

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL
MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING
held at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 10 April 2008
at Farleigh Hungerford Village Room

Present: Councillors D. Archer, K. Baker, T. Hodgson, S. Ledbury,
M. Lutterloch (Chairman), Cllr V Parker, A. Purssord

In attendance: District Councillor T. Barnes, R. Campbell (clerk), 18 parishioners

Public forum

No matter was raised

6222 **Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Baker declared an interest as former treasurer in relation to item minuted 6227, Norton St Philip Pre-school.

6223 **Urgent items**

None

6224 **Minutes of the meeting of 13 March 2008**

These were held over.

6225 **Matters arising**

(i) **Path round Church Mead.**

Cllr Baker had attended the East Mendip Community Partnership meeting and spoken in support of the parish council's revised application for £7000, which was granted. District Cllr Tony Barnes congratulated Cllr Baker and the parish council on obtaining nearly 25% of the funds on offer. Cllr Purssord will find three contractors to quote for the work. Noted that the approval of the owners of Church Cottage has to be sought.

AP
Clerk

(ii) **Churchyard path gate and Mead gate.**

It had not proved possible to re-work the kissing gate to widen the effective opening width. Clarendon Fencing will erect the gate and also re-hang the top-right Mead gate: date awaited.

(iii) **A Walk Around Norton St Philip**

Nothing to report.

6226 **Farleigh Hungerford**

(i) **Water Tower**

No grant for repair was available from Mendip's Historic buildings fund; councillors discussed other potential sources of funding.

(ii) **Speed limit**

Cllr Baker will discuss the speed of traffic on the A366 in Farleigh Hungerford with the Police Community Support Officer.

KB

6227 **Norton St Philip Pre-school**

Alice Tollworthy, chairman and Alistair Scott, treasurer, were invited to speak. Mrs Tollworthy reported that the Pre-school had been in existence for 21 years. The committee was run by parents and there were currently nine paid staff. The Pre-school feeds into Norton St Philip First School, with which it has a good

relationship. It had been a difficult year, with a falling role and the departure of a good leader, though a good replacement had been recruited. Parents were under no obligation to book a fixed number of sessions – so income could be unpredictable. The pre-school had been rated excellent after its OFSTED inspection and she believed it was an asset to the village. Recruitment costs had contributed to a loss of £7,000 this year to date and losses were continuing at a rate of £140 per week. Steps were being taken to reduce costs. The pre-school expected to break even in the summer, but further losses were possible in September, when 12 pupils were anticipated. Hemington School intended to open its own pre-school. Did the parish council have any emergency funding available and if so, how could it be applied for?

Cllr Parker said that the pre-school is a vital asset. The maximum capacity per OFSTED is 23 pupils per session – just over 100 pupil sessions per week. Staffing requirements depended on the age of pupils. Cllr Archer asked why the numbers had dropped. A falling birth rate was cited. Cllr Hodgson asked how much the committee were looking for from the parish council; a figure was not yet available.

Mr Scott said any money received would not be used to fund continuing losses. It might be necessary to shrink the number of sessions to become viable. Alice Tollworthy stressed that the pre-school had to be scaled to match need.

VP, KB

Cllrs Parker and Baker will talk to the pre-school. To be an agenda item in May.

6228 **Village Cleaning**

Another person who might be interested in village cleaning was suggested. Cllr Pursord said that anyone doing the work must understand they are contractors, not council employees, and be responsible for their own insurance and safety.

Clerk

6229 **Heritage Bill**

Cllr Pursord had attended a session on the Heritage Bill, about to come into operation. It provides an opportunity to list important buildings not included in the 1990 Grades I and II listings. There had been a discussion on how to select buildings. Unpaid volunteers will carry out the survey, which will take time. He felt the measure lacked teeth. He pointed out that Article 4 points the way forward: permitted development rights in conservation areas will be withdrawn. Mendip is looking for steering group volunteers. District Councillor Barnes said the community could lose out if it had no representation on the group. To be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Clerk

6230 **Chicken Factory Site**

(i) Report of traffic working party (TAG Plus)

Cllr Archer, who was congratulated by the chairman on the work done to date, said that Lochailort Investments had obtained their traffic brief from Somerset Highways and that the village had not initially been consulted. He wondered who had looked at the drawings displayed in the Fleur; there had been little comment.

Mark Finch of TAG Plus was invited to speak; he asked for closure of the B3110 to through traffic at Woolverton. Business in village would be affected. He said there was little in the Parish Plan about this and asked for the parish council to endorse it as a long-term plan.

DA

Agreed by 5:2 that the parish council will commit to drawing up an outline plan of action to keep traffic on the A36 and off the B3110.

Councillors

Weight limit. Cllr Archer said there were currently no funds for signage. Lochailort will not include the scheme in their planning application because of the time needed for statutory consultation, so it must be done without them. It was

hoped funding could be raised this year, perhaps on a matched basis with Somerset.

