

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 11 September 2008
at the Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip

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

In attendance: District Councillor T. Barnes, R. Campbell (clerk), 20 parishioners

Apology for Absence: County Councillor M. Ellis

Public forum

(i) Excess mud on the A36 was reported, near the junction with the A366. Highways to be advised

Clerk

6306 **Declaration of Interests**

None

6307 **Urgent items**

(i) Somerset Highways Lighting had removed a street light from the wall of a house in Church Street and erected a lamp post on Highways land at the entrance to Church Green, opposite, which they were entitled to do. However, due to local opposition they had not completed the installation. Local parishioners had told the parish council they would prefer a lighting column at the side of Church Green entrance, by the school wall.

A parishioner, invited to speak, said that it was the light, not the post which was important: the light must not shine into windows opposite.

A site meeting would be held on Friday 19 September, to be attended by residents and the parish clerk.

Clerk

(ii) Cllr Baker had been told by a parishioner that there appeared to be a loose slab on a chimney stack in Church Street. The householder to be told. District Cllr Barnes suggested contacting Mendip Building Control, who would advise.

Clerk
Clerk

6308 **Filling of Vacancy for a Councillor**

It was confirmed that notice of the vacancy had been properly given.

Mendip having received no request for an election, the chairman said that the vacancy would be filled by co-option. Parishioners Alistair Scott and Linda Oliver were invited to make short presentations. The subsequent vote was won by Linda Oliver. Both candidates were thanked and Linda Oliver was co-opted and welcomed to the council.

6309 **Minutes of the meeting of 14 August 2008**

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

6310 **Matters arising**

(i) **Path round Church Mead** Three quotations for phase one had been received and were opened by Cllr Hodgson at the meeting. The clerk to acknowledge these. A fourth quotation is expected. Alan Purssord will, as previously agreed, progress the matter for the council.

Clerk

A parishioner, invited to speak, warned of likely 'path creep' and the need for maintenance.

(ii) **Footpath Map** Prices are awaited.

6311 **Farleigh Hungerford**

(i) District Cllr Barnes had visited the Water Tower and, in the light of the previous condition report, felt there was a potential safety issue and advised fencing it off. He also encouraged an application for £5000 from Mendip Regeneration funding for roof maintenance.

Clerk

(ii) BT had included the red phone box in Farleigh Hungerford on its list for removal, due to lack of use. The parish council could pay £500 per annum towards maintenance to retain it. Alternatively they could take it over, empty, and maintain it themselves as a decorative item. Councillors **agreed** to do neither.

6312 **Village Cleaning**

Nothing to report.

6313 **Highways and transport**

(i) An impressive petition, calling for the removal of chicanes from the B3110 had been received, organised from Mr and Mrs Dun, who are to be consulted about its further use. Cllr Archer noted that the wording reflected that in the parish plan. Cllr Archer thought that County Councillor Ellis should be asked to become involved. Somerset say they do not have funding and are awaiting Lochailort's proposals.

DA

(ii) **Speed visor sign on A366** No news

(iii) **Weight limit on A366** Now in consultation process.

6314 **Chicken Factory Site**

(i) **Shop survey**

Cllr Baker said that 328 surveys forms had been distributed, of which 176 had been returned. The results were as follows

Clerk

Options	Number	Percentage
1 – No Shop	30	17%
2 – Small Community Village Shop	23	13%
3 – Medium Village Shop – 1000sq ft	38	22%
4 – Convenience Store – 2000sq ft	76	43%
Spoilt	9	5%

144 people had completed the section on desired alternative facilities in the event there was no shop. These results were as follows

Amenity	Number	Percentage
Community Hall	58	40.3%
Sports Facilities	28	19.4%
Facilities for Young People	33	22.9%
Facilities for Older Residents	14	9.7%
Other – Café	2	1.4%
Other – Doctors Surgery	2	1.4%

Other – Pre-School Building	1	0.7%
Other - Sheltered Accommodation	1	0.7%
Other Resident Police House	1	0.7%
Other – Restaurant/Take away	1	0.7%
Other – Move Bell Hill Garage to the Site	1	0.7%
Other - Nature Reserve	1	0.7%
Other – More Affordable Housing	1	0.7%

