

MINUTES OF THE **WRAXALL AND FAILAND PARISH COUNCIL** MEETING HELD AT FAILAND VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Mrs Lock (Chairman), Malpas (Vice Chairman), Amos, King, Law, Robinson, Sage and Sheppard

District Cllr Cave

Parish Clerk – Tony Jay.

**127 TO INVITE PUBLIC SPEAKING**

No member of the public spoke.

**128 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Delmas, Mrs Moon and Mrs Vowles. Also from District Cllr Stowey.

**129 TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS ON ANY AGENDA ITEM**

No declarations were received

**130 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017**

**It was resolved** to approve the minutes as a correct record. (5 in favour, 2 abstentions).

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a correct record.

**131 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE PROPOSED SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL**

Messrs Frankie Mann and Rich Smith from NSC addressed the meeting.

Mr Mann outlined the background to the proposal to install a puffin crossing, which came through the school crossing patrol review. Various locations along the B3130 were considered for the crossing but it was decided that the proposed site is the only viable one in the locality. Mr Smith explained this decision in detail, but in summary it was reached because of visibility issues, and the unsuitability of the pavement width in other locations. Also that it is the site of the current school crossing and so motorists will already be familiar with children crossing at this location.

South Gloucestershire Council carried out a safety audit, and didn't raise any serious safety concerns with the proposed location. Their role assumes that NSC designed it in accordance with relevant legislation; guidance, and best practice so their role could perhaps be described as 'another pair of eyes' to look at the proposals and see if there are any safety concerns.

It is not possible to continue with the current school crossing patrol officer as there is no sustainable funding available. Also, there is nationally a shortage within NSC of people willing to carry out this role, and when the current crossing patrol officer leaves then she may be difficult to replace.

A consultation process has taken place, which has now closed. Letters were sent to local residents outlining the proposals. Although it was acknowledged that not all residents had received them. Letters of objection to the crossing have been received. The matter will now be decided upon by the executive member for transport following further discussion with objectors.

Councillors asked Messrs Mann and Smith a number of questions, including those raised in the local resident's letters of objection.

The following answers were supplied:

- a. In terms of queues of cars, the aim is to emulate the current number of vehicle stoppages, in the periods when the school crossing patrol officer presently stops the traffic. There is no expectation that the number of stoppages will increase during peak school hours. The crossing will no doubt be used at other times of the day, but the footfall in this area is minimal, and the crossing is expected to have infrequent usage at other times.
- b. The time gap between activations can be set. Studies will be carried out to determine the most suitable time gap. A balance must be set between ensuring that there are not repeated vehicle stoppages in a very short period of time, and the length of time that pedestrians have to wait. If the time is too great then pedestrians may cross the road between stoppages, which could be dangerous. A suggested time gap could be in the region of one to one and a half minutes. Pollution and congestion should be little different to the current situation.
- c. The crossing noise will be considered. It may be possible to have a clicking sound rather than a beep, or no sound at all. This option will be explored. It is possible to turn the sound off during certain periods, such as the night-time. It may be possible for the sound to be deflected so it can only be heard by pedestrians.
- d. The lights can be shrouded to ensure that they can only be seen by motorists, not from inside local buildings.

The Clerk of the School Governors spoke to provide the school's perspective. The school is very grateful to NSC for agreeing to install the crossing, which the school fully supports due to the increased safety of the school users crossing the road. The future sustainability of the school is only guaranteed if there is a safe place for children to cross the road. Without this the school would be in danger of closing. Training and advice will be given to parents and children, where they will be educated to group together to use the crossing in the same way as currently happens with the crossing patrol officer.

District Cllr Cave said that a lot of work had taken place to reach the current position, but it is important to consider the views of local residents.

Mr Mann said that a 20 mph speed limit has been suggested; however these are normally only suitable in residential streets, not roads such as this. Also if average speeds are higher than 25 mph then a 20 mph speed limit is not suitable. NSC has reached the conclusion that 20 mph is too low for this section of road. A 20 mph sign flashed at peak school times, but this is different to a 20 mph limit which would be in place at all times and is unnecessary at most times of the day.

It was reported that the local vicar is very keen that the new crossing should be installed. To enable safe access to and from the school to the Cross Tree Centre as the school wishes to use the centre for school activities during the school day, as well as for the community to access the Cross Tree Centre.

The school is used for breakfast club and after school activities, when a crossing patrol officer is not present, so road safety would be increased at these times. Also, there are not enough staff available to properly enable safe crossing of the children when the school wishes to use the Cross Tree Centre during the school day. Consultation with the school and residents is requested before settings for the crossing are decided.

