

# 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 November 2006  
at the Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip

**Present:** Councillors D. Archer, T. Hodgson, A. McMillan, A. Pursord,  
P. Rich (chairman)

**In attendance:** R. Campbell (clerk), 20 members of the public

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors C. Gill, I. Hasell

#### Public forum

(i) The council was asked to push for a provision of public transport from Farleigh Hungerford, principally to Bath. The facilities group to include this in their review of bus services. The clerk to find out if the bus that runs to Tesco, Trowbridge, will stop at Farleigh Hungerford

AP

Clerk

#### 5964 Declaration of interests

There were none

#### 5965 Urgent items

(i) Implications for traffic on the A366 of the weight limits proposed by Wiltshire County Council on the A362, A3098 and B3092. This item would be considered under Highways (5971)

#### 5966 Minutes of the meeting of 12 October 2006

These were signed by the chairman as a true record with the following amendment: 5958 after 'pay for the job' add '(£10 per hour requested by N. Brokenshire was considered too much)'.

#### 5967 Matters arising

(i) 5951(iii) Frome Road bus stop, Norton St Philip. Cllr Pursord's meeting with SCC Highways had had to be re-arranged and has still to take place.

AP

(ii) 5948 Trees behind the cricket pavilion, Church Mead, Norton St Philip. These had been cut down. **Agreed unanimously** to pay Church Mead Management Committee the £50 fee incurred for their removal.

Clerk

(iii) 5951(iv) Website. **Agreed unanimously** to accept Sally Vince's quotation to update the council's website for a fee of £200 and then maintain it for a monthly fee of £15.

Clerk

#### 5968 Planning

(i) Applications

Ringwell Cottage, Ringwell Lane Norton St Philip – Felling of Leylandii in a Conservation Area. **Agreed unanimously** to recommend approval.

Southfield Farm, Mackley Lane, Norton St Philip – Erection of holiday cottage. Cllr Hasell had provided a paper to councillors. Cllr Pursord recalled the history of the site. Councillors had recommended approval of outline planning permission for a holiday cottage but had subsequently recommended refusal of the detailed application, citing insufficiently clear drawings and inappropriate roof tiles. Mendip had refused permission. The applicant had started building nonetheless and had gone to appeal, which was lost. Mendip had issued an enforcement notice. The building remained in a half-completed state.

Cllr Pursord said that neither the design nor an apparent increase in size from

outline to detailed application were unreasonable. Some issues, however, had not been addressed. Councillors noted that the partially-built cottage was sited nearer to Mackley Lane than had originally been agreed and felt that it would have been possible to move an intervening land drain. **Agreed unanimously** to leave the decision to the planning officer following consultation responses.

Clerk

(ii) Telephone Poles in Norton St Philip. Following a meeting with Cllr Hasell and the parishioner concerned, the clerk had written to the chairman of BT deploring his company's piecemeal and inappropriate response to modernising telephone infrastructure in Norton St Philip. A reply was awaited.

(iii) The chairman read out a letter from David Thomson, Chief Executive of Mendip District Council, confirming that the 1995 revision of the Conservation Area Statement for Norton St Philip had not been adopted and has no status. Mendip are willing to provide an undertaking that the production of a revised Norton St Philip Conservation Area Statement will be introduced to the 2007 - 2008 service plan.

(iv) Updates

Norwood Farm, Norton St Philip – an extension to the café had been approved.

5969 **Farleigh Hungerford**

The chairman invited parishioners to comment on the council's plan to sell the water tower and surrounding land. The following points were made:

- comment was difficult until the council's proposals were known in detail
- the tower and land had been given by the Hely-Hutchinson family under trust to the parish council

The chairman, who had studied the deeds, held at NatWest, Frome, detailed the history of ownership and confirmed that the parish council now held the tower and land as trustees for the village. He thought there was nothing in the conveyance to the parish council which precluded it from offering both for sale. Cllr Purssord said the tower was relatively sound, in spite of visible cracks, but needed money spending on it.

The chairman invited further comments and questions, which included:

- what money had been spent on the tower in recent years? Answer: the condition survey. The clerk to confirm how much this had cost
- the tower should be repaired. Noted that it was Grade II listed
- an estimate should be obtained from 'ordinary' as well as specialist builders
- had grants been applied for? Answer: yes, without success (*minute 5555*)
- the parish council should not dispose of the tower and land, which they held as trustees, if villagers did not want them to
- what would happen if no-one wished to purchase them?
- the land represented the only public open space in the community

Clerk

**Agreed unanimously** that three estimates to repair the tower as recommended in the condition survey report be obtained and that in the meantime the offer for sale will not be proceeded with.

Clerk

**Parish Plan**

5970

Youth: Cllr Hodgson and the clerk to complete a Somerset youth facilities questionnaire.

