

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

www.nortonstphilipparishcouncil.co.uk

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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 8th April 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip.

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

In attendance: Nicola Duke (Parish Clerk) and Somerset Cllr A Boyden (for part of 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: None.

	AGENDA ITEM
9219	Apologies for Absence Cllr Lund to a prior commitment, accepted.
9220	Declarations of Interest and Dispensations to Participate None.
9221	Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The minutes of a Council Meeting held on 11th March 2026 were approved for accuracy and adopted (proposed Cllr Murfitt, seconded Cllr Molian).b) To consider any matters arising from the above meetings (if any):<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. In response to a question the Clerk provided information on the nature of pecuniary interests.
9222	Council Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chairman reported the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ He had attended an interesting meeting with Reading University Professors regarding their interest in local company Celestial. The University was hoping to utilise the drones and software developed by Celestial for the gathering of meteorological data. Cllr Hasell had provided contact details of the local school as the University was rolling out educational engagement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Confirmed details of a planned meeting with Wessex Water to review the Wellow Lane treatment works. Whilst it was not possible to access the site at the current time, members agreed suitable visibility was available roadside. The meeting would take place on Tuesday 14th April at 2pm, returning afterwards to the Church Mead Pavilion. It was noted that a meeting with the Farleigh Hungerford Bathing Group was scheduled for Wednesday 15th April. ● Parish Clerk – No report. ● County Councillors; Cllr Dawn Denton had provided a report which would be circulated to members. Cllr Denton had also sent apologies for absence. Cllr Adam Boyden provided the following report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provided information on action taken by Somerset Council to protect leisure services in the east of the county after operator Fusion Lifestyle went into administration. Professional services company S&W had been appointed as administrator to run Fusion on a temporary basis from 1 April for three months and Somerset Council aimed to ensure a new operator would be in place to take over after this interim period. Customers and regular members were encouraged to keep using their gym or swimming pool and to maintain memberships which would continue into any new contract period with an alternative operator. ○ Reported that SC had approved the timetable for the Local Plan scoping consultation at a recent meeting of the Planning and Transport Policy Sub-Committee. The Scoping Report was due within the next few months although there would be no preview to the consultation. ○ Reported that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy had now been published and could be viewed at: Somerset's Local Nature Recovery Strategy ○ Provided information on a new Crisis and Resilience Fund aiming to support families in a more targeted way. ○ Members noted that approval had been given for the development of 1700 homes at Selwood Gardens in Frome. Cllr Boyden reported that there were complex reserved matters and s106 issues to be agreed over the next few years however, the development would take some pressure off the 5 year housing land supply figures. ● Other Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Palairt Hall – No report. ○ Church Mead Committee – No report. ○ Sustainable Norton St Philip – It was noted that the planned Litter Pick had gone ahead. There had been a good turnout of volunteers and the rubbish had been collected by Somerset Council.
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9223	<p>Planning Applications, Enforcements and Consultations</p> <p>2025/1515/FUL - Land West Of 67 Fortescue Street Norton St Philip Frome - Erection of 8 dwellings including affordable housing. Formation of a 1.1ha area of open space, linking Church Mead with Ponds Country Park, new vehicular accesses and footpath links. Hard and soft landscaping including new planting improvements to the tree belt with Church Mead, ecological and biodiversity enhancements including bat replacement habitat. Car and cycle parking. Associated works – Re-consultation – Objection (proposed Cllr Hitchins, seconded Cllr Hasell) A copy of the full objection comment is appended to the minutes. Members also noted receipt of an objection from CPRE, which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>2026/0421/CLE - Farleigh House Church Farm Lane Farleigh Hungerford - Application for an existing lawful development certificate for use of the existing lawful use of land at Farleigh House – Notification only (determination deadline 18 May 2026) – Objection (proposed Cllr Murfitt, seconded Cllr Hitchins). A copy of the full objection comment is appended to the minutes.</p> <p>Members considered a planning application received after the issue of the agenda (<i>where the response time fell outside of the meeting schedule</i>)</p> <p>2026/0583/HSE - Boreen Barn Bath Road Norton St Philip Frome Somerset - Addition of bedroom accommodation for carers for existing residents of Boreen Barn (deadline for comment 23rd April 2026) – Support (proposed Cllr Hitchins, seconded Cllr Molian):</p> <p>Boreen Barn which lies within the green belt was granted permission for an extension in 2013 which the case officer then considered “<i>is not disproportionate to the existing dwelling and as such the openness of the surrounding green belt is maintained</i>”</p> <p>This application seeks permission to extend the property by a similar amount again, in order to add three bedrooms. The extension is not likely to be visible from the road, or to impair the outlook of any neighbouring property. The applicants make a strong case based on their age and frailty for their son and his wife to have room to move in and live with them in order to provide for their daily care needs, together with their 2 dependent children. All members of the family have been long-term village residents.</p> <p>Whilst drawing attention to the fact that this is a second application, the Parish Council on balance supports it, recognising that it is for the Case Officer to decide that the proposed extension is proportionate development given that it is situated on green belt land.</p>
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9224	<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 March 2026 would follow on receipt of bank statements. c) Backdated Employee Pension Contributions – Members noted that £600.70 had been repaid to the Council through the March payroll; the debt had now been cleared. Members agreed to revert the Standing Order for the salary payments to the previous level following the conclusion of this process (proposed Cllr Murfitt, seconded Cllr Hasell). d) The Clerk reported on the previously resolved transfer of funds to the Public Sector Fund with CCLA (March minutes refer) informing members that the precept had been paid however, it would be paid in two tranches rather than the one tranche previously paid. It was noted that the Clerk would now proceed as per the resolution passed at the March meeting, whereby 60% of the parish finances would be moved to the CCLA account. 																														
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9225	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>It was noted that the PC had received email correspondence from SC regarding a change to the basic conditions of Neighbourhood Plans. Further information was awaited and, if required, the PC would ask for an opinion from its legal team.</p>																														
9226	<p>Traffic Action Group, Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>Cllr Fox reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC had installed the promised additional signage on the A366 towards Tuckers Grave from NSP, which was welcomed. It was noted that the signage had not been installed on the Faulkand side and TAG would liaise with Hemington PC in respect of this. 																														

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk would continue to liaise with Hemington PC to arrange the required Chapter 8 training (previous minutes refer). This would be for three volunteers from NSP and two from Hemington PC. • Information from Mr Eastment regarding the Lorry Watch camera scheme for the Farleigh Hungerford bridge was tabled. It was agreed that this would be referred to the May meeting for consideration given the costs involved (circa £1,000) and further information would be sought on initial and ongoing costs, levels of HGV's using the bridge and the commitment and time required for volunteers to manage the data. It was noted that the system did not refer issues to the police but would require liaise with the transport companies, which was a lengthy process.
9227	<p>Correspondence None.</p>
9228	<p>Parish News The below items were agreed for inclusion in the next edition of Parish News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General meeting update • Information on the Fortescue Fields planning application • Update on the recent village consultation event
9229	<p>Meeting schedule Wednesday 6th May 2026 – The Palaiet Hall, NSP: Annual Parish Meeting – 7.00 pm. Annual Council Meeting – 7.30 pm.</p>

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.05 pm.