

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

www.nortonstphilipparishcouncil.co.uk

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 10th June 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Old School Room, Farleigh Hungerford.

Present: Cllr Murfitt (Chair), Cllr Fox, Cllr Lund, Cllr Curwen and Cllr Hitchins.

In attendance: Nicola Duke (Parish Clerk), Somerset Councillor A Boyden 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
9246	Apologies for Absence Cllr Molian due to ill health, accepted.
9247	Declarations of Interest and Dispensations to Participate None.
9248	Minutes a) The minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 6th May 2026 were approved for accuracy and adopted (proposed Cllr Lund, seconded Cllr Hitchins). b) To consider any matters arising from the above meetings: None.
9249	Council Reports • The Chair provided a report, which has been published on the website. • Parish Clerk – No report. • County Councillors; Dawn Denton had provided a report which had been circulated to members. Adam Boyden tabled a report, which would be circulated post meeting and added to the website. • Other Reports: ○ Palairot Hall - No report. A PC representative needs to be appointed and would be listed as an agenda item for the next meeting.

	○ Church Mead Committee – Cllr Hitchins reported that Church Mead Committee AGM was held on 8th June. The fireworks evening had been very successful and the 100 Club lottery was well subscribed. The Chair had thanked all those who contributed to and supported Church Mead. As a result the finances were healthy. The new playground equipment and surfacing was proving extremely popular. The Committee would be further considering the installation of a boules court. Two committee members had stood down at the AGM. The committee hoped that new members would join this year. ○ Sustainable Norton St Philip - Cllr Lund reported on previous mention of a website which would be linked to the PC website, and confirmed there would likely be a cost to establishing this. It was noted that a link from the PC website would be a charged site, and Cllr Hitchins would be able to assist as this was the way in which the Church Mead information was managed. In addition she reported that the Repair Café event held on 9th May 2026 had been very successful and a good level of donations had been made.
9250	Planning Applications, Enforcements and Consultations <u>New Planning Applications</u> 2026/0957/HSE and 2026/0958/LBC - Fairview Farm Bath Road Norton St Philip Frome Somerset - Replacement doors and windows on rear & side elevations – Support (proposed Cllr Fox, seconded Cllr Lund). 2026/1005/TCA - Bell Hill Cottage Bell Hill Norton St Philip Frome Somerset - T1 (Cherry) - Reduce the height by approximately 1.5m, prune in the remaining canopy by 1.5m - Notification only – Noted, no comment. 2026/0969/HSE and 2026/0970/LBC - 1 High Street Norton St Philip Frome Somerset BA2 7LH - Re-roofing the front and rear roof slopes, relaying the existing stone tiles, including the replacement of damaged stone tiles with reclaimed tiles. Repairs to existing copings stones, replacement of mortar haunching at abutments with new lead soakers and cover flashings. New breathable roof membrane. 2no. replacement rooflights and flashings on the rear elevation –Support (proposed Cllr Fox, seconded Cllr Lund). <u>Current Planning Applications</u> 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.

	Cllr Hitchins reported that the PC had submitted its comment to the re-consultation on 10th April 2026, the deadline for its comment. On the same day Lochailort had submitted levels and sectional drawings. The latter demonstrated that the alteration to the levels would create steep slopes slanting towards Church Mead. These appeared to use the existing ditch on Church Mead for drainage; this ditch (and the hedgerow) were incorrectly shown as being on the application site. As the Expiry date (by which a determination should be made) for the application was 5th June 2026 it was necessary to draw this to the attention of Somerset Council. A comment was therefore submitted under delegated authority on 5th June 2026. This also referenced concerns about the delivery of the “Ponds Country Park” open space. 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.																														
9251	Financials a) Council payments due as listed were approved (proposed Cllr Lund, seconded Cllr Murfitt). b) The Bank Reconciliation Statements April and May 2026 had been circulated and were noted. c) The list of Council Reserves had been circulated to members and was noted.																														
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9252	Parish Council Accounts Year Ending 31st March 2026 a) Members received and considered the Internal Audit Report, reviewed its findings and approved the actions list prepared by the Clerk as listed (proposed Cllr Fox, seconded Cllr Hitchins). b) Members reviewed the independence of the Internal Auditor, confirming that the Parish Council was satisfied that the Internal Auditor is independent, competent, and free from any conflicts of interest in relation to the Council's affairs (proposed Cllr																														

