

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 11th February 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip.

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

In attendance: Nicola Duke (Parish Clerk), Somerset Councillor A Boyden, a representative from Stonewood Homes and 5 members of the public.

Prior to the start of the meeting a representative from Stonewood Homes was in attendance to provide information and updates relating to the development at Bell Hill garage. The Chairman provided the opportunity for a Question & Answer session and thanked Stonewood Homes for attending the meeting.

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:

- A resident asked whether the Council was aware of recent stone crushing works which had been carried out at Southfields Farm. It was confirmed that these related to the work being undertaken following the grant of planning permission for development at the site.
- A resident spoke regarding the planning applications at Farleigh House, providing background and outlining her objections to the applications.
- Cllr Boyden provided an update on the planning applications and enforcement issues relating to Farleigh House.

	AGENDA ITEM
9192	Apologies for Absence Cllr Curwen due to holiday, accepted.
9193	Declarations of Interest and Dispensations to Participate None.
9194	Minutes a) The minutes of a Council Meeting held on 14th January 2026 were approved for accuracy and adopted (proposed Cllr Murfitt, seconded Cllr Hitchins).

	<p>b) To consider any matters arising from the above meetings (if any): None.</p>
9195	<p>Council Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairman reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He and Cllr Lund had attended the recent SCRAPP meeting (Somerset Communities Raging Against Poor Planning) (information previously circulated). The meeting had been well attended and the debate had been interesting. The Chairman expected a draft Constitution to formalise the group shortly and would report back once this had been received. It was noted that there may be a subscription cost to joining the group once it had been formalised. ○ A report was given on a recently circulated email from Cllr Denton, in which she had informed the PC that Somerset Council members would no longer be able to submit anonymous comments from local residents on planning applications. In future, SC members would need to collate these comments and submit under their own names. Members of the PC were concerned at the loss of local democracy this represented and Cllr Fox asked whether, instead, the names of local residents could be redacted when submitting comments to the portal. Cllr Boyden would raise this question. • Parish Clerk – No report. • County Councillors; Dawn Denton had provided a report, which had been circulated to members. Adam Boyden had also provided a report, which had been circulated to members and was presented. • Other Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Palairt Hall – No report. ○ Church Mead Committee – Cllr Hitchins reported that works to install the new play equipment were due to commence 12 February 2026. Works would cease during half term but would recommence and be concluded w/c 23rd February. The installation of the boules court was on hold due to the condition of the ground following the inclement weather. ○ Sustainable Norton St Philip – Cllr Lund would discuss the potential of a joint litter pick event between SNSP and the PC and report back. It was noted that such events had traditionally taken place during Easter however, it was felt that work should be carried out earlier given that vegetation had already grown by this point.
9196	<p>Planning Applications, Enforcements and Consultations 2026/0081/VRC - Farleigh House Church Farm Lane Farleigh Hungerford Bath -Application to vary condition 2 (The upgraded playing pitch hereby approved shall not be used for the purposes of rugby training outside the hours of 09:00-16:00 Monday to Friday (inclusive) and 09:00-11:00 on Saturdays. The upgraded playing pitch shall not be used for the purposes of rugby training on Sundays or Bank or other public holidays.) of planning approval 2010/1044 (Change of use from residential (C3) and office (B1) uses to a 'sui generis' mixed</p>

use as headquarters and training facilities for Bath Rugby Club. Engineering works to form a rugby pitch.) Proposed amendment to 'The upgraded playing pitch hereby approved shall not be used for the purposes of rugby training outside the hours of 08:30 - 16:00 Monday to Friday (inclusive) and 08:30 - 16:00 on Saturdays and Sundays or other public holidays'.

2026/0082/VRC - Farleigh House Church Farm Lane Farleigh Hungerford - Application to vary condition 2 (The upgraded playing pitch hereby approved shall not be used for the purposes of rugby training outside the hours of 09:00-16:00 Monday to Friday (inclusive) and 09:00-11:00 on Saturdays. The upgraded playing pitch shall not be used for the purposes of rugby training on Sundays or Bank or other public holidays) on planning application 2010/1044 (Change of use from residential (C3) and office (B1) uses to a 'sui generis' mixed use as headquarters and training facilities for Bath Rugby Club. Engineering works to form a rugby pitch.) Proposed amendment to 'The playing pitch hereby approved shall not be used for the purposes of rugby training outside the hours of 08:30-18:00 Monday to Friday (inclusive) and 08:30-16:00 on Saturdays and Sundays or other public holidays'.

2026/0083/VRC - Farleigh House Church Farm Lane Farleigh Hungerford - Application to vary condition 2 (The playing pitch hereby approved shall not be used for the purposes of rugby training outside the hours of 09:00 - 18:00, Monday to Friday (inclusive) and 09:00 - 13:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. The playing pitch shall not be used for the purposes of rugby training at any time on Bank or other public holidays on approved application 2010/1044 (Engineering work to improve the drainage and gradient of the site to create an artificial playing pitch including the creation of an emergency vehicular access track (amended description) Proposed amendment to 'The playing pitch hereby approved shall not be used for the purposes of rugby training outside the hours of 08:30-21:00, Monday to Thursday (inclusive): 08:30-18:00 Friday, and 08:30-16:00 on Saturdays and Sundays or other public holidays'.