TH,  
Clerk

5971

**Highways**

(i) Cllr Archer detailed the three proposals made by High Street residents

(*minute 5957v*): 1) a substantial bollard outside the old shop; 2) a white line outside the entrance to Mamre and garages; 3) a white line outside Westmead Cottage to discourage parking there and so provide a waiting bay for cars negotiating the High Street. Cllr Archer had established in principle with Highways that a bollard could be provided. Noted that the action to consult other residents of the High Street was incomplete. Cllr Rich to organise a consultation meeting with residents, in the Fleur de Lys, and report to the December meeting.

PR

The chairman invited comments/questions from parishioners:

- How long would it be before some relief for High Street residents was obtained?
- what provision was intended to stop vehicles mounting the narrow stretch of pavement at Chapel Row? Answer: the pavement was too narrow for a bollard

(ii) Bath End Chicane. A letter had been received from Somerset Highways advising that when the B3110 Bath road is resurfaced during the current financial year the northernmost chicane will be removed on safety grounds. Highways are studying alternatives to put in its place.

Cllr Rich said that Cate Le-Grice Mack of Norwood Farm had agreed to the siting of a speed visor sign on her land. Edward Drewe of Hemington Parish Council had obtained a unit price of £2802, including erection and sustainable power supply, if five signs for various parishes were purchased at one time, a considerable saving on the price previously quoted. Cllr Rich said that the chicane should be removed. As well as the speed visor sign, he thought it should be replaced with either 4 small speed cushions or one full width and two small cushions. He invited comment from parishioners living near the site of the proposed alterations. The following points were made.

- any proposal for change should address the speed of traffic travelling south out of the village as well as north into it. Surprise was expressed that a) residents had not been consulted before the council voted to have the chicane removed (*minute 5938 iii*, subsequently amended by *minute 5957ii*); and b) that Highways can remove the chicane without consultation.
- the Bath end chicane has slowed down traffic and made it safer to negotiate the entrance to Norwood Farm (which has 25,000 visitors a year), but accidents still occur. If the chicane is removed, speed is likely to increase, leading to more accidents at the next chicane southwards. The installation of speed cushions is vital as an integral part of resurfacing the road. A full-width cushion may attract objections from the emergency services.

**Agreed unanimously** that the Parish Council insists on the installation of speed cushions to replace the Bath end chicane when the B3110 Bath Road is resurfaced. The clerk to write to Ioan Rees, Head of Highways, with a copy to County Councillor Michael St John.

Clerk

(iii) A366. Cllr Archer reported that the scheme for a weight limit on the A366 at Norton St Philip had been scored too low by Somerset to be included in likely works for the next five years.

(iv) A letter had been received from the owner of the Old Coach House, Norton St Philip, reiterating the suggestion of PCSO Dave Adams that yellow lines be painted on the west side of Town Barton, opposite the Old Coach House, southwards for 10 metres from the junction with the A366, to stop parking and enable vehicles to turn left from Town Barton towards the A36 without colliding

with the Old Coach House. This to be considered as part of the High Street white-lining proposals.

(v) Broken barrier on B3110, Bath Road at exit of Monmouth Paddock footpath. A reply was awaited from Somerset Highways.

(vi) Cement lorries turning north onto the B3110 at the top of Bell Hill. This contravention of the weight limit had been reported and had almost ceased.

(vii) Weight limits proposed by Wiltshire County Council on the A362, A3098 and B3092. Councillors expressed their opposition to these proposals, which would increase traffic on the A366. **Agreed unanimously** to ask Somerest County Council to oppose the proposals. The clerk to write to Ioan Rees, with copy to David Heath. The clerk to ask Cllr Hasell to oppose them in his role as District Councillor.

Clerk  
Clerk

5972 **Village cleaning**

**Agreed unanimously** that Cllr Rich will ask Nigel Brokenshire to work one day a week for the next month, at £80 per week, cleaning and clearing vegetation in Norton St Philip, using his own equipment. The position then to be reviewed, including the question of provision of equipment by the council.

PR

5973 **Correspondence**

Details of all correspondence received since the last meeting were handed to all councillors and reviewed by them. Cllr Hodgson took the Parishes Information Bulletin for November. The clerk to pass MDC Local Development Framework documents to Cllr Hasell if he does not have them.

5974 **Finance**

(i) Review of Financial Controls – Cllr McMillan will report in December.

(ii) Rate of interest received. Cllr Rich and the clerk to seek a better rate

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

Church Mead grass cutting – £171.28

Clerk's salary and expenses – October 28 hours £243.63 + £5.00 expenses £248.63-

Clerk, cost of purchasing cleaning mop for Palairet Hall Management Committee, reimbursed by them to the council – £62.69

Farleigh Hungerford Village Hall – April and November 2006 hall hire – £18.00

(iv) The following replacement cheque was signed – agreed grant (*minute5894ii*) Farleigh Hungerford Village Hall - £200.00

AM  
PR,  
Clerk

5975 **Footpaths**

The clerk to find who previously repaired the kissing gate at the bottom of the churchyard.

Clerk

5976 **Clerking**

The council will pay half the cost of the clerk attending the December regional conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

5977 **Miscellaneous reports**

None

5978 **Dates of next meetings**

Thursday 14 December 2006, Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip, 7.45pm

Thursday 11 January 2007, Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip, 7.45pm

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

