

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 12 October 2006
at the Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip

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

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

Apologies for absence: None

Public forum

(i) The poor state of the kissing gate at the bottom of the churchyard was drawn to the council's attention. Agenda item for November. Clerk

(ii) Siting of telephone poles: a parishioner was invited to report on her dealings with BT and their agents over the siting of poles in Ringwell Lane - *see 5952 (i)*

5948 Declaration of interests

There were none

5949 Urgent items

(i) Cllr Hodgson said that the condition of two trees behind the pavilion, damaged in the fire at the old pavilion, was causing concern. The clerk to ask Church Mead Management Committee to obtain estimates to make safe. The clerk to contact the Mendip Tree Officer. Clerk
Clerk

5950 Minutes of the meeting of 14 September 2006

These were signed by the chairman as a true record with the following amendment: 5932(ii) to begin 'Frome Road bus stop.'

5951 Matters arising

5934(ii) Traffic Protest. This was not a council matter. It was understood the police had been advised of the protest, scheduled to take place on 17 October.

(ii) 5932(i) Timing of postal deliveries. The village postman had said that he was not working over his contracted hours.

(iii) 5932(ii) Frome Road bus stop. Cllr Pursord had arranged a meeting with SCC Highways on this safety issue and will report. AP

(iv) 5946 Website. Sally Vince had been asked to quote for maintaining the site. Clerk

5952 Planning

(i) Erection of telephone poles in Ringwell Lane. Cllr Hasell said this had implications for the whole village. A resident of the road was invited to speak. She reported on her correspondence and dealings with BT (including the chairman), their agents, Fujitsu and their agents, Mancom. A BT Openworld official who had visited the site had commented 'what a mess'. Cllr Hasell would consult further with the parishioner and the clerk would then write to the BT chairman expressing the council's concern at the approach taken and seeking a solution appropriate to this conservation village. The clerk also to write to David Heath, MP deploring the lack of planning controls in relation to the erection of telephone infrastructure and expressing the council's view that that the matter needed new legislation. Clerk
Clerk

(ii) Cllr Hasell advised that Mendip were now obliged to set out in more detail their reasons for refusing a planning application. He thought it would be beneficial to invite Matt Williams, Senior Planning Officer Mendip East are, to a

council meeting to explain the planning process from Mendip's perspective.

5953 **Farleigh Hungerford**

(i) Ownership of the Water Tower. Cllr Rich's report was awaited, prior to offering the tower and land for sale.

PR

(ii) A Farleigh Hungerford resident was invited to speak. He said that the tower green is the only public space left for villagers' enjoyment. He regretted the council's decision.

5954 **Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance**

Agreed that the council should meet the Rector before the 2007/08 budget round to discuss the council's contribution to the upkeep of the churchyard. The clerk to advise the Rector what had been previously agreed (*minute 5936*).

Clerk

5955 **Village Facilities**

A letter had been received asking for the council's response to the lack of a village shop now that Bell Hill Garage's petrol forecourt and shop had closed. Councillors felt they had already largely explored the territory. Cllr Gill said that the council should offer support to any group of parishioners trying to provide a facility.

5956 **Parish Plan**

The Elderly: Cllr Hasell reported that the Fellowship Club is closing at the end of the year, due to lack of new members.

5957 **Highways**

(i) Cllr Gill undertook to deal with the parish plan requirement to produce a paper encouraging drivers to use the A36 and avoid Norton St Philip village.

CG

(ii) Bath end chicane. A parishioner was invited to speak. He expressed concern on behalf of those living in the vicinity of the chicane that traffic speed would increase if it were removed without a new calming measure being introduced. Councillors discussed the matter in detail. Cllr Gill suggested that a 30mph sign to the North of the chicane might slow traffic down, so enabling the chicane to stay. **Agreed** 6:1 (Cllr Archer opposed the motion) to vary the decision reached in September (*minute 5938(iii)*) and ask Somerset Highways to install the post for a speed camera (the camera itself to be supplied by the parish council) just south of the existing 30mph sign, coming from Hinton Charterhouse. The effectiveness of the chicane then to be monitored for a trial period.

Clerk

(iii) A366. A reply to the letter to Sonia Davidson-Grant, Environment Director of SCC, detailing the parish council's frustration at the lack of response from Somerset in their efforts to obtain a weight or length limit, was awaited. Cllr Hasell had discussed the matter with David Thomson, Chief Executive of MDC. It was noted that likely future works at Malthouse / Bend Cottage would provide evidence of the effects of traffic restriction on Bell Hill. Cllr Archer had been advised that the proposed A366 length limit in the village remained a low priority for Somerset County Council. The outcome of an appraisal was awaited.

(iv) Cllr Gill said that the Conservation Area Statement for Norton St Philip has never been adopted. The clerk to write to David Thomson, MDC. The letter to be copied to the chair of East Mendip Community Partnership (to whom some executive functions are being delegated), asking for the matter to be discussed as an agenda item.

Clerk

(v) Two residents had proposed three options to improve safety in the High Street. Councillors recalled residents' previous decision to reject all proposed alterations. Cllrs Archer and Rich to circulate details of the proposals to other High Street residents and the matter to be considered in November when

DA, PR

Clerk

reaction has been received.

5958 **Village cleaning**

Councillors discussed the appropriate rate of pay for the job (£10 per hour requested by N. Brokenshire was considered too much), value for money and the advisability of purchasing equipment. Cllrs Rich and Archer to contact Nigel Brokenshire.

PR, DA

5959 **Correspondence**

Details of all correspondence received since the last meeting were handed to all councillors and reviewed by them.

5960 **Finance**

(i) *Review of Financial Controls* – Cllr McMillan hopes to report at the December meeting.

(ii) *Bills for payment*: The following item was **unanimously approved** for payment and cheque signed:

Clerk's salary and expenses – September 27.5 hours £239.28 + £5.00 expenses = £244.28

AM, PR

Footpaths

5961 Nothing to report

Miscellaneous reports

5962 None

5963 **Dates of next meetings**

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

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

The meeting ended at 10.45pm.