

Norton St Philip Parish

Annual Parish Meeting 2011

held at 7.45pm on 19 May 2011 at the Palairet Hall, Norton St Phillip

11 parishioners were present

1. Minutes of the 2010 Annual Parish Meeting

These were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman, Cllr M. Lutterloch.

2. Parish Council Chairman's report

Planning

In April 2010 the parish council had recommended approval of the second application for 51 houses (including sheltered and affordable), a shop, 3 commercial units and associated access parking and landscaping. Mendip had approved the plans in June 2010, together with PC recommendations for distribution of facilities upgrade money in the Section 106 Agreement. Official approval and Section 106 Agreement were issued early in 2011, whereupon Lochailort had put the brownfield site on the market at a rumoured price of £10 million.

Other planning matters included a spate of applications from Bath Rugby for Farleigh House.

Housing

A proposal for housing at Norwood Farm appeared to have come to nothing. Dissatisfaction with Homefinder Somerset's allocation of affordable housing (which gives no advantage to local people) continued and the PC would pursue this. Work had started on the development at Longmead Close.

Village cleaning and improvement

Dorian Poole had worked throughout the year as village cleaner (and gardener); many approving comments had been received. A soakaway was installed at the top of Churchmead path. The PC website had been upgraded.

Highways

The removal of weight limit warning signs on A36 was followed by unwelcome increase in HGVs in Norton. Some complaints to Highways eventually produced results: resurfacing of Chevers Lane and part of The Barton; flooding at entrance to Ringwell Lane. To do: repair culvert and resurface Ringwell Lane; reinstate white line 'pavement' on A366 between Fleur car park and Upper Farm Close.

Grants

PC had continued to support local organisations with grants.

Councillors

The chairman thanked former councillors who had resigned during the year: Karen Baker for keeping PC connected to families; Veronica Parker for Palairet Hall; Linda Oliver for huge amount of work on chicken factory planning.

He thanked those councillors who had not stood in May 2011: Tony Hodgson, for planning and Churchmead; Derek Archer for tireless work on getting the weight limit on the A366 and B3110.

Simon Shannon, Nicky Jefferson and Chris Shellard had joined the PC during the year, Andy Linegar at the election and Jack Beaumont had been co-opted at the last meeting

Cllr Lutterloch concluded by thanking the County and District Councillors for their work during the year. He was now Vice-Chairman of the parish council, the new Chairman being Chris Shellard, who was on holiday.

3. County Councillor's report

County Cllr Matthew Ellis reported that the weight limit signs removed from the A36 had been temporary signs paid for by the Highways Agency, who will be asked to design new ones. He was not hopeful of quick action. Somerset Highways Area Superintendent would arrange with the clerk to inspect the damaged culvert in Ringwell Lane. The lane was due to be resurfaced in the next few months.

He reported on measures to reduce County expenditure and offset the increased costs of social care. All recycling centres would have reduced hours. Coleford would remain open. Libraries, including Frome, would also have reduced opening hours, but the number of outright closures was less than first supposed.

District Cllr Ellis asked to be told of any planning recommendations which the parish council felt particularly strongly about, so that he could follow their progress at Mendip and intervene if the planning officer took a different view from the parish.

4. Parish Council accounts

Audited accounts for the year to 31/03/11 were presented and approved.

5. Reports from village organisations

Palaiet Hall

Colette Clark reported that bookings were steady, the damp in the bar area had been dealt with and plans were going ahead to modernise the lavatories. The pre-school would be leaving at the end of the summer terms, causing a considerable loss of income. Nicola Jefferson thanked Colette Clark who had retired as bookings clerk.

A discussion followed on the ownership and leasing of the hall and the nature of the trust owning it.

The Ridings Car Link

A report by the Hon treasurer, Ian Hasell, is attached to these minutes.

8. Any other business

Mr Rob Anstee explained why the Cricket Club needed funding: to attract and keep players by improving facilities. This led to a general discussion about Churchmead and Cricket Club funding. It was agreed that all parties – the parish council, the Mead Committee and the cricket club – needed to be in the same place at the same time for such a discussion. Mr Anstee was applauded.

The discussion widened to include fundraising and village events. Andy Linegar and Jack Beaumont offered to help organise an event on the Mead, working with the committee.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

The Ridings

Report to Norton St. Philip Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 19th May 2011

‘The Ridings’ community car link service continues to be well used by the residents of Norton St. Philip and other local communities.

In the last year receipts have increased by £450, an increase of 27% due to four factors:-

- Increase in passenger contributions
- Donations from volunteer drivers
- Parish council contributions
- Donation from Chris Gill's office sale

Payments have actually decreased by £99 (6%) due to savings on insurance premiums and a small decrease on payments to drivers.

Altogether there are 18 volunteer drivers and 19 regular users of the service. Most trips are health or pet related i.e to surgeries, vets, hospitals etc and most trips are local but there are trips further afield e.g to Bristol – both for hospital visits and to/from the airport.

Our aim is to provide the friendly door to door service that public transport cannot provide and other than the grants from Norton & Hinton Parish Councils we rely on the donations from our passengers and those drivers who provide their services completely free. There is no fixed mileage rate – we unusually for this type of charity operate on a 'suggested' voluntary contribution – but it works for us!

We would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support – it really does make a difference to the mainly elderly and infirm in our village who without the Ridings would find it much more difficult to get out and about.

Ian Hasell
Hon. Treasurer
The Ridings

19th May 2011