

## MINUTES OF THE WRAXALL & FAILAND PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE CROSS TREE CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON 1st MAY 2018

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 2nd May 2017 were approved as being a correct record of the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed all attending and gave her report on the year's activities, which was as follows:

### **Planning**

The consideration of planning applications in our parish is still the main work of the Parish Council. We seek the views of neighbours, visit the site, take into account current planning policy when discussing at our meetings and try and influence North Somerset Council with our recommendations and comments. They don't always agree with us.

### **Site Allocations Plan 2016**

This year has seen the Site Allocations Plan ratified by NSC, following consultation and examination by the inspector. This takes things up to 2016.

We had concerns about the green belt in our parish, but our concerns have been recognised and the pressure on our green belt has gone away for the next few years.

The next battle is the JSP, which Michael Reep will be talking about later this evening.

### **Joint Spatial Plan /Joint Transport Strategy**

The JSP deals with things up until 2036.

The Parish Council's gave its consultation response to the JSP and JST in January. Full details of our response are on our website. Our response addressed our following concerns:

The JSP proposes housing development in Nailsea, Backwell, Banwell and Churchill, in addition to further housing at Weston. The former can be considered to be 'dormitory' developments resulting in increased commuting to Bristol. New transport corridors (roads and MetroBus links) are proposed to take the additional commuter traffic, feeding into the Cumberland Basin road network that is already at capacity. The JSP does not propose improvements to this critical river crossing.

The PC considers this to be fundamentally the wrong approach, in that homes should be built close to the areas of significant employment. The proposal for housing at Ashton Vale is considerably more sustainable than the developments that the JSP proposes, as the basis for road, cycling and MetroBus networks is already in place.

Nailsea Town Council has rejected the proposal to build 2,575 new homes in an urban extension to the south west of Nailsea by 2036 and a further 725 homes beyond then. As an alternative they have requested a review of the Green Belt to enable their suggestion of a

wrapping development and link road around the existing settlement boundary on the land to the north and east of Nailsea, but which is in our parish.

The PC strongly opposes the removal of land to the north and east of Nailsea from the Green Belt and the suggested development of a link road through it, as exceptional circumstances do not exist to warrant a review of this Green Belt.

Given that economic development and employment for the northern and eastern part of North Somerset is likely to be in or around Bristol, then the PC consider that this is not given sufficient weight in the sustainability aspect of appraisal for Nailsea. The assumption that there will be a significant increase in the use of public transport is considered to be highly optimistic

Our concern is that there has not been sufficient analysis of the impact on the rural road network, as commuters may find that public transport will not be a timely and cost effective option for their place of work, and motorists will not be constrained to use the main road network.

In view of the proposed housing development to the west of Nailsea and Backwell, there will be an increase in the amount of vehicles which may find the existing routes to Bristol, B3130 and B3128, to be more suitable. We consider that there is a greater need for appropriate speed limits and traffic signals on those routes.

There is an assumption that the transport infrastructure should be in place before housing development starts in 2025. This is considered vital.

We welcomed that the JTS recognises that:

the Stone-edge Batch (B3128 / B3130) junction is a pinch point

the impact of traffic to the north of Nailsea (eg using roads through Portbury) will need to be addressed.

We requested that consideration be given to 3 things :

constructing a roundabout at the junction of B3128 with Portbury Lane, as this is heavily used by commuters and visitors (using satnavs) to the National Trust at Tyntesfield and as a secondary route to Bristol Airport.

increased traffic through Wraxall village associated with any new development around Nailsea.

supporting the introduction of Quiet Lanes to the small narrow minor roads around

Failand to discourage their use as 'rat runs'.

The PC are concerned about the visual and environmental impact that any multi-modal corridor improvement proposed between Nailsea and Bristol, particularly a highway or MetroBus route, will have on the historic landscape, including that associated with Tyntesfield, Birdcombe Court, Wraxall Court, Belmont House and the Bathing Ponds near the Land Yeo. A Site of Nature Conservation Interest is near the Bathing Ponds.

Land to the west and south of our parish is in the valley of the Land Yeo, where surface water and flood zones are very significant. Furthermore, the noise pollution would be amplified by the topography of the valley to the detriment of residents in this and neighbouring parishes. This transport corridor could affect agricultural use and the movement of wildlife.

Taking all these factors into consideration, it is likely that the engineering solutions and construction associated with any transport corridor in this area would be complex and costly.

Given the lack of detail, the PC requested that if the Planning Inspector wishes to consider any development to the north and east of Nailsea and new transport infrastructure in the Nailsea to Bristol corridor during the examination of the JSP, then the PC be represented and have the opportunity to submit an addendum to our comments to make our case in more detail.

