

NORTON ST PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Thursday 1st August 2019** at The Palairet Hall, Norton St Philip at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Abbott (Chair), Cllr Lund, Cllr Hitchins, Cllr Scarrow, Cllr Emery and Cllr Foster

In attendance: circa 50 members of the public.

Public Participation

Roadworks in Norton St Philip

Cllr Abbott referred to the Information Notes which the PC had circulated on 19 and 27 July (appended to the minutes). The PC was trying to establish when the works would start. Information was awaited from Somerset CC (SCC) on various operational issues, e.g. a proposed parking restriction order relating to the High St and Bell Hill during the roadworks. He reported that SCC had apologised for not informing the PC in advance about these works: lack of prior notice was disappointing and had raised practical issues and concerns locally. Following advice from Bloor Homes on 26 July that the works would start shortly, the PC had been working to minimise disruption during the eleven weeks of roadworks, which would involve 4-way traffic lights at some times and closure of the High St at others.

Cllr Linda Oliver, who had spoken to SCC officers, referred to the 2012 s.278 agreement between SCC and Bloor Homes: defects had to be corrected otherwise the financial burden would fall on SCC.

Edith Finlay thanked the Chair for his work and effort in trying to address these concerns and also for the information to residents.

Steven Harrison felt this was now a fait accompli and was concerned there would be 2 way traffic on The Barton and Chevers Lane; could there be a one way system or a closure of the roads 'except for access'?

Geoff Roe agreed with concerns about traffic on The Barton and stressed the need for intelligent signage well away from the village.

Edith Finlay agreed that traffic should be diverted on the A36 from Woolverton to Hinton Charterhouse. She said that the Finlays could offer some temporary parking for residents as long as there was dry weather.

Sandra Porter asked if the PC had delayed the process given that traffic lights had appeared at Chevers Lane 2 weeks before. The Chair referred to the correspondence on the PC website.

Steve Gazzard asked whether the police have been informed about the road closures.

In reply, Rex Eastman (Chair of TAG) confirmed that he had been in touch with the police.

Chris Parsons asked if the village would bear any cost and would the PC be liable. The Chair stated his understanding that the PC would not bear any costs: the PC was not involved in any contractual agreements. It was making representations on behalf of the village to mitigate the disruption.

Geoff Roe asked if anyone understood the need for all this work.

Linda Oliver said that the road surface had not been done when the kerbstones were put in: the roads have to be delivered to specification otherwise would not be adopted and therefore repaired in the future. The Chair reiterated the timeline about operational matters: his questions to the contractors were designed to obtain the necessary information.

Mark Finch hoped that there would be good signage on the roads around and beyond the village and that would deter traffic from coming through NSP.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and LPP2

Cllr Hitchins was asked for an update on the status of the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan Part 2: he had attended the LPP2 Hearing, with Ian Hasell, between 24- 26 July. The PC had since been given the opportunity to make a submission concerning factual statements and representations made at the Plan Hearing. The draft submission had just been completed. Copies were circulated at the meeting.

Chris Parsons said that he had attended the hearing. He referred to a note he had sent to the Chair of the PC about his concerns. He felt the evidence and analysis for the LGSs in NSP were subjective and did not comply with the relevant criteria. He thought it highly likely that judicial review would be sought by at least one developer. He commented that the Government is concerned about NPs blocking rather than shaping development: many NPs will be challenged. He said that the boundary line of LGS OO4 goes through his kitchen.

Cllr Abbott said the PC believed that, in producing its NP, it had acted correctly. He recognised the strength of feeling on these matters. The NP Examiner had reached her conclusions and the LPP2 Inspector would have to reach his.

Linda Oliver congratulated the PC for obtaining the Examiner's approval for the NP. She offered details on the forecast of pupil numbers. Cllr Hitchins thanked her but said that the PC already had these. Linda Oliver expressed her understanding that the footpaths in LGS 7 and LGS 8 were part of a s.106 agreement.

Geoff Roe thanked all those involved in drafting the NP and asked whether the NP or LPP2 would be the authoritative document on LGS's. He hoped that the Parish Referendum would take place as soon as possible

Chris Parsons said the LPP2 Inspector was clear that he would comment on LGS and cautioned against holding a referendum too soon. Karen Parsons if the PC should be halted as the Inspector's findings could not be second guessed. The Chair said that it was for MDC to decide the timing of a referendum.

Gordon McIntyre thought the PC and others seemed in a hurry to push through the NP of which the LPP2 Inspector had been critical. (Cllr Abbott asked if information was available on the Inspector having voiced criticism of the NP.)

Chris Parsons asked if the PC would be forwarding to MDC the written comments he had sent to the Chair of the PC. Cllr Abbot suggested that he should email his comments to MDC and say that he had made representation at this meeting.

