WRAXALL AND FAILAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Wraxall and Failand Parish Council held in the Cross Tree Centre, Wraxall on 11th May 2024 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors Parsons (Chairman), Amos (from agenda item 61/24), Gorford, Malpas, Parsons, Robinson, Sandeman (from agenda item 61/24), Sheppard, Vallentine and Wolff.

North Somerset Councillor Cartman. Councillor McQuillan was not available to attend.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay.

59/24 To appoint a Chairman of the Parish Council.
It was unanimously resolved to elect Councillor Parsons as Chairman.

60/24 To appoint a Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.
No Vice Chairman was appointed at the present time.

61/24 To request the Chairman and Vice Chairman to sign their declarations of office.
The Chairman signed the declaration of office.

Councillors Amos and Sandeman joined the meeting.

62/24 To receive any apologies for absence.
Councillor Bracey was not present. He had not offered his apologies.

63/24 To receive members declarations of interest on any agenda item.
There were no declarations of interest.

64/24 To invite public speaking.
No member of the public had requested to speak.

65/24 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council held on 14th March 2024 and 18th April 2024.
It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2024 as a correct record of the meeting (6 in favour, 3 abstentions as not present at the meeting.

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2024 as a correct record of the meeting (4 in favour, 5 abstentions as not present at the meeting.

66/24 To appoint members of the Finance Team.
It was unanimously resolved to appoint Councillors Amos, Parsons, Robinson, Sheppard and Vallentine to the Finance Team.

67/24 To appoint members of the HR/Staffing Team.

It was unanimously resolved to appoint Councillors Malpas, Vallentine and Wolff to the HR/Staffing team.

68/24 To approve the Annual Governance statement for the year ending 31st March 2024 (s.1 of the Annual Return 2023/24).

It was unanimously resolved to approve the Annual Governance statement.

69/24 To approve the Annual Accounting statements for the year ending 31st March 2024 (s.2 of the Annual Return 2023/24).

It was unanimously resolved to approve the Annual Accounting statement.

70/24 To confirm that there is no conflict of interest between the Parish Council and the external auditors BDO LLP.

It was unanimously resolved to confirm that there is no conflict of interest.

71/24 To appoint David Seabright and Co. Ltd. as the Parish Council's internal auditor for 2024-25.

It was unanimously resolved to appoint David Seabright as the internal auditor.

72/24 To receive the Clerk's report.

A request has been made to relocate a grit bin in the Parish. Councillor Wolff will enquire with local residents regarding the location of the grit bin, and the preferred colour of the grit bin.

The Clerk has met with the supervisor of the Community Service Team, who have offered their services to carry out tasks in the parish. It was agreed that their services will be used for a trial period. The team will be supervised at all times.

73/24 To receive the Long Ashton ward District Councillors report.

The consultation into car park charges is closed and is now being considered by the scrutiny committee. The results of the non-recyclable bin collections consultation have not yet been published.

The bus service improvement scheme works have been paused to allow a reassessment of the work being carried out to be made.

74/24 To note the following planning decision made by North Somerset Council.

23/P/2566/FUH. 20A Flax Bourton Road, Failand BS8 3UW. Proposed creation of new access and alteration to hard standing. Refused.

The result was noted.

75/24 To receive an update on the trees encroaching over the highway on the corner of West Hill and Whitehorse Lane that require cutting back.

A letter is being drafted to be sent to the landowners asking them to cut back the trees. Hopefully this will prompt them into taking action.

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76/24 To receive and consider a VAS report from Councillor Sheppard.

Councillor Sheppard gave a demonstration of how the new VAS operates, and a presentation of the data it collects. Councillors Sheppard and Malpas will be compiling information to be posted on the council website.

77/24 To receive an update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan is waiting for approval by the North Somerset Council executive. Following that we are still on track for a referendum to be held in July.

78/24 To consider the problem of fly-tipping in the parish.

Councillor Sheppard gave a report about the problem of fly-tipping in the parish. He will consult with Portbury Parish Council to see if they are prepared to join with us to work on a joint approach to the problem. Councillor Sheppard will report back to the next Parish Council meeting.

79/24 To note the statutory payment invoices (minute 185/20) paid since the last Parish Council meeting.

Payee	Details	Amount £
K and E Property Maintenance	Dog and litter bin emptying March.	200.00
K and E Property Maintenance	Dog and litter bin emptying April.	200.00
Ed Sage	Contract	380.00
David Seabright	Internal audit fees	360.00
GB Sports	Playground inspections x 2 for 6 months	504.00
Cross Tree Centre	Room hire	180
ALCA	Annual subscription	685.90

The statutory payments were noted.

80/24 To note the non-statutory payment invoices paid since the last Parish Council meeting.

Payee	Details	Amount £
Tony Jay	Expenses March. Travel expenses £13.50; Home working allowances £26; Mobile phone £10; Zoom £14.40;	63.90
Tony Jay	Expenses April. Travel expenses £29.70; Home working allowances £26; Mobile phone £10; Zoom £15.59;	81.29
ALCC	Annual subscription. 50% cost shared with Wembdon PC.	25.00
PCAA	Annual subscription	95.00

The non-statutory payments were noted.

A schedule of all invoices and payments made in the current financial year has been circulated to all members.

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81/24 To receive any urgent business.

The Chairman reported that work is going ahead on the replacement of the fence opposite the foot of Wraxall Hill. He also reported that work is continuing on the content of the new information boards. The Chairman will be preparing an annual report detailing the council's activities in the last year to be posted on the website.

A meeting will be held between councillors from Nailsea Town Council, Backwell Parish Council and our Chairman to discuss the CCTV camera system not working at Nailsea and Backwell railway station and to consider what action can be taken.

A meeting will be held with the National Trust, who are desperate to increase their car parking facilities at Tyntesfield. They aspire to greatly increase their number of visitors. The National Trust has no sustainability travel plan, and our concerns are about visitors arriving in private vehicles not using public transport.

The malfunction of the illuminated signs either side of the top of Wraxall Hill was reported to North Somerset Council a long time ago. They cannot be repaired as the signs are now obsolete and spare parts cannot be obtained. Councillor Cartman will liaise with the Highways Department regarding the taking down of the old signs and their replacement with new ones.

The new defibrillator at The Elms should be installed shortly. Liaison is taking place with the electrical contractor regarding an installation date.

The new play equipment has been installed at The Elms and is already proving to be very popular with good feedback being received from residents. North Somerset Council are working on a press release and an official opening ceremony Is being arranged.

82/24 To agree agenda items for the next meeting.

To consider the relocation of a grit bin in Failand.
To consider the problem of fly-tipping in the parish.

83/24 To agree actions to be carried out prior to the next meeting.

72/24 Councillor Wolff.
76/24 Councillor Sheppard and Malpas.
77/24 Councillor Sheppard.
81/24 Councillor Parsons.

84/24 Date of next meeting – At the Cross Tree Centre at 7.30pm on 11th July 2024. A discussion amongst Parish Councillors will be held on Zoom at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th June 2024. Members of the public are invited to attend.

End of Minutes