

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Chicken Factory Site Reports from the groups assessing Lochailort's proposals for the site were collated and a document presented to the council meeting on 8 May by Alan Pursord. This was approved with small alterations and sent to Lochailort. It excludes the council's response to the shop proposal (see below). It can be found on the council website (www.nortonstphilip.p-c.org.uk/) or on the Bell Hill notice board.

Planning At its meeting on 15 May the parish council recommended approval of an outline application to demolish the garage and workshop buildings and erect 11 dwellings on the brownfield site at Bell Hill Garage, Norton St Philip.

Chairman Mike Lutterloch has been re-elected parish council chairman for the coming year

A366 Weight limit Ioan Rees, Head of Somerset Highways, was reported on 8 May to be 'at this most positive ever' about this proposal; it is hoped new County Councillor Matthew Ellis will help turn words into action.

Forthcoming Vacancy Parish Council Vice-chairman Alan Pursord is standing down before September. Would anyone interested in being elected/co-opted to the council, please contact the clerk.

Next Meeting. Thursday 12 June, 7.45pm, Palairet Hall. All welcome

Norton St Philip Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at 8.00pm on Thursday 15 May in the Palairet Hall. Parish Council chairman Mike Lutterloch reviewed the previous year, the first of the current council. He noted that the council finally included two women members. Lack of complaint from surrounding villages when the A366 had its width restricted at the Malt House had softened Somerset's resistance to a permanent weight limit. New gates had been installed on the churchyard path and funding provided for the Garden of Remembrance. £7,000 had been obtained from Mendip for a safe-routes-to-school path on Church Mead. Efforts to find funds to repair Farleigh Hungerford water tower continued. He thanked fellow councillors.

District Councillor Tony Barnes said that when elected he knew the A366 was a problem in the parish; he soon found two others: the Church Mead path, for which funds had been found, and the Farleigh Hungerford water tower, for which they were still sought. He thanked the parish council for its work. The annual parish council accounts were adopted. Mervyn Holborn reported on a successful year for the Church Mead committee. There had been a good bonfire night; a toddler's slide and safe surfaces had been installed in the play area, the pavilion now had electricity and there were two new picnic tables and benches.

No parishioner wishing to raise other matters, Tony Wardle then took the chair for a lively discussion on proposals for a shop in the chicken factory development. The general consensus was that a shop was needed; there was a lack of consensus on what size it should be. Several people welcomed the developer's proposal of a 2,000 sq ft trading area as breathing new life into a village fast losing facilities. Others saw it as a threat to the peace of the village and as going against the parish council's policy of reducing traffic. Could the 2,000 sq ft include other facilities such as a hairdresser or café? There was discussion on what sort of operator (national brand?) was suitable and on issues such as noise, parking, signage, lighting, size of delivery vehicle and what percentage of shop users would come from outside. The effect on businesses in neighbouring villages was considered. Community shops were mentioned. **Agreed** to obtain more facts, including information on what a national operator would propose and on the people and car movements likely to be generated by a given size of shop. These will be included in a fact sheet to accompany a questionnaire to all parishioners on what type of shop, if any, they want and would support. Tony Wardle was thanked and the meeting ended at 10pm.

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