It's clear that the JSP will be a major focus for the work of the PC in the months and years to come

## **Road Safety**

The PC has been involved in various road safety projects this year:

### **Wraxall School Crossing**

In August we saw the installation of the puffin crossing outside Wraxall Primary School. Particular thanks goes to District Councillor Charles Cave for his hard work in securing the scheme following North Somerset Council's withdrawal of funding for the school crossing patrol.

## **Failand**

Following discussions with and a great deal of work carried out by FRAS (Failand Residents Against Speeding) we held a public meeting in October to look at possible measures to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling through Failand.

Following that meeting a Failand Village Traffic Working Party was set up to look at how to address issues identified from that meeting.

It was clear that residents are concerned about the speed and volume of traffic through Failand, are in favour of a phased approach to address the issues and are not in favour of significant engineering measures.

The key considerations are to reduce the overall average speed through the village, to make it more obvious to motorists that it is a village, to improve safety at key pedestrian areas (Ashton Plantation, Failand Village Hall and bus stop access) and to discourage traffic from using Flaxbourton Road as a cut through.

Proposals are being worked up to submit to NSC Highways for consideration.

### **Speed Reduction**

Cllr David Robinson has been working with Tickenham , Abbots Leigh, Long Ashton, Pill and Easton In Gordano PC's in order to make a joint request for speed limit reductions on roads within the parishes.

Discussions with NSC have been successful as it has now been agreed that Beggar Bush Lane and Belmont Hill speed limits can be reduced from the national limit to 50mph, and that sections of the B3130 and B3128 can be reduced from the national speed limit to 40 mph.

We are informed that the speed limits will be amended this coming financial year.

### **Vehicle Activated Sign**

In addition the PC has purchased a Vehicle Activated Sign for use in key locations around the parish. We are awaiting delivery and in the meantime have one on loan from NSC that is currently in operation.

### **General**

The PC continue to provide and maintain play equipment at Millennium Green, arrange for the verges within the parish to be mowed and strategically placed dog bins to be emptied.

### **Police**

Our community beat officer, PC Martin Faithful, is unable to be here this evening, but I have his police report.

Our parish is one of Nine villages within the Redwood Beat Area of North Somerset.

Overall there were 1339 incidents recorded against the Redwood Beat. Of those reported incidents, 62 relate to Wraxall and Failand. That equates to 4% of all incidents within Redwood.

From those issues reported, the majority related to Theft , which includes drive offs from Budgens.

The figures remain comparatively low in our parish.

PC Martin Faithful is aware of the issues concerning Traffic Management and Speed in our parish and is keen to support and assist any community groups looking at measures. He is also keen to address issues caused by the flying of Drones near Livestock.

## Thanks

I would like to recognise the dedication and support during the last year of

- **Our clerk, Tony Jay**
- **All our councillors**, who are not paid, for their support and work for the community and the Council, in particular:
  - **Cllr David Robinson**, who retired as chairman last year having carried out the role for 5 Years, and also for his hard work especially on road safety and consultation responses in planning matters, especially the JSP
  - **Cllrs Martin Law and Richard Delmas** for conducting weekly health and safety inspections on the Millenium Green play area
  - **District Councillors Charles Cave and Kate Stowey** – in representing the interests of our parish particularly for planning, lobbying and liaising with NSC officers

The Clerk then gave his financial report, which was as follows:

The Parish Council finances are in a healthy state. At the end of 2016/17 the bank balances stood at £72,585. At the end of 2017/18 these had risen to £92,706. No major projects took place during the year. The increase in funds was mainly due to two reasons:

1. There was an increase in the precept demand from £34,200 to £44,631. This was agreed in order to build up a healthy set of earmarked reserves for future projects, and also to ensure that income equals expenditure. The earmarked reserves are currently as follows:

Parish Plan	£2,000
Pylons	£12,894
Footpaths	£2,000
Highways/Road safety projects	£11,000
Election	£500
Yeo Valley	£1,277
<b>Total</b>	<b>£29,671</b>

2. There was also a reduction in expenditure from £35,795 to £26,918.

In 2016-17 £7,355 was awarded in grants and donations. In 2017-18 this figure was £647. There was also a considerable cost of recruiting a new Clerk in 2016. This included the cost of job advertisements and also paying the retiring Clerk her gratuity.

I am very confident that all financial decisions taken by the Parish Council in 2017/18 have been the correct ones.

Tony Tavener gave a report on the work of the Wraxall Parochial Charities during the last year.

Michael Reep, the Planning Policy Manage at NSC, gave a very interesting briefing regarding the Joint Spatial Plan, and other related topics. A question and answer session then took place.

The meeting concluded at 9.35pm.