

# NORTON BAVANT PARISH MEETING

## Extended Note

Minutes of the meeting of Norton Bavant Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013 in Norton Bavant Village Hall, at 7.30 pm.

Present: Geoffrey Frost (Chairman), Gordon Evans (Clerk), Lena Eljvergard, Didee Acworth, John Acworth, Graham Connellan, John Parker, Catherine Parker, Ian Newman, Suzanne Newman, Michael Wooldridge, Andrew Lane, Liz Dawson, Jill Cowley, Pat Frost, Suzanne Elliott, Andrew Elliott and Edward Moore for the last few minutes of the meeting.

The Meeting was attended by Wiltshire Councillor Christopher Newbury.

### **4 The Single Track road to North Farm- Letter from Mrs P Gordon Duff.**

The Clerk had received a letter from Mrs P Gordon Duff, dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2013 in which she reported on an incident with an articulated lorry on North Farm road on the 8<sup>th</sup> February which resulted in damage to her car. Mrs Duff went on to suggest that the few passing places that there are on this road should be made up with hard standing to facilitate easier and safer access to Middle and Cotley Hills. (Copies of Mrs Gordon Duff's letter were distributed to those at the meeting, to ensure that everyone had a full account of Mrs Gordon Duff's concerns)

The Chairman then invited the Clerk to give an account of the background to this situation. The Clerk reported that the Parish Meeting had carefully considered the Planning Application for the Agricultural Recycling Centre in 2006 and resolved to support the application, but suggested that permission should be conditional on the provision of more, and improved, passing places between the Farm and the B3414. This proposal was conveyed to the Senior Planning Officer in a letter dated the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2006 but it was not carried through as a requirement on the planning approval.

The Recycling Centre has now been operative for six years and this is the first reported incident.

The Military Authorities decision to close access to Cradle Hill to dog walkers has resulted in dog walkers using the single track to access an alternative location, but this causing problems and leading to expense for the farmer, as there is no public parking provision on this road.

Residents living along the single track road have a much greater concern about the vastly increased number of cars now using this road to access a dog walking area than the relatively few Articulated Lorries that go to and from the Recycling Centre.

Councillor Newbury indicated that the Area Highways Engineer had visited the site and had indicated that the Highway Authority would be able to provide the equipment and materials to provide hard standing for a passing place on this road, if desired, and subject to the landowners approval.

John Acworth reported that he uses the road very regularly and he had not encountered any problems but he is aware of this particular incident.

Andrew Lane also reported that he is a regular user of this road and he detailed the places where cars can pull in to allow other vehicles to pass. Andrew also indicated that it is not the lorries that are the problem but the sudden increase in the number of cars using the road and the number of drivers who are inexperienced in driving on narrow country lanes.

Graham Connellan said that his house overlooks the road and he is of the view that the traffic generally flows very freely. Graham also suggested that the problem may have been made worse by the publication of Victoria Coombes booklet "The Hills of Warminster" in which she suggests that "Car parking is possible" at the point where the road turns sharp right.

Andrew Elliott, the farmer at North Farm, said that it had been good to hear the views of the meeting. He said that cars will park on the corner which causes the Lorries to have to go on the verge and he is then required to meet the full cost of reinstating the verge.

In summing up the Clerk suggested that it appeared to be the consensus of the meeting that;

1. It is important that the Farm continues as a viable business and that the Recycling Centre is an important amenity for the rural community.
2. There is a concern at the increase in the number of people using this road to take their dogs for a walk and residents would not want the numbers to increase any further.
3. The provision of recognised Passing Places, at this time, is likely to make the situation worse by making it easier to drive to a point where there is no recognised parking provision.

The Chairman suggested that this appeared to be the collective view of the meeting and put these three points forward to the meeting as a formal resolution.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

The Clerk was asked to convey the decision of the Meeting to Mrs P Gordon Duff in a letter.

The Chairman thanked Wiltshire Councillor Christopher Newbury and all those present for their attendance at the meeting.

**Gordon Evans**

**Clerk to Norton Bavant Parish Meeting**

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2013**