WRAXALL AND FAILAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the discussion between Parish Councillors that took place remotely on Zoom at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th December 2024.

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

District Councillor: Ash Cartman.

Locum 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 Gorford and Sandeman. Councillor Amos was not present.

3. To receive the Clerk's report.

   The consultation period on the Bristol Airport expansion plans is now open. Councillors expressed the opinion that the Parish Council should not comment on the consultation, and should not oppose the airport's expansion plans but should concentrate on introducing traffic measures to reduce the amount of traffic passing through the parish between the motorway and the airport.

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

   District Councillor Cartman attended a recent Bristol Airport expansion plan briefing. Some local Parish Councils had complained that they had not been consulted by the airport, despite the claims of the airport. The increased flow of traffic going to and from the airport is a major concern of many local councils.

   We are waiting to hear how the government changes to the NPPF will affect the parish. There are three potential sites in the parish where major housing developments could be built. One is the site north of Nailsea currently subject to an application, one is close to the Elms and the last next to the Failand Triangle. It is likely that one of these sites will be chosen for development.

5. To consider the Parish Council's response to the below planning application.

   24/P/2445/FUL. Land to the west of Green Lane, Failand. Demolition of an existing building and proposed erection of a replacement general purpose agricultural building, for the predominant storage of fodder and machinery, as well as occasional livestock housing.

   It was resolved to respond that the Parish Council had examined the application and had no concerns to raise.

6. To receive an update regarding the recruitment process for a new Parish Clerk.

   An advert has been published on the Avon Local Council website, along with one on the Somerset equivalent. A notice has been posted on the Parish Council's website. It is hoped that a new clerk will be in post by the end of February.

   Weston in Gordano parish Council are also looking for a new Parish Clerk, so there could be the possibility that the two councils could share a clerk.

7. To receive an update regarding the duck pond in The Elms.

   North Somerset Council would be prepared to transfer ownership of the land which includes the duck pond in March 2026. The site would cost around £10,000 per year to manage, but there could be £60,000 in s106 money available to fund this. Therefore, there is a possibility that there would be no real cost to the Parish Council for around six years. District Councillor Cartman will obtain more details of the process involved, and exactly which land may be on offer.

   The work on the duck pond itself is a separate issue. Councillor Vallentine stated that the resident's group would like to have costings of the work that they would like to do in dredging the pond, and for tree maintenance. A duck platform should also be installed. District Councillor Cartman will try to obtain costings for this work.

8. To receive an update regarding the gateway signs.

   A tree motif has been sent to the supplier, which will be included on the signs.

9. To consider the Parish Council's response to the Government consultation regarding remote meetings and proxy voting at meetings.

   Two Councillors had responded with their views. The Clerk will submit a response to the online consultation based on the views expressed by the Councillors.

10. Councillor reports.

    One Speed Indicator Device has been located in Flax Bourton Road. The second one will be deployed shortly.

    At this point in the discussion Councillors will consider whether any members of the public present at the meeting should be asked to leave due to the confidential nature of the next agenda item.

    A request has been received that the Parish Council takes over the ownership and maintenance of the defibrillator at Honey and Ginger. This will be considered at the Parish Council meeting in January.

    The trees close to the junction of Clevedon Road and Whitehouse Lane need to be cut back prior to the bird nesting season in the Spring, to enable the public to walk along the grass verge. Councillor Malpas will progress this.

It was decided that the only member of the public present should be allowed to remain during the discussion about the next agenda item.

11. To receive an update regarding the North Somerset Council 'Delivering Together' programme.

    The North Somerset Council proposals were discussed. These included the maintenance and emptying of three litter bins in the parish; contributing towards the cost of maintaining the public rights of way in the district and taking over ownership of North Somerset Council run playgrounds. No decisions were made, although District Councillor Cartman was asked to obtain more detail regarding the playground proposals.

    Councillor Cartman was also asked to obtain more information about the request that Town and Parish Councils contribute towards the maintenance of Public Rights of Ways in the district.

End of minutes.