Mr Mann said that the installation of the crossing would come from a completely separate budget to the one which currently pays for the crossing patrol officer. Cllr Cave confirmed that the latter budget will have no more funding for a patrol in the future.

Dialogue is continuing with local residents, and issues including as the shrouding of the lights, the suppression of the sound and programming to minimise traffic queueing will be considered.

Mr Mann asked that the Parish Council endorse the scheme, or otherwise, before he takes the matter to the executive member for signing off.

Mr Smith said that this work needs to be done during the school holidays, so there is now a tight timescale as the work is planned to commence in August. It would be better to incorporate the mitigating features when the crossing is installed, not to incorporate them later.

**It was resolved** to thank NSC for investigating and coming up with the proposals to install a puffin crossing. The Parish Council endorses these proposals, on the understanding that i) NSC continue with their investigations and fully explore and incorporate mitigating features including the shrouding of the lights; the suppression of noise; the times when the noise will be turned off and the timing gap of the lights; ii) that the mitigating features are in place at the time of installation and iii) to continue taking into account the concerns of the local residents. (7 in favour, 1 abstention)

### **POLICE REPORT**

PC Martin Faithfull was in attendance, and provided a Police report.

There have been 11 incidents recorded in Wraxall and Failand last month, which represents 10% of the total for the Redwood beat. This is a higher proportion than usual and is explained by a spate of mindless vandalism one night in the Elms where vehicles were attacked and damaged. The culprits have been identified. Three have already been interviewed. A further three will be interviewed shortly. Then charging decisions will be made. Also a number of 'drive offs' have taken place at Wraxall Service Station.

The beat team now operates from Nailsea fire station.

### **132 TO NOTE AND COMMENT ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

17/P/1513/F. 2no. Agricultural Buildings at Failand Farm, Green Lane, Wraxall, BS8 3TR. Change of use of 2no. agricultural barns to the production of wine and cider (Use Class B1).

**It was resolved** to support the application (7 in favour, 1 abstention)

17/P/1290/F. 37 Weston Road, Failand, Bristol, BS8 3UR. Retention of timber boundary fence and associated planting.

**It was unanimously resolved** to support the application.

17/P/1308/LB. 71 Jubilee Cottages, Bristol Road, Wraxall, BS48 1LJ. Listed building consent for the removal of two internal walls and to enclose the porch.

**It was unanimously resolved** to support the application.

17/P/1336/F. 10 Cooks Gardens, Wraxall. BS48 1HD. Conversion of integral double garage into living space.

**It was unanimously resolved** to support the application.

17/P/1404/F. 18A Flax Bourton Road, Failand, BS8 3UW. Relocation of existing single storey conservatory on the rear elevation, extension to form single storey pool house, construction of a rear infill extension and front and rear roof extensions.)

**It was unanimously resolved** not to object to the application.

17/P/1415/F. 1 Moat Cottages, Clevedon Road, Failand, BS48 1PG. Extensions and alterations to existing cottage.

**It was unanimously resolved** to support the application.

17/P/1463/F. Hazel Farm, Bristol Road, Wraxall, BS48 1LQ. Change of use of existing agricultural building to single storey 2 bedroom holiday let.

**It was resolved** to support the application (7 in favour, 1 abstention).

17/P/1482/TPO. 6 Wells Close, Nailsea, BS48 2SW. 1 x oak - reduce crown from house and garage to create 2m clearance.

**It was unanimously resolved** to support the removal of the lower branches, but not the reduction of the crown.

17/P/1485/TPO. 9 Woodland Way, Failand, BS8 3UD. T1 sycamore - reduce from building to gain 2m clearance; T2 horse chestnut - crown lift over footpath to give clearance of 2.5m.

**It was unanimously resolved** to support the application.

### 133 TO NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS MADE BY NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL

17/P/0861/F 21 Hill Drive, Failand, Wraxall, BS8 3UX. Single storey side extension with dormer window. **GRANTED**

17/P/1038/LUP. 14 Vowles Close, Wraxall, BS48 1PP. Certificate of Lawful use/development proposed for a proposed single storey rear extension following the demolition of the existing conservatory. **APPROVED**

17/P/1143/F. Failand Farm, Green Lane, Failand, BS8 3TR. Installation of a ground mounted 48 panel solar array. **REFUSED**

17/P/1084/F. South Lodge, Bristol Road, Wraxall, BS48 1LH. Erection of a single storey extension to front and rear elevation and changes to roof. **GRANTED.**

The planning decisions were noted.