Traffic calming. He gave details of the revised proposals awaited from Lochailort's traffic engineer, including: changing the priority on the B3110/ A366 crossing; a 20mph limit from Mackley Lane to the George; shared space / footway widening in the High Street. He estimated that half the current number of cars would be displaced from the High Street and asked the question: should we proceed?

TAG Plus member Rod Brewis, invited to speak, said a survey had shown 24/26 residents wanted parking on the High Street to continue, while few wanted parking on the chicken factory site. He felt a debate about village car parking was needed. Another sub-group member, Nigel Done, said he appeared to be a lone voice in favour of parking in the field next to the bottom of Church Mead.

District Cllr Barnes noted that the 3.5 tonne restriction sign on the A36 had been removed. He advised against noisy rumble strips.

(ii) Report of housing and other matters working party

Cllr Purssord reported that two meetings had been held to consider all matters relating to the site apart from traffic and highways. Four of the five sub-groups had reported to the second meeting, of 16 people, held the previous day. Copies of these reports had been sent to councillors and would be sent to sub-group members. A report from the fifth sub-group had now been received. He thanked all who had taken part in what had sometimes been passionate discussion. He would provide a comprehensive summary of the conclusions for approval by the council and submission to the developer. A draft would be circulated to councillors ahead of the next meeting. The submission would not be a formal response, as matters were still outstanding and, as had been noted, more information was awaited from the developer.

Comment was then invited from parishioners present, particularly on the shop proposals. It included the following: issues remained undebated; the 'grass roots' should have the opportunity to pass comment; people are unaware that the suggested shop is three times the size of the Palaiet Hall; no councillor lives near the proposed shop; there are traffic concerns; a debate on the shop had been asked for; who had commissioned the shop survey? (answer: Lochailort, there was no parish council input); there should be a new, professionally drawn-up survey; there should be a debate on the shop, professionally chaired (the representative from the Rural Shops Alliance, who had provided useful information, was suggested).

Agreed the parish council will take professional advice on producing their own shop survey and will consider the matter of a debate.

Clerk

6231 **Highways**

(i) **Speed visor sign.** Information had been provided by Somerset Highways on their scheme to hire out a speed visor sign amongst parishes.

Agreed to write a formal letter asking for a firm quotation.

Clerk

(iii) **Bend Cottage pinch point.**

Cllr Archer felt Somerset Highways were trying to back-pedal on their commitment to provide bollards/kerbs to protect this property, which would be ready for occupation in a couple of months. He will pursue the matter.

DA

6232 **Planning**

(i) Applications

MDC 100611/013 Church Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Norton St Philip, Bath, BA2 7LY. Conversion of garage to kitchen to include new mullion window and additional and replacement conservation rooflights. (DEL). Application Type: LBC- alter/extend.

Recommend approval

MDC1012521/010 3 Norton Grange, Norton St. Philip, Bath, BA2 7NT Install roof light to front roof slope, reposition rear roof light and retain double doors in rear elevation (part retrospective). (DEL). Application Type: Full

Recommend approval

MDC 025485/009 Bell Hill Garage, Bell Hill, Norton St. Philip. Outline application to demolish garage and workshop buildings and erect 14 dwellings with access from Bell Hill, layout, parking and landscaping. (DEL). Application Type: Outline

In view of current uncertainty over the boundary between Q2 land and brownfield site, the parish council deferred its decision until the boundary has been agreed between Mendip and applicant. The parish council will ask Mendip for a drawing establishing the boundary.

6233 **Finance**

(i) **Annual audit** Mr Nick Brown has again agreed to do the internal audit. The right of electors to inspect the accounts would be advertised the next day. The accounts will be available for approval at the May parish council meeting.

(ii) **Bills.** The following bills were agreed for payment (proposed Cllr Parker): Palairet Hall, hire of hall for meeting £39.00; P. Slade – new gate and posts for churchyard path, Norton St Philip £655.00 +VAT £114.62 = £769.69; Clerk's salary and expenses for March £268.78; SALC Affiliation fee 2008/09 £169.07

6234 **Footpaths**

Nothing to report

6235 **Correspondence**

The chairman reviewed the list of correspondence received since the last meeting. Councillors took items of interest. Cllr Lutterloch will look at the impending changes in Standards for councils.

6236 **Miscellaneous reports and information**

A parishioner was invited to speak about her proposal to open a mobile catering serviced in the village. Several councillors expressed individual support and possible pitches were discussed.

(ii) Cllr Baker asked for support for the Norton St Philip School PTFA Scarecrow Trail round the village on 17 & 18 May.

6237 **Dates of next meetings**

Wednesday 8 May, 7.45pm, Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip

Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 15 May, 7.45pm, Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip

The meeting ended at 9.25 pm.