Linda Oliver referred to her continuing concerns relating to the exclusion of a number of trees in the Character Assessment (the document accompanying the NP): in her view, the document was inaccurate and needed correcting. She referred to the NP Examiner's comment on how her concerns might be addressed.

Safety concerns crossing Church St to the School

Linda Oliver asked if there was a report on this issue. Cllr Abbot confirmed that the PC's traffic consultant had sent a draft of his report on 31 July for comments by the PC.

Rodney Beer asked what was the problem on Church Street and what was in the report. Cllr Abbott said the danger for pedestrians, and especially children, crossing the road to and from the School had been raised by concerned parents in the PC's Public Participation sessions, and had been discussed in a number of PC meetings. He had discussed it with the Head Teacher. The PC had raised it as an urgent matter with SCC Highways. The PC had commissioned a report from a traffic consultant as, in the PC's view, SCC had not addressed the concerns with the necessary vigour. The final report will be made available publicly and considered at a future meeting.

Gilly beer thought the problem was adults rather than children not taking care when crossing: she noted that there was no longer a crossing patrol.

Linda Oliver suggested that this was essentially a matter for police enforcement.

Rex Eastment confirmed that the police were frequently in the village conducting speed checks.

Lighting at the build-out at the Cut

Vivienne Bolton was concerned about the proposed LED lighting on the build out. She asked that if it could be a warm white rather than a blue light as the latter could cause sleep deprivation and adversely impact on wildlife and dark skies.

Other comments included the need for minimally intrusive lights in the conservation area and installation of the right type of lamp posts. The discreet lighting on Bradford Rd in Trowbridge was cited as a good example of appropriate lighting.

	AGENDA ITEM
8212	<p>Apologies for Absence Cllr Walker due to holiday, accepted.</p>
8213	<p>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations to Participate None.</p>
8214	<p>Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The minutes of a previous meeting of the Council held on 10th July 2019 were approved for accuracy and adopted (proposed Cllr Hitchins, seconded Cllr Foster) b) To consider any matters arising from the above meeting - none.
8215	<p>Chair's Reports The Chair reported on the success of the Palaret Hall Management Committee in securing a National Lottery grant and congratulated Rex Eastment and David Lockley for achieving this; and in doing so within three weeks.</p>
8216	<p>Planning applications Members considered the below listed applications :</p> <p>2019/1821/TCA. Brooklyn Cottage Church Street Norton St Philip BA2 7LX- Proposed works to trees in a conservation area T1 (Norway Maple). Prune all round removing up to 2m per lateral and 1-2m of height. Delegate to the Clerk to respond, following consultation with members (Proposed Cllr Scarrow, seconded Cllr Lund).</p> <p>2019/1779/FUL and 2019/1780/LBC. Wick Farm Trowbridge Road Farleigh Hungerford Frome Somerset- Conversion of store in existing barn to bridal suite. These are minor internal alterations to convert an existing storage area to a bridal suite. The only external visual alteration is the opening up of a previously blocked in window. The Parish Council supports this application (proposed Cllr Hitchins, seconded Cllr Emery).</p> <p>To receive and consider planning applications received after the issue of the agenda – none.</p>

8217	<p>Planning decisions, appeals, enforcements and other matters</p> <p>Members noted planning decisions and asked the Clerk to establish the deadline for a response on APP/Q3305/W/19/3231682 relating to 2019/0392/FUL Lower Haven Farm Farleigh Road Norton St Philip Frome BA2 7NG - Change of use of land to provide holiday accommodation, to include the erection of two camping lodges, an associated amenity building, a play hut and associated works. It was noted that the text of the Appeal had yet to appear on the Planning Inspectorate website.</p>									
8218	<p>Financials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council expenditure as listed was approved (proposed Cllr Lund, seconded Cllr Foster): <table border="1" data-bbox="432 757 1402 884"> <tr> <td>Phoenix Fireworks</td> <td>Fireworks for Church Mead</td> <td>£3,181.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harris and Harris</td> <td>Legal advice NSP roadworks</td> <td>£480.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr R Eastment</td> <td>Travel expenses</td> <td>£46.80</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members authorised the settlement of the expected £550 bill from Mr Moss (relating to highway surveys) outside of the meeting schedule if so received and delegated authority to the Clerk to make said payment in consultation with the Chair (proposed Cllr Lund, seconded Cllr Foster). 	Phoenix Fireworks	Fireworks for Church Mead	£3,181.24	Harris and Harris	Legal advice NSP roadworks	£480.00	Mr R Eastment	Travel expenses	£46.80
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8219	<p>Roadworks in NSP</p> <p>The PC noted an update given by the Chair in the public participation session and agreed that it will continue vigorously to try to find out when the roadworks will begin, their timing and phasing; and will also pursue its concerns on the scope of the works. The PC noted the concerns expressed in the public participation session. It agreed to include a map showing the locations of the works in its next information notes.</p>									
8220	<p>Church Street – crossing to School</p> <p>PC members agreed to consider the traffic consultant’s draft report of 31 July which had been circulated. Members comments would then be collated and sent to the consultant under delegated authority (proposed Cllr Scarrow, seconded Cllr Hitchins). <i>Post meeting note – the Chair sent the PC’s comments to Mr Moss under delegated authority as Acting Clerk.</i></p>									
8221	<p>Legal/Professional Fees Budget</p> <p>The PC agreed to increase the budgetary provision for Professional Fees from £2,500 to £5,000, such expenditure to be met from unallocated funds; and to allocate the sum of up to £5,000 for legal fees (if required) relating to the NSP roadworks (proposed Cllr Hitchins, seconded Cllr Foster).</p>									

