

MINUTES OF THE WRAXALL & FAILAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 26 MAY 2015.

PRESENT – Cllrs. Robinson (Chairman), Sheppard, Delmas, Law, Malpas & Mrs Lock.

IN ATTENDANCE – D/Cllr. Cave, Mr Tony Tavener, Mr Chris Ambrose, PC Martin Faithfull & Clerk.

PUBLIC – Fourteen.

APOLOGIES – Cllrs. Mrs Moon & King.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & ADDRESS – Cllr. Robinson (Chairman for last year and the current year) welcomed everyone and introduced PC Faithfull so that the PC could give his report and then leave the meeting as he was on duty.

POLICE REPORT – PC Faithfull introduced himself by stating that he had been in the Police for 20 years following service as a cadet. He was in Nailsea for 5 years from 2000 then served in the traffic dept. before returning to Nailsea as Beat Officer in December 2014. There are also 2 PCSO's for the area.

He reported that crime in this area was down by 38% whilst bike theft in Ashton Court/Leigh Woods was up. The perpetrators are resorting to following those with expensive bikes to their homes which are then targeted later. Some are violent in the woods and even drive cars into bikes. The drug problem is more in Portishead & Clevedon. He said that he is focusing on 'Vulnerable Properties' and 'Speed Watch'.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Cllr. Robinson gave his report, thanking the Councillors and Clerk for their work throughout the year and giving details of the work undertaken. He also thanked those Councillors who did not stand for re-election for their contribution over the years.

During the year Planning Applications had increased by 40%. There were two Appeals, against decisions by NSC – Hillside Nursery & the Frank Lloyd Wright house proposed at Tyntesfield Springs. There is also an Appeal, ongoing, re conversion of a Dutch barn at Tyntesfield Springs.

NSC should soon be considering the Planning Application re LIDL in Nailsea.

The revised Core Strategy is now with the Secretary of State for consideration.

GE Oil & Gas – in Nailsea but next to our boundary - have a Planning Application under consideration by NSC in respect of a Test Facility. This PC did not support this as it would result in the loss of 50 car parking spaces adding to the parking problem on Lodge Lane. Their Travel Plan re car sharing was considered to be overly optimistic.

Pylons will be reported on, by Chris Ambrose, later in the meeting.

The footpath Poll showed that residents were not in favour of the PC spending £20,000 on the northern route. The PC is going to research further regarding the southern route.

There is frustration re Road Repairs. NSC is under severe financial restrictions.

The local Bus service was reasonable but some have now been re-routed away from this parish.

Allotments will be reported on later in the meeting.

Broadband has very slow speed in Failand and Cllr. Malpas has been working with Dr. Fox MP and also pressing the authorities to get the lines upgraded sooner than the schedule they are working to. Cllr Law has taken the lead with Community Resilience.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Cllr. Sheppard said that he was co-ordinator for Lower Failand and that 16 out of twenty properties were signed up to the scheme. He will ask the Police for a note of

'vulnerable properties' and will contact the residents to see if he can get them to sign up. He said that sheds had been targeted in some areas – crime could not be negated totally. Cyber-crime has increased and cold calls are probably crime based.

QUIET LANES – Cllr. Sheppard was trying to improve road safety in the area but North Somerset Council (NSC) say that we are low risk. NSC says they are not prepared to install signs so they would only be installed on private land. Cllr. Sheppard has designed two which are being considered at present. Mr David Bird said that residents felt the speed limit should be reduced from 30mph to 20mph. He was advised that drivers will not stick to 20mph, as they don't to 30 mph.

ALLOTMENTS – Mr Simon Beck has been working with the PC on this with Cllrs. Delmas & Thompson. The results of the recent questionnaire showed a demand for allotments with the Lodge Lane site being preferred to the one proposed in Wraxall Village. NSC have said that the Lodge Lane site would be looked on more favourably if it was jointly with Nailsea. The questionnaire showed 145 supported the Lodge Lane site with 25 wishing to have an allotment. Those wanting an allotment have been sent a letter inviting them to a meeting on 10 June. The wildflower meadow did not have as much support. Mr David Bird queried car parking. Mr Beck said that the car parking will not be incorporated with the existing large gate but that this will be considered at the 10 June meeting and beyond. It was felt that there should be one large container for storage of tools etc. rather than sheds which would reduce the size of each allotment. It was thought that there would be a possible 40 allotments on the Lodge Lane site.

PYLONS – Chris Ambrose reported on the situation regarding the work which he and Dr Hugh Pratt have done in respect of trying to prove to National Grid (NG) that pylons should not be used when connecting Hinkley C to Avonmouth, following the building of Hinkley C. This started in 2009 and NG has now accepted their views. There are a lot of advantages with GIL (Gas Insulated Lines). They would be in pipes buried underground. Maintenance would be easier – the weather would not be an issue and there would be no downtime. Planning permission would not be needed except when anything is built on top of the proposed tunnel. The GIL system would only add 40p per year to an average electricity bill. This method is used all around the world. NG said they have not used it but, in fact, they do have 1 km. in Elstree which they installed 30 year ago.

WRAXALL PAROCHIAL CHARITIES – Tony Tavener reported that the charity has 2 plots of land – one which is being used by GE Oil & Gas as a car park and one in Nailsea, under the proposed pylon site. Meetings are held throughout the year. A mini bus is hired weekly to take elderly residents to Nailsea for shopping, library, doctors etc. Wraxall & Failand is a well-established area but there are always some families in need. An article will shortly be placed on the W&F Web site.

PRESENTATION OF GRANT CHEQUES – Mr David Bird, Treasurer of St Bartholomew's Church Failand accepted a cheque from the Parish Council towards works at that Church and Mr Bob Caton accepted a cheque for All Saints Church, Wraxall on behalf of the Treasurer who was not present. Both outlined how the funds would be used.

Meeting closed.