

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

www.nortonstphilipparishcouncil.co.uk

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Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.00 pm in the Old School Room, Farleigh Hungerford.

Present: Cllr Hasell (Chairman), Cllr Murfitt, Cllr Fox, Cllr Lund, Cllr Hitchins, Cllr Walker.

In attendance: Nicola Duke (Parish Clerk).

Public Participation

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council or to raise any issues of concern: None.

	AGENDA ITEM
8917	Apologies for Absence Cllr Foster due to a prior commitment, accepted.
8918	Declarations of Interest and Dispensations to Participate None.
8919	Minutes a) The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th March 2024 were approved for accuracy with two amendments 1) rewording of comment in 8908 regarding the potential recruitment of a Highways Steward by Frome Town Council and 2) to amend the report by Cllr Walker relating to work to a fence to change from 'would' to 'could' and adopted (proposed Cllr Murfitt, seconded Cllr Walker). In addition, email correspondence from the landowner of The Barton relating to minute reference 8909 was noted, having been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. b) Members considered any matters arising from the above meetings (if any), including: a. Update on matters relating to the Longmead development – Members noted that updates had been received from Cllr Denton and circulated to the residents of Longmead Close.
8920	Council Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Chairman had no report.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Clerk reported that the updates to the NatWest banking mandate had now been done and, following the appointment of additional signatories under agenda item 8922c), the new bank accounts with Unity Bank would be set up. • County Councillors; Dawn Denton had provided a report, which had been circulated to members. Dawn Denton had sent apologies for absence and Adam Boyden was absent. • Other Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Palairot Hall – Cllr Walker had circulated a report, which was noted. Members noted a recently received email request from the Palairot Hall Management Committee for an increase in the SLA for 2024/25 from the budgeted £5,750 to £6,000. Members agreed that they were minded to grant this request, which would be formally considered at the next PC meeting. ○ Church Mead Committee – Cllr Hitchins reported that a new volunteer had commenced grass cutting at the Mead. ○ Parish Path Liaison Officer – No report. ○ Local Council Network (LCN) – Cllr Fox reported on the recent LCN meeting, the minutes of which would be circulated once issued. Attention was drawn to the reduction in the gully cleaning service from twice a year to once a year. This would not apply to risk areas and members felt that NSP should be one such risk area. Cllr Walker reported on two gullies which needed to be cleaned, which the Clerk would report to SC. Cllr Fox further reported that the tree planting grants had been confirmed as being nationally funded and would therefore still be available. The LCN members had also been encouraged to liaise directly with Highway Officers for their areas. Members had also been informed of recent issues with Gigaclear and advised that remedial works could still be attended to up to 2 years after installation, as per the contract with SC.
8921	<p>Planning Applications, Appeals and Consultations</p> <p>2024/0461/FUL - Mayfield Frome Road Norton St Philip Frome Somerset - Erection of a replacement dwelling and garage – Support (proposed Cllr Walker, seconded Cllr Fox):</p> <p>This proposal for the demolition of the existing bungalow with a larger more modern building seeks to improve the housing offered on this site. The opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of the dwelling are to be welcomed. The choice and mix of materials although more contemporary in style would seem to sit well on this site of mixed post-war housing.</p> <p>The Parish Council would like to make the following comments that they would like the LPA and the applicant to consider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application form states the whole site is owned by the applicant and therefore assume that the boundary Lonicera nitida (shrubby honeysuckle) hedge on the North

West boundary is owned by the applicant. On the plans it is apparent that a significant section of the hedge is to be removed and no mention is made of the boundary treatment that will replace it. The loss of the hedge as well as the change to some other fences will be significant. The Parish Council would favour the retention of the hedge albeit a thinner hedge that was supported by post and rail fencing on the inside.

- The planning statement makes the point that the replacement dwelling will be more energy efficient. No detail is given except the use of solar panels. The PC suggests that heat recovery ventilation and the use of a heat pump be considered. An opportunity to build a new house with modern materials provides an opportunity for a low or even Zero carbon house.
- The Parish Council asks the LPA to make the installation of Solar Panels a condition of this application.

Subject to these comments the Parish Council **supported** the application

Outstanding matters with the Local Planning Authority (Somerset Council)

The Clerk reported that no response beyond an acknowledgement of receipt had been received from Somerset Council regarding the PC’s letter of complaint issued in January 2024 (January, February and March minutes refer). Following debate, it was resolved that the PC would write to the relevant Portfolio Holder at SC to request that the lack of response to the two previous letters be investigated and a timeframe for an expected response be confirmed. The Chairman reported that no response had been received from SC following correspondence relating to pavement parking outside The Fleur de Lys and confirmed that he would chase for a response.

To receive and consider planning applications received after the issue of the agenda (*where the response time falls outside of the meeting schedule and an extension cannot be obtained*) – None.