8222	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>(a) The PC noted and agreed the draft report to be presented to MDC’s Cabinet on Monday 5th August underlining the key points in the NP. It also agreed that Mr I Hasell, as Chair of the NP Steering Group should speak to that report on the PC’s behalf (proposed Cllr Hitchins, seconded Cllr Foster)</p> <p>It was noted that the MDC Cabinet would decide whether to accept the Examiner’s Report; and if so accepted it would then proceed to a Parish Referendum.</p> <p>(b) Subject to the NP proceeding to a Parish Referendum, and subject to the NP then being adopted, it was agreed in principle, that the PC should embark on the next stage of the NP which would include consideration of, and consultation on, possible development sites outside the development boundary, subject to demonstrated local need (proposed Cllr Hitchins, seconded Cllr Foster).</p> <p>(c) The PC supported the NP as modified proceeding to referendum, taking account of the Examiner’s proposed modifications, and that MDC be informed accordingly (proposed Cllr Hitchins, seconded Cllr Lund).</p>
8223	<p>Local Plan Part II</p> <p>The PC noted the points made in the public participation session. Cllr Hitchins reported he had attended the LPP2 hearings on 24th,25th and 26th July; Mr Ian Hasell had attended on 26th July in his capacity of Chair of the NP Steering Group. As the PC is in support of LPP2 and had submitted a written representation, it was not expected to take part in the Hearing.</p> <p>Lochailort Investments were represented by a QC; Bell Hill Garage were represented by a planning consultant. Also at the table on 26th July was Mr Chris Parsons, a village resident. The discussions on 24th and 25th July concerned MDC’s Housing Supply. Both the Lochailort and Bell Hill Garage representatives suggested a ‘substantial’ allocation in NSP.</p> <p>Mendip’s LGS policy came under scrutiny on 26th July and NSP featured prominently. Following certain statements made opposing the LGS designations in the village, the Inspector allowed Mr Hasell to join the discussion. In concluding, the Inspector remarked that there was the potential for inconsistency between the NP and the Local Plan. He was going to ponder this issue and take advice from the Planning Inspectorate. He will then issue a note which will give an indication of the way he is thinking.</p> <p>Cllr Hitchins and Mr Hasell reviewed statements made orally and in writing at the Plan Hearings and made a request to the Inspector for the PC to be allowed to make a submission concerning factual statements and representations made at the Plan Hearings on 24th and 26th July. On 30th July the PC was informed that the Inspector would accept a written representation (draft copies of which were circulated at the</p>

	public participation session at this meeting). A deadline of 2nd August had been set by the Inspector for submission.
8224	<p>Street Lighting</p> <p>Noting concerns expressed by residents relating to possible light intrusion from the proposed lighting at The Cut, the PC agreed to request SCC to introduce the warmest white LED possible together with directional shielding, and also to request that black heritage style lamp stands (similar to those on Fortescue Fields and by the Coop shop) be introduced (proposed Cllr Hitchins, seconded Cllr Emery).</p>
8225	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>a) Kilmersdon Parish Council - Proposal for 40mph from Norton St Philip to the White Post (copy circulated) – it was agreed that Cllr Lund, working with Mr Eastment, would follow this up with Kilmersdon PC and report back to a future meeting.</p> <p>b) Ashley Borgman – Parking in Bell Hill (copy circulated) – the PC noted the update from Mr Borgman and agreed to revisit this issue after the conclusion of the forthcoming roadworks.</p> <p>c) Somerset Care – advertising on website (copy circulated) – the PC agreed to defer this matter to a future meeting.</p>
8226	<p>Parish Magazine</p> <p>The following items were agreed for inclusion in the copy for the next Parish Magazine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NP and LPP2 • NSP Roadworks
8227	<p>Meeting schedule</p> <p>Wednesday 11th September 2019 at 7.00 pm in the Palaiet Hall.</p>

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.15 pm.