### 134 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

A letter has been received from Failand and Portbury Cricket Club, thanking the Parish Council for the donation of £250 made to the club.

NSC has reported that the Lodge Lane hedge will be cut back in early October after the bird nesting season is over. In the meantime any protruding brambles will be cut back. However, the meeting was told that the hedge was cut back this Monday. The Clerk will clarify the position with NSC. The height of the hedge needs managing. This will be reported.

### 135 TO CONSIDER AN EMAIL RECEIVED FROM THE FRIENDS FOR WRAXALL C of E SCHOOL PRIMARY SCHOOL REGARDING FUTURE LINKS WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL

**It was unanimously resolved** to include a link to the school's website on the Parish Council website. Also to invite the school to give a presentation at next year's Annual Parish Meeting.

### 136 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

Cllr Robinson reported that he has attended a meeting with FRAS, and representatives from the Bristol Airport Community Fund and the NSC highways team. The FRAS team were keen to see if there was any progress that could be made, and to see whether the information that the FRAS team had collected would support the application for a grant from the Airport Community Fund. Wraxall and Failand are outside the airport's 'key area' but a grant could still be considered. There would need to be a good correlation between the traffic survey which has been carried out by NSC and the airport commuting times.

The airport community team will be looking into ways to communicate with staff and passengers to encourage them to follow the sign posted routes to the airport. NSC will review the signage scheme in the light of the FRAS suggestions. FRAS will contact the mapping providers to see if restrictions can be applied to Flax Bourton Road. The grant application needs to be focused on safety issues.

An indication was given that any grant from the airport may be in the region of 25% of the cost of any scheme.

The FRAS / Parish Council community meeting will be arranged for September. The parish Council Chairman will officiate.

The temporary road signage which can be seen from time to time relates to when the Portway is being used for the 'keep Bristol special' initiatives and also the running events. This takes traffic that should go along the Portway away from this preferred route which has a knock on effect on traffic going through Failand.

The Clerk will contact David Bailey to find out when the results of the traffic survey will be known.

**137 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ANNUAL ROSPA PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT**

Cllr Law gave a summary of the report. Most items reported are 'low risk'. Some were 'medium risk' but at the lower end of this scale.

The installers of the wooden equipment will be contacted at some point to inspect the condition of the bark.

The report said that the swings should be replaced, however they are sturdy and this is 'low risk' so no action will be taken at the present time.

**138 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL TO INSTALL A PHONE MAST IN FAILAND**

The Clerk has received an email from Craig Horn of Maxeema, which stated that Failand Village Hall was not a suitable location as a mast here would not improve the coverage at Long Ashton golf club. A new mast design will be used, which will be 2.5 metres shorter than the original design. A planning pre-application has been submitted.

Cllr Cave stated that Long Ashton Parish Council has decided that Failand Village Hall is their preferred location for the mast.

**139 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

A faulty stile in Bristol Road has been reported to NSC, and a new stile has been arranged.

The requisite number of stiles and gates for the Wraxall School walk have been requested.

**140 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FOLLOWING ATTENDANCES AT MEETINGS**

The Clerk gave a report from a planning briefing held recently at NSC.

This included the possibility that further development sites may be identified to the west of both Nailsea and Backwell.

The Green Belt restrictions are still in place, although Taylor Wimpey are submitting a major housing application within the Green Belt and it will be very interesting to see how that fares.

A consultation questionnaire will be received from NSC shortly, when every Parish Council will be asked to provide details of their Parish's amenities along with other information.

Cllr Robinson summarised a meeting that he and the Chairman had attended in Tickenham regarding traffic concerns when up to 2,500 new houses are built to the west of Nailsea, and the impact that this will have on the B3130. Currently, money for road infrastructure development will not become available until after the houses are built and s106 money is received.

**141 TO APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

| Chq No. | Payee          | Details  | Amount |
|---------|----------------|--|--------|
| 2768    | Playsafety Ltd | Annual playground inspection   | £79.80 |
| 2769    | Anthony Jay    | Mileage £30.60; Home working allowance £17.33; Mobile phone £2.50; Postage £14.52; Ink cartridges £15.00 | £79.95 |

The Clerk provided a summary of receipts and payments for the present year.

**It was unanimously resolved** to approve the payments.

**142 TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS.**

There was no urgent business.

**143 TO AGREE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Actions.

The Clerk – Minute 134 and 136