

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 December 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), 8 members of the public

Apologies for absence: Councillor C. Gill.

Public forum

No matter was raised

5979 Declaration of interests

There were none

5980 Urgent items

None

5981 Minutes of the meeting of 9 November 2006

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

Matters arising

5982

(i) 5982 (i) Frome Road bus stop, Norton St Philip. Cllr Purssord's meeting with SCC Highways has still not taken place, due to the long-term illness of the officer concerned.

(ii) 5982 (ii) Website. Sally Vince will bring the site up to date and maintain it as agreed. Agendas of monthly meetings will be posted from January 2007.

5983 Planning

(i) Applications

* Tudor Cottage, Norton St Philip – Single storey lean-to extension at rear and alterations to raise part of boundary wall and extend copying – listed building (DEL). **Agreed unanimously to recommend approval**

* Farleigh House, Farleigh Hungerford – Conversion of existing buildings from a residential school to form four dwellings and associated offices, the formation of a new access and an extension to Park Lodge – listed building and full application (DEL). **Agreed by four votes to one (Cllr Hasell abstained) to recommend approval.**

* The Barn, The Barton, Norton St Philip – Single storey side extension with accommodation within loft (DEL). **Agreed by four votes to one (Cllr Hasell abstained) to recommend that the decision be left to the planning officer.**

(ii) Cllrs noted that the following Appeal had been made but had no comment to make:

* Watercress Cottage, Farleigh Hungerford, Bath BA2 7RS. Appeal against refusal of building consent for retrospective application to place satellite dish to external wall. (DEL)

(iii) Erection of telephone poles. Nothing to report.

5984 Finance

(i) Budget 2007/08.

*Palairet Hall: **agreed unanimously** to include provision of £1,000 for the Palairet Hall Committee, to be drawn as required.

AP

*Church Mead: the Management Committee had submitted a grant request for capital projects and running costs. The clerk to obtain more details about the proposed project for adults and distribute copies of the detailed grant application to all councillors for the January meeting. Clerk

*Churchyard: a grant request had been received for capital and running costs. The clerk to obtain clarification of the running cost contribution requested for Norton St Philip and Farleigh Hungerford in time for the January meeting. Clerk

*Gang Mower: a capital contribution would not be sought. The Cricket Club will submit its mowing quotation to the Church Mead Management Committee.

*Youth Club (Grabbit and Shout): a grant request to purchase equipment had been received. Dominique Done to be asked for suppliers' quotations in time for the January PC meeting. Clerk

* Farleigh Hungerford: quotations for repairing the water tower would not be available until after the January meeting.

(i) Review of Financial Controls – Cllrs Rich and McMillan to review systems with the clerk in time for the January meeting..

(ii) Rate of interest received. To be considered once the precept has been set.

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

Church Mead: insurance and other grant items £763.00

Church Mead grass cutting – Somerset Landscapes £201.28. Clerk to ask Management Committee to confirm that agreed 28 cuts had not been exceeded.

Clerk's salary and expenses – October 28.5 hours £247.98 + £8.00 expenses = £255.98

Clerk's attendance at Society of Local Council Clerks' Regional Conference £61.90

Previously agreed, *minute 5974 (iii)* - Clerk, cost of purchasing cleaning mop for Palairret Hall Management Committee, reimbursed by them to the council £62.69

(iv) Subscription agreed – Somerset Playing Fields Association £10

5985 Highways

(i) **Agreed unanimously** to ask Somerset Highways to carry out the following work in the High Street: erect four bollards (one outside the Old Shop, three outside the Gospel Chapel) and paint two white lines (one from Mamre seven metres northwards, the other southwards from Westmead Cottage to keep the bend clear of traffic). These proposals had been formulated by the Traffic Action Group after consultation with residents. Clerk

(ii) **Agreed unanimously** to ask Somerset Highways to make the Town Barton cut between the A366 and the B3110 one way, with access from the A366 only. This proposal had also been formulated by the Traffic Action Group after consultation with and representation from residents. Clerk

(iii) Further to *minute 5971 (ii)* **Agreed unanimously** to ask Somerset Highways additionally to replace the chicane near the entrance to Chevers Lane with speed cushion(s) when the B3110 is resurfaced. Clerk

(iv) A366 weight/length limit. Cllr Archer has arranged a meeting with David Heath MP. It is hoped that County Councillor Tony Shire will attend. A petition is being organised and will be presented to Mr Heath, calling for urgent action to curb heavy lorries on the road. Cllr Hasell said that a financial contribution from the parish council might increase the priority scoring by SCC of this project. He understood the total cost would be £20K, of which £5K was for a feasibility study. He would write to Cathy Bakewell (SCC Leader) for clarification. IH

5986 Local government reorganisation

Cllr Hasell referred to *Strong and Prosperous Communities* which considers

two-tier government in shire counties not to have a viable future. The Government has provided a tight timescale for bids for unitary authority status (end January 2007). In March they will say who meets the criteria, consult till June and announce the new unitaries in July. There will be elections to these new authorities in May 2008 and they will be up and running in April 2009. To Cllr Hasell's regret MDC has decided to take no part in the bid process. SCC is developing a case for a unitary authority (excluding N. Somerset and B&NES). S. Somerset is considering a bid with Mendip (consultation with potential partners is not mandatory; bids may also cross county boundaries). Councillors discussed possible permutations (given the minimum viable size for a bid of 300,000 people) and the best option for the parish. Noted that geographically the parish looked to Bath or Wiltshire, rather than Taunton. Councillors will consider the matter in January and vote on which option the parish council would prefer.

5987 **Village cleaning**

The clerk to write to Nigel Brokenshire, with a duplicate letter to be signed and returned by him, confirming the arrangement of a month's trial, (one day a week), making it clear that he is a contractor and responsible for his own insurance, for assessing whether the work requested can be done in a safe manner, and for providing his own equipment.

Clerk

5988 **Farleigh Hungerford**

Cllr Purssord presented a list of proposed actions arising from the condition report of August 2006. He had identified three contractors and would obtain quotations from them for repairs to the water tower (*minute 5969*), to be opened by him and the clerk. He discussed the merits of strapping the tower. He estimated that the cost of the project, without strapping, would be in the region of £10 – 15K. **Agreed** not to appoint a structural engineer nor to apply for listed building consent (both required if strapping were adopted) until the quotations had been received. These should be available towards the end of January.

AP

Parish Plan

5989 Nothing to report.

Correspondence

5990 Details of all correspondence received since the last meeting were handed to all councillors and reviewed by them.

Footpaths

5991 Repair to kissing gate at bottom of churchyard. Clerk to report in January.

Clerk

Clerking

5992 The clerk had found the Society of Local Council Clerks regional conference interesting and useful.

Miscellaneous reports

5993 The chairman noted that April would see the last meeting of the present council. Eight candidates would be needed for an election for the new council. There had not been an election since 1995. He urged interested parishioners to stand.

5994 **Dates of next meetings**

Thursday 11 January 2007, Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip, 7.45pm
Thursday 8 February 2007, Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip, 7.45pm
The meeting ended at 10.04 pm.