The response to the likely weekly spend question was as follows

Options	Number	Percentage
Under £15	49	32%
£15 - £30	64	41%
£30 - £44	19	12%
£45 - £60	14	9%
Above £60	9	6%

Comments from parishioners invited to speak included:

- Survey not professionally carried out
- No question asked about opening hours or off-sales
- What conclusions could be drawn from the 45% who had not responded?
- Answers would have differed if questions had been constructed accurately and given fair space
- There was no comment from parish council about viability in light of weekly spend answers
- A good job; time to move on.

Councillors **agreed unanimously** to forward the figures to Lochailort without comment or analysis.

(ii) **Sheltered Housing** The results to be considered in October

(iii) **Village open meeting** A leaflet drop for this meeting with Lochailort on 23 September had been arranged.

(iv) **Wind turbine** One letter against Lochailort's proposal to include a wind turbine in the development, sited in fields off Mackley Lane, had been received. Cllr Lutterloch said that the developers were obliged to produce 50% of the energy for the development by sustainable means. A parishioner, invited to speak, asked for clarification of this figure. Cllr Oliver said that the Local Development Plan discussed sustainable options other than wind. The option of siting a turbine away from the site was raised.

Clerk

6315 Planning

(i) Applications

MDC 109577/001 Roberts Elm Tellisford Lane Norton St. Philip Bath BA2 7LL. Extension of domestic curtilage (DEL). Application Type: Change of Use.

Parish council decision: **deferred.**

MDC 105954/009 Longmead House Norton St. Philip Bath BS2 7NS. Demolish dwelling, erect 8 two storey houses with detached garages and erect

Clerk

garage for 6 Farleigh Road. (DEL). Application Type: Full.
Parish council decision: **deferred**. A site visit to be carried out.

Mendip to be asked for all houses in Upper Farm Close, adjacent to the site, had to be included in the consultation list. A parishioner was invited to state his concerns about drainage and other matters relating to the site.

MDC 117497/001 4 Ringwell Norton St. Philip Bath BA2 7NY. First floor extension over existing kitchen extension. (DEL). Application Type: Full.
Parish council decision: **recommend approval**.

MDC 120541/000 Church Mead, Norton St Philip. Form all weather footpath around Church Mead. (DEL). Application Type: Full. Note: the Parish Council is the applicant.

Parish council decision: **recommend approval**

(ii) **Complaint** Mendip had advised they were investigations a complaint that The Corn House, Ringwell Lane, Norton St Philip was being used as a hotel.

(iii) **Conservation Area Appraisal** Two copies of the 2007 appraisal had been received. More to be requested from Mendip.

Clerk

6316 **Finance**

(i) Bills for payment: the following were approved for payment.
Farleigh Hungerford grant £200; clerk's salary and expenses for August: salary £268.21; expenses for shop survey: postage, printing and stationery £193.78

6317 **Footpaths**

(i) Mendip advised 'clearing yourselves' the two obstructed footpaths paths from Norton to Springleaze.

6318 **Training**

(i) No councillor wished to take up a training session offered by SALC in November.
(ii) Councillors agreed (proposed by Cllr Parker) to fund half the cost of training the clerk for the certificate in local council administration (CiLCA). The half cost to be £140, with £100 refundable by way of bursary. Noted that the certificate is essential if the parish council ever decides to apply for Quality Parish Council status.

6319 **Clerk's contract**

Cllr Oliver will review the clerk's request to move to a National Association of Local Councils contract, and report.

LO

6320 **Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the last meeting was reviewed by councillors, who took items of interest

6321 **Miscellaneous reports and information**

District Cllr Barnes produced an information sheet on the planning application process, for distribution.

Clerk

6322 **Dates of next meetings**

Thursday 9 October, 7.45pm, Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip
Thursday 13 November, 7.45pm, Farleigh Hungerford Village Room

The meeting ended at 9.50pm