WRAXALL AND FAILAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the discussion between Parish Councillors that took place remotely on Zoom at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th August 2024.

Present: Councillors Parsons (Chairman), Gorford, Malpas, Robinson, Sheppard, Vallentine and Wolff

District Councillor McQuillan.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay.

1. To invite public speaking.

No member of the public had requested to speak.

2. To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Bracey and Sandeman. Councillor Amos was not present.

3. To receive the Clerk's report.

The new play equipment has been installed at the Millenium Green. All that remains to be done is the installation of the flooring around the equipment following which it will then be open for use.

A National Planning Policy Framework survey is currently taking place, regarding proposed reforms to the NPPF and other changes to the planning system. Councillors Robinson and Wolff will be submitting comments on behalf of the Parish Council. They will forward their comments to the District Councillors for information.

There is still a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Anyone interested in becoming a councillor is asked to contact the Clerk, or any of the Parish Councillors.

4. To receive a report from the Long Ashton ward District Councillors.

District Councillor McQuillan gave the report.

The North Somerset Council Local Plan is now being reviewed due to the proposed changes in the National Planning Policy Framework, and the expected new Government's demands for more new dwellings to be built throughout the country including, of course, North Somerset. The Local Plan had originally included approximately 12,000 dwellings but this may now need to increase to around 22,000. Members will be briefed further in September.

The car parking charge proposals for towns including Nailsea is proving difficult for the Executive to resolve. Many traders and members of the public are against the introduction of charges, however there is a huge funding gap in the North Somerset Council finances, and so if parking charges are not introduced then other services may need to be cut elsewhere. There is a suggestion that some little used car parks could be considered for new house building projects.

4. To receive reports following attendance at meetings.

The Chairman has met again with the owners of the cottage at the junction of Whitehouse Lane and the B3128 regarding their trees which overhang the highway.

They have suggested amendments to the plans, which have been agreed in principle, and will be finalised and agreed at the Parish Council meeting in September.

5. To note planning decisions made by North Somerset Council.

23/P/0277/FUL. Watercress Farm. Bristol Road, Wraxall BS48 1NE. Extension to west elevation to Barn A, part-demolition, extension to north elevation to Barn B and provision of a "link" building between Barns A and B, to provide for 10no. bedrooms for holiday let use. External alterations to Barns A and B. Extension to existing wall to enclose courtyard, installation of seating. Provision of 5no. car parking spaces and cycle parking. Approved.

The planning decisions were noted.

23/P/0276/FUL. Orchard Farm, Bristol Road, Wraxall BS48 1NE. Conversion of the cottage, workshop and garage to holiday let accommodation (Use Class C1), along with external alterations. Demolition of the stables building and replacement with a single storey building for holiday let accommodation (Use Class C1). Change of use of Orchard Farmhouse to holiday let accommodation (Use Class C1), along with extension and external alterations. Provision of 7no. car parking spaces, cycle parking and associated landscaping. New road junction access to Bristol Road and associated access to site. Approved.

The planning decisions were noted.

6. To receive an update regarding the installation of gateway gates to be installed in Failand.

The Chairman described the proposed locations for the installation of the gates. These are at both entrances to Failand on the B3128 and at the top of Belmont Hill. It was agreed that the gates will not include a roundel showing the speed limit, and simply be gates with a sign stating ‘Welcome to Failand’.

7. To receive an update regarding the new nature and heritage information boards.

The Chairman and Councillor Sandeman will be meeting with the person drafting the content of the boards on 22nd August.

8. To receive a report on the Vehicle Activated Sign data.
There was no VAS report.

9. To receive an update from Councillor Vallentine regarding the content of the new information boards.

There was no update.

10. Councillor reports.

Councillor Vallentine reported that there has been concern amongst local residents regarding the survival rate of newly born ducklings at the North Somerset Council owned pond at The Elms. A high proportion of newly born ducklings are not surviving due to predation i.e. being attacked by other animals. The chief suspect is a local cat!

A site meeting was held at the pond recently with an Avon Wildlife Trust Community Ecologist. About fifteen members of the public attended. The ecologist explained procedures that can be adopted to help alleviate the problem. Concerned residents are setting up a 'Friends of the Pond' WhatsApp group. North Somerset Council will be contacted to discuss ways forward to implement these procedures.

Councillors continue to receive scam emails purporting to come from other councillors stating things such as 'please contact me urgently'. These should be ignored and deleted without opening.

The Neighbourhood Plan referendum will be held on 19th September. Copies of the plan are now available for inspection at the Cross Tree Centre and Failand Village Hall, which will be the polling stations. The Council will be considering ways to make parishioners aware of the referendum date and the locations of the polling stations.

The disused Wraxall Quarry, which is opposite the Battleaxes is owned by the Wraxall Trust who have decided to sell it. The quarry will be sold at auction in September conducted by Savills.

The previously identified Japanese Knotweed in a field in Lower Failand has been sprayed. It is not known who did this, but not all of the plant was sprayed, and it has spread close to a public footpath. Councillor Wolff will email the Environment Agency regarding this.

End of minutes.

10.

11. Councillor reports.

End of minutes.