

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

www.nortonstphilipparishcouncil.co.uk

Chair Ian Hasell, 7 Monmouth Paddock, Norton St Philip, Somerset, BA2 7LA, ianhasell1@gmail.com

Clerk Nicola Duke, April Rise, 81 Studland Park, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3HN, clerk@nortonstphilipparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Wednesday 9th July 2025** at **7.00 pm** in the Palaiet Hall, Norton St Philip.

Present: Cllr Hasell (Chairman), Cllr Hitchins, Cllr Curwen and Cllr Murfitt.

In attendance: Nicola Duke (Parish Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

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
9118	Apologies for Absence Cllr Fox due to a prior commitment, accepted. Cllr Lund due to a family commitments, accepted.
9119	Declarations of Interest and Dispensations to Participate None.
9120	Minutes a) The minutes of a Council Meeting held on 11th June 2025 were approved for accuracy and adopted (proposed Cllr Hitchins, seconded Cllr Murfitt). b) To consider any matters arising from the above meetings (if any): None.
9121	Council Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Chairman reported the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">He would attend the AGM of the Vale of Frome LCN, which would reflect on work undertaken, elect a Chair and Vice-Chair, discuss the Local Transport Plan and set priorities for the next 12 months. The Chairman reported that he had been underwhelmed with the group's terms of reference and progress and would make that comment at the meeting. It was noted that the lack of decision making power and budget allocation made the group advisory only.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provided a report on a recent meeting of the Farleigh Hungerford Bathing Water Steering Group, which he attended. Representatives from the Environment Agency and Wessex Water had been in attendance, as well as an expert witness from the parish of Beckington who held a doctorate in water pollution. It had been agreed that the inability of the sewerage treatments plants in Rode and Beckington to cope with any high levels of water was the primary cause of the poor water quality at Farleigh Hungerford; the infrastructure not being sufficient to cope with extreme amounts of water. This would have a significant impact on the consideration of planning applications. The universal practice of rainwater being fed into the sewerage system was noted, a practice which was creating further problems for the infrastructure. ● Parish Clerk – Confirmed that the instruction for Harris and Harris solicitors to prepare the Deed of Easement for the Old Vicarage and Church Mead had been given (previous minutes refer). She also reported that Somerset Archives held no land registry documents pertaining to the Pound or Church Mead. Research would continue. ● County Councillors; Dawn Denton had presented apologies for absence and provided a report, which had been circulated to members. Adam Boyden had sent apologies for absence, which had been received and forwarded to members after the meeting. ● Other Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Palairt Hall – No report. ○ Church Mead Committee – Cllr Hitchins reported that the Committee had prepared an expression of interest for a drawdown of s106 funds, which would be submitted to SC shortly. A number of play equipment companies had visited to provide ideas for an enhancement of the play are. ○ Sustainable Norton St Philip – No report.
9122	<p>Planning Applications and Consultations</p> <p>2025/1035/VRC - Penny's Peace Mackley Lane Norton St Philip Frome Somerset - Variation of condition 4 (Holiday Let) of Planning Consent 109395/005 (Erection of holiday cottage) – No comment (proposed Cllr Hitchins, seconded Cllr Hasell).</p> <p>Members received and considered a planning application received after the issue of the agenda (<i>where the response time fell outside of the meeting schedule and an extension cannot be obtained</i>)</p> <p>2025/1133/CLE - Brownshutters Farm Airfield Farleigh Road Norton St Philip - Application for an existing lawful development certificate for 6no.Sheds for storage associated with the airfield – Notification only – Members discussed the application, noting that the sheds in question were new and therefore agreed to seek clarification from the Case Officer as to the appropriateness of a CLE application. The Clerk would write to SC accordingly, making reference to planning application 2016/1278 in so doing.</p>

	<p>Consultations</p> <p>LGBCE Initial Proposals for the Boundary Review of Somerset (previously circulated) – Members considered the proposals, noting the increase in ward areas and the decrease in councillor numbers. Members were concerned at the impact this would have on the support offered to parish councils, especially in the area proposed for Beckington, Rode and Norton St Philip which would have one Somerset Councillor to cover 11 parishes. It was agreed that the Chairman would prepare a draft response for members to consider for submission by the deadline of 11th August 2025.</p> <p>Somerset Council – Local Transport Plan (previously circulated) – Members considered the consultation documents and it was agreed that the Chairman would prepare a draft response for members to consider; in doing so he would also liaise with Beckington and Rode Parish Councils. The consultation response would be submitted via delegated authority prior to the deadline of 7th September 2025 (proposed Cllr Hasell, seconded Cllr Hitchins).</p>
9123	<p>Financials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Council payments due as listed were approved (proposed Cllr Hasell, seconded Cllr Murfitt). b) The Bank Reconciliation Statement May 2025 had been circulated to members and was noted. The June BRS would follow on receipt of statement. c) Banking Arrangements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Clerk reported that she had liaised with the payroll provider regarding the resolution to meet payroll costs via Standing Order. The PC had been advised that this would be problematic given that the reference numbers for payments altered each month. It had been recommended that the payments either be made online or via cheque. Members agreed to continue with cheque payments. The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with the Pension Fund regarding the payment of the backdated pension costs and was awaiting instructions. b. The Clerk reported that she had completed the application forms to open an investment account with CCLA for the Council's reserves and these were presented to Council for signature. d) Members considered the previously circulated quotations for the purchase of a new noticeboard for Bell Hill (May minutes refer). It was resolved to accept the quotation from Greenbarnes in the amount of £1,585.66, subject to confirmation from Mr Walker that the proposed post installation was appropriate (proposed Cllr Hitchins, seconded Cllr Murfitt).

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9124	<p>Traffic Action Group, Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>a) Cllr Murfitt provided an update on the work of the Traffic Action Group, the main points of which were noted as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Pressure to be kept on Somerset Council regarding road safety measures needed on the A366. A draft letter had been provided to the Parish Council and it was agreed that this would be sent by the PC, with an addition to include a comment on the inadequate and overgrown signage relating to the adverse camber. It was further agreed that the Chairman would liaise with his counterpart at Hemington, Hardington and Foxcote PC with a view to submitting the letter on behalf of both parishes.b. There had been a good return of Pedestrian Safety Survey responses. A plan of action to form a working party to gather data-based evidence and formulate a relief strategy for presentation to the Highway authority had been put in place.c. An issue had been raised regarding a hazardous raised pavement in Church Street. The Chairman would provide photographic evidence to the Clerk for forwarding to Somerset highways.d. The group had been reviewing the Community Speed Watch in the parish. It was noted that the Farleigh Hungerford CSW had disbanded due to the age of members and the inaccessibility of the CSW spot. The lack of police enforcement was noted, following a relocation of the office. It was noted that Rode PC were now writing direct to any companies with vehicles that were travelling over the speed limits. <p>b) Members noted the previously circulated information from the LCN on the Enhanced Highways Maintenance Pilot scheme.</p>																											
9125	<p>Neighbourhood Plan for Norton St Philip</p> <p>Members noted that the Referendum would take place on 17th July 2025.</p>																											
9126	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>None.</p>																											

9127	Parish News It was agreed that the copy for the next edition of Parish News would focus on the outcome of the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum.
9128	Meeting schedule Wednesday 10 th September 2025– Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip. The Council would recess in August unless urgent business dictates otherwise.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.10 pm.