Members considered the above planning applications and resolved to Object on the following grounds (proposed Cllr Murfitt, seconded Cllr Hitchins):

The Parish Council agrees with the objections raised by its residents which can be summarised as follows

- The Applicants Bath Rugby have a track record since 2012 of repeatedly breaking their existing permitted hours of use of their training -pitches under condition (2010/1044)
- A previous application to extend training hours on these pitches was made back in 2019, and rejected in 2022
- In winter-time the use of pitches after 16:00 is likely to be untenable without floodlights for which there is no existing permission (or application for permission) and condition 5 of the 2010/1044 permission expressly precludes the installation of external lighting without prior permission of the local Planning Authority.
- The existing restrictions were designed to mitigate the impact on residents of the consequential increase in traffic volumes in an around the village, and disruption caused by loud training noise from the pitches. This can only worsen from residents' point of view if Bath Rugby's hours of use are extended.

	<p>For the above reasons Norton St Philip Parish Council OBJECTS to each these applications</p> <p>To receive and consider planning applications received after the issue of the agenda (<i>where the response time falls outside of the meeting schedule and an extension cannot be obtained</i>) – None.</p>																								
9197	<p>Financials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Council payments due as listed were approved (proposed Cllr Hasell, seconded Cllr Fox). b) The Bank Reconciliation Statement January had been circulated to members and was noted. c) Backdated Employee Pension Contributions – Members noted that £600.70 had been repaid to the Council through the January payroll; amount outstanding £1201.40 ; due to repaid in full by the March 2026 payroll. d) Members considered funds to be transferred to the Public Sector Fund with CCLA (January minutes refer). It was agreed that further consultation needed to take place with the Internal Auditor and the Clerk would submit a further report to the March PC meeting. e) Members considered the upgrade of the Council’s financial management system to the Alpha accounting package (information and costs previously circulated). Following debate, it was resolved to proceed with the purchase of the Alpha software at a cost of £499 with a £289 set up fee and an ongoing annual fee of £203 (proposed Cllr Hasell, seconded Cllr Lund). The Clerk confirmed that she would have the new system established for the 2026-27 financial year. f) Members noted that works to install automatic doors at the Palairet Hall were in the final stages of preparation and that invoices would be expected. 																								
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9198	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The Chair reported that the Examiner had now been appointed by Somerset Council and was due to commence work. Members looked forward to receiving the report.</p>																								

9199	<p>Traffic Action Group, Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>Cllr Hitchins reported that Cllr Dawn Denton had asked for an update on footpath issues relating to the parish and a document had been drawn up in response (previously circulated). This would now be sent to Cllr Denton.</p> <p>Cllr Fox reported that there had been no meeting of TAG since the last PC meeting however, the following updates and reports were tabled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting had been arranged with SC’s Highway Officer to look at the results of the recent pedestrian survey. This had been scheduled for 19th February 2026, time to be confirmed. Cllrs Fox and Hasell would attend together with a resident and the TAG members who had led on the survey. The meeting would focus on the condition of the pavements, pedestrian and wheelchair/buggy user access and on road parking. • SC had confirmed that the damaged bollard opposite The Plaine was scheduled for repair however, due to budgetary constraints the works would not be carried out until April. • Progress had been made with SC and the Memorandum of Understanding for the deployment of Speed Indicator Devices in the parish. Cllr Fox expressed her thanks to Cllr Denton for her efforts in moving this forward. The only outstanding matter was the requirement to provide up to date Chapter 8 training certification. The Clerk would investigate potential training providers. • Information on an SC scheme to address lining and signing requirements on the A366 had been circulated to members and was noted. Members welcomed the scheme and Cllr Fox confirmed works would be undertaken shortly. • Members then discussed the offer from SC for a reduction of the speed limit to 50 mph along a stretch of the A366. It was noted that the PC would need to contribute towards the expected costs of £6,500 although it was hoped that, if the scheme were to proceed, contributions would also be made by SC and Hemington, Hardington and Foxcote Parish Council. It was expected that the costs for the PC would be in the region of £2,500 to £3,000. Members discussed the proposal noting that it was not the 40 mph reduction which had been hoped for. Cllr Fox reported that SC had confirmed a reduction to this speed was not on offer as it was not ‘required’ by the police. Following debate, it was agreed to await the response from Hemington, Hardington and Foxcote Parish Council before deciding how to proceed.
9200	<p>Parish and Village Greens</p> <p>a) Members discussed reports of recent vehicle damage to Church Green and Lyde Green (previously circulated). Cllr Hitchins reported that a local contractor had advised on works required at Church Green to make the damage good and prevent further incidents. The works were felt to be necessary and a budget of up to £3,000 was allocated from in year funds (proposed Cllr Hitchins, seconded Cllr Lund). Works required to Lyde Green would be considered once the works at Church Green had been completed.</p>

	<p>b) Members considered and noted previously circulated guidance relating to the uses of designated Village Greens. No further action to be taken at this time.</p>
9201	<p>Governance Documents Members reviewed the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Financial Regulations – Adopted with no changes (proposed Cllr Hasell, seconded Cllr Molian). b) Publication Scheme – Adopted with no changes (proposed Cllr Hasell, seconded Cllr Molian).
9202	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cllr Mike Rigby (SC) re: response to the PC’s email concerning the Local Plan consultation and early engagement (previously circulated) - Noted. b) Simon Trafford (SC) re: response to PC’s letter concerning Planning Application 2025/1515/FUL Land West of 67 Fortescue Street, Norton St Philip (previously circulated) – Noted, a response had been sent to this correspondence and this would be circulated to the PC.
9203	<p>Parish News Members agreed the below listed items for inclusion in the next edition of Parish News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on the Annual Parish Meeting 2026 • General meeting update • Separate article on reporting of highways issues
9204	<p>Meeting schedule Wednesday 11th March 2026 – The Palairt Hall, Norton St Philip</p>

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.12 pm.