8922

Financials

- a) Council expenditure as listed was approved (proposed Cllr Walker, seconded Cllr Hitchins). The Clerk reported that the new payroll company had not yet issued the pay roll for March due to delays with accessing the PAYE account. The payroll would be circulated as soon as received and the associated expenditure added to the May agenda.
- b) The Financial Position Statement March 2024 had been circulated to members and was noted.
- c) Members considered the appointment of additional bank signatories and it was resolved to appoint Cllrs Lund and Murfitt (proposed Cllr Walker, seconded Cllr Hasell).
- d) The Clerk reported that she would discuss the arrangements for the payment of pension fund contributions with the Internal Auditor at the Internal Audit appointment, which had been scheduled for 23rd April 2024.

N Duke	Expenses March 2024	£ 51.98
Cllr Hasell	Stationery expenses	£ 30.02

	J L Bryant	Dog bins October – March 2023/4	£ 1150.00
	Gooding Accounts	Pension set up fee	£ 45.00
	Trustees of the Palairret Charity	Rent for y/e 6/02/2024	£ 10.00
	SALC	Councillor Training	£ 20.00
8923	Asset and Service Devolution No further updates were available.		
8924	Flooding a) The Chairman reported that no further work had yet been carried out on the draft Flood Plan template (March minutes refer). b) It was confirmed that SC had acknowledged the receipt of the various video evidence of flooding, which had been confirmed as useful. The Chairman reported that he had carried out a site visit to the area around Corn House and established the rather complicated land ownership in the area and on the bridge. A diagram showing the ownership was tabled and noted. The Chairman reported that the fence down the side of Ringwell Meadow had been erected by SSE on land owned by Dunkerton House and that the landowner had drilled some holes in the bottom of the fence to allow for a better water flow from the fields. This had not yet been tested as to its efficacy as there had not been a further flood. Members noted that the historic diversion of the brook was a contributing factor to the flooding issues. Members discussed the role of the PC in dealing with flood issues, noting the responsibility which lay with landowners to protect their properties and acknowledging the moral duty which lay with the PC to assist its residents in such matters. Following debate, it was agreed the PC would facilitate a site meeting with the Flood Team at SC to obtain advice on potential mitigation measures for the future.		
8925	Traffic Action Group Cllr Fox reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAG was next due to meet on 11th April 2024. • The bus timetables which had been created by a local resident were now displayed in the cabinets and would be published in the Parish News. It was agreed to facilitate the delivery of the timetable to residents via the local 'postie'. In addition, it was agreed that the Chairman would write to First Bus to express the PC's grave concern and disappointment at the reduction in service to NSP and the absence of timetable information relating to NSP. • The TAG report (endorsed by the PC) into A366 issues had been sent to Cllr Denton and SC. No response had yet been received from SC. • The Easter weekend litter pick event had been a success, with a good turnout of volunteers. 14 bags of litter had been collected. • Community Speed Watch had carried out two recent sessions, which had been supported by the PCSO's. The police presence had reported their concerns at the speed which had been witnessed. • Attention was drawn to Cllr Denton's report which had highlighted the significant increase in fatal road traffic accidents in the county, which had been the highest in 		

	<p>ten years. The various factors contributing to the accidents were noted, with members further noting the concerning increase in drink/drug driving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work continued with identifying a suitable unit for the purchase of a second Speed Indicator Device. The Clerk reported she had been in contact with ElanCity on behalf of another parish and would send the information received to Cllr Fox in readiness for the TAG meeting the following evening.
8926	<p>MDC Local Plan Part II</p> <p>Members considered a draft outline response to the consultation on the limited update to the LPP2 (information previously circulated – deadline for response 12th April 2024). Following debate, it was resolved to approve the response for submission (proposed Cllr Hasell, seconded Cllr Fox). Members noted the recent information received regarding excessive sewage spill rates in the parish. It was noted that this had been the subject of an additional comment in the response to the consultation to reflect the PC's view that no further development should be permitted in the parish that would exacerbate the current situation and that infrastructure improvements are already necessary in order to meet the proposed government target of 10 permitted overflows per annum.</p>
8927	<p>Neighbourhood Plan for Norton St Philip</p> <p>Cllr Hitchins reported that the draft Plan policies had been re-ordered and redrafted by the Locality appointed consultant. Cllr Hitchins was now pulling these together and hoped to have a completed draft by the weekend. This would be made available to members via a website link.</p>
8928	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>None.</p>
8929	<p>Parish News</p> <p>Members agreed the following items for inclusion in the next edition of Parish News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning information • MDC LPP2 limited update • Litter pick thank you • Sewage spill information
8930	<p>Meeting schedule</p> <p>Annual Council Meeting – Wednesday 8th May 2024 – 7.00 pm and Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 8th May 2024 – 7.30 pm. Both meetings to take place in the Palairot Hall.</p>

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.53 pm.