	Hitchins, seconded Cllr Fox). The effectiveness of the system of internal control was also reviewed and approved (proposed Cllr Hitchins, seconded Cllr Fox). c) Members prepared and approved Section 1: parts 2 and 3 (Annual Governance Statement 2025/26) of the AGAR (proposed Cllr Murfitt, seconded Cllr Lund). d) Members considered Section 2; parts 2 and 3 (Accounting Statements 2025/26) of the AGAR. e) Members approved, signed and dated Section 2; parts 2 and 3 (Accounting Statements 2025/26) (proposed Cllr Murfitt, seconded Cllr Lund). f) Members set the dates for the period of public inspection as Friday 12th June 2026 to Thursday 23rd July 2026 (proposed Cllr Murfitt, seconded Cllr Hitchins).
9253	Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Hitchins reported that following changes in the national legislation which affect examination of Neighbourhood Plans, the Examiner had requested that Somerset Council invite parties who had made representations at submission to comment on this matter. The Consultation ran from 15th to 29th May 2026. Before submitting its response the PC sought legal advice. This was duly received in time for the PC to submit its response before the end of the Consultation. The PC response, (together with those from Lochailort Investments Ltd and the Coal Authority) is on the SC and Neighbourhood Plan websites.
9254	Somerset Council Local Plan Members noted that the Parish Sustainability and Site Appraisal Report commissioned from Context Planning in December 2025 had been received. The document had been circulated to members for comment and a final version was expected the following day. Once received, this would be made available on the PC website. It was further noted that Somerset Council would be holding a Scoping Consultation which would run from 19th June to 24th July 2026. The Parish Sustainability and Site Appraisal Report had been received in time for the Parish Council to consider it as part of the response to this consultation. The formal consultation response would be agreed at the July PC meeting. Cllrs Hitchins, Fox and Murfitt reported that they had attended an online Somerset Council meeting on the timetable for the Local Plan at which it had been confirmed that there had been no indication of the spatial strategy which would be used in the consultation on the options for the distribution of the 70,000 homes required for Somerset. Norton St Philip had been reported as being in Tier 4, as a result of the facilities available within the parish. The

	numbers of dwellings to be allocated to each area would not be confirmed until September 2027. SC had confirmed it would be re-opening a Call for Sites.
9255	Traffic Action Group, Highways and Footpaths Members received available updates and reports including: a) Potential installation of a Lorry Watch camera on Farleigh Bridge – Members considered a briefing note from Cllr Curwen (previously circulated). Cllr Curwen presented the report and the options contained therein - to either purchase a new a camera or refurbish an existing AutoSpeedWatch unit. Following debate, it was resolved to refurbish the existing unit at a cost of £328.00 with the annual software costs of £179.00 being included in the initial upgrade cost (proposed Cllr Murfitt, seconded Cllr Hitchins). Information on the exact location at which the unit would be installed would be provided to the Parish Clerk so that liaison with SC could take place and the necessary permissions obtained. b) Speed limits at Tellisford Lane – Cllr Fox reported on options for either a 30 mph or 20 mph speed limit to apply along Tellisford Lane from the main entrance to Farleigh House to the junction with the A366, and also along Church Farm Lane from its junction with Tellisford Lane to the A366. Members agreed support for a 30 mph limit. c) ‘Road narrows’ warning signs at bridges – Cllr Fox reported on need to improve the warning signs at bridges. Members noted that there was already quite a high level of signage in the area and considered the possibility of adding ‘give way’ roundels and white lines at each entrance to the bridge. Alternatively, the existing signs could be relocated further back from the bridge to give drivers more warning. It was noted that this issue would need to be explored with SC Highways. d) Speed limit along the A36 – Cllr Fox sought authorisation to write to SC to confirm that the PC, together with Faulkland PC, wished to proceed with the application of the 50 mph along the A36 from the outskirts of NSP to just outside Faulkland (previous minutes refer). The associated costs of £6,500 to be split between both parishes were noted and had already been considered. The Parish Clerk was duly authorised to confirm this with SC (proposed Cllr Fox, seconded Cllr Hitchins). e) Frome Area Movement & Place Plan – Cllr Fox reported on information obtained from Frome Town Council regarding the development of the Plan. She reported that an officer from FTC had offered to visit the parish week commencing 13th July 2026 and invited other members to attend. Cllr Murfitt would attend, if she was able. f) Chapter 8 training – A local provider had been identified for the 3 NSP volunteers and training booked for 10th July 2026. The Parish Clerk was liaising with Hemington PC to see if any more spaces were required.

	g) Tuckers Grave bike events – Cllrs Fox and Hitchins reported that they had met with the landowner of Tuckers Grave to raise concerns which had been expressed by residents about the noise level of bikers attending their events. The landowner had been sympathetic and had undertaken to speak to the attendees. Members considered obtaining a ‘Welcome’ sign for bikers which could also remind them to be considerate of residents. This suggestion would be referred to the Traffic Action Group. h) Purchase of battery for SID unit – Cllr Fox reported on costs obtained to purchase a battery and also on options for the refurbishment of the current unit. This would be added to the agenda for the July PC meeting. Given that there were a number of issues relating to the parish which required input from the SC Highways department, the Parish Clerk was asked to liaise with the Highways Engineer to arrange a site meeting (for items a-c).
9256	Correspondence Correspondence was received from a resident regarding a parish matter. The correspondence was noted and would be dealt with outside of the meeting.
9257	Parish News Members agreed the below items for inclusion in the next edition of Parish News: • General Meeting Update – Clerk to prepare
9258	Meeting schedule Wednesday 8th July 2026 – Palairret Hall.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.58 pm.