farm, Norton St Philip – extension to café

(ii) Updates.

Charm Cottage, Norton St Philip – refusal of listed building consent for extension.

Highbanks, Tellisford Lane, Norton St Philip – appeal allowed for demolition of bungalow and erection of three dwellings.

Southfields Farm, Norton St Philip – the owners were appealing against the demolition order.

5942 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence received since the last meeting was handed to all councillors. Councillors took various items of interest to read and consider. In relation to a report from the Chief Constable, it was noted that the parish is currently part of the lowest crime areas in the force.

5943 **Finance**

AM, PR

(i) *Review of Financial Controls* – held over.

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

- Somerset Landscapes – cutting Mead and play area 5 May – 31 August £1297.60

- Clerk's salary and expenses – July £248.63, August £147.92.
- (not on agenda; previously agreed item): Moore Stephens, 2006 Audit fee £141.

(iii) *Paid since last meeting for previously agreed item*

Stage Systems Ltd (balance Palairret Hall chairs) £2795.32 inc VAT

(iv) Receipts since last meeting: MDC footpath grant £120

Footpaths

5944 Grant received (*see 5943 above*).

2007 Elections

5945 (i) Councillors did not wish to have a talk by an MDC officer about next year's elections.

(ii) Cllr Hasell said that he would not stand for re-election in May 2007.

Miscellaneous reports

5946 Parish council website. **Agreed** to ask Sally Vince, who had created it, to quote for maintaining the council's website

Clerk

5947 **Dates of next meetings**

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

Thursday 9 November 2006, Farleigh Hungerford Village Hall, 7.45pm

The meeting ended at 10.17pm.