

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 1 MAY 2012 AT 7.30pm AT CROSS TREE CENTRE, WRAXALL

**PRESENT** : Cllrs. Robinson (Chairman), Sheppard, Sage, Law, Delmas, Thompson. D/Cllr. Cook & Clerk + 10 public of whom PC Adam Clarke (Avon & Somerset Constabulary), Ian Malpas (re. Web Site), Anthony Tavener (NHW & Wraxall Charities) & Jon Ducker (National Trust) were giving reports.

**APOLOGIES**: Cllrs. Ambrose, King, Pratt, Mrs Moon & Mrs Shaw. D/Cllr. Cave. Mrs Angie Sissons – Wraxall Charities.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

**CRIME** PC Clarke said that in the last 12 months there were only 59 crimes compared with 75 in the previous 12 months. There had been 402 calls from W&F compared with 557 last time. During the first 12 months there were no burglaries and only two for the year. There had been 26 thefts (half of which were from Budgens and half of those had resulted in prosecutions). He spoke about PACT (Police & Community Together) which meets ¼ ly at the Fire Station to decide on priorities for the next ¼. He also mentioned the Police website [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** Tony Tavener reported that it had been a quiet year. Cllrs. Sheppard & Sage are working on getting NHW up & running in Lower Failand.

**NATIONAL TRUST** Jon Ducker (Visitor's Service Manager at Tyntesfield) reported that there had been 220,000 visitors to the Estate (140,000 of whom had visited the House) – There were 130,000 the previous year. Most come from within 14 – 25 miles with others calling 'as they pass through the area'. The scaffolding was taken down last year, Home Farm is now a shop, Toilets & Cafe, the Aviary has been restored and the Orangery will be clear of scaffolding soon having been greatly restored. This has won an English Heritage award. There is a new cafe near the Kitchen Garden. There is a new route from the House directly to the Chapel. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trust owning the Estate – there are now 900 volunteers. This year there is a WW2 exhibition, cookery courses and garden tours. He left Spring/Summer brochures for distribution. He was told that the sign-age needed improving. He said that the NT realised this & the Ranger is trying to replace the bad ones.

**WRAXALL CHARITIES** The work of the Charities continues – Records from the Rectory were sent to Taunton Records Office when the Rectory was sold. Records show that one of the Charities gave 5/- in 1958, it is more like £100 now. The accounts, which were circulated, show that most of the investments are with COIF which can only be used by Charities.

**WEB SITE** Ian Malpas reported that the PC needed a more professional, robust Web site than the one which had been hacked recently. He had looked at 3 potential suppliers and 'In Touch with Communities' had been chosen by Councillors. They will build the Web site and run it too. It will be a government site which no one outside the Local Authorities or Town/Parish Councils can use. It will be integrated with NSC & should be up and running during May. He was asked about Links with other sites – he felt that we should build up the confidence of the residents and get the infrastructure right first.

The Chairman then gave his report on the PC's work during the last 12 months.

**PLANNING** This forms a large part of PC work. NSC is encouraging Parish & Town Councils to receive and disseminate planning information digitally.

Forty one applications were considered ~ 28 were recommended for approval and 13 for refusal. NSC agreed with over 80% of recommendations. Only one refused application had been taken to Appeal. There were 7 applications regarding trees which had Tree Preservation Orders on them, and 3 Listed Building applications. One application was withdrawn prior to determination and there were 2 amendments to the original applications, which had to be reconsidered.

**LOCALISM** The Regional Spacial Strategy has been abolished and replaced by National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The Chairman was asked the difference between the Parish Plan (PP) & Neighbourhood Plan (NHP). He explained that the PP was advisory whereas the NHP is a legal entity.

**PYLONS** The National Grids proposal is still being opposed. Much work is being undertaken by Cllrs. Ambrose & Pratt. Their report published in 2010 supplemented by the Consultation report for the DECC has caused National Grid to revisit their analysis of under-grounding and conclude that it is less costly than they first claimed. Recent developments include the Pylons debate in the House of Commons 22.3.2012 introduced by our MP, Dr Liam Fox, in which he praised the PC, in particular Cllrs. Ambrose & Pratt.

**NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF)** This is the biggest shake-up of planning in 60 years. It makes clear that the Local Plan is the basis for decisions in planning and the presumption in favour of sustainable development works through, not against, the Local Plan. It emphasises that the definition of sustainable development embraces social, environmental & economic objectives, and that none can be pursued in isolation of the others.

**CORE STRATEGY** This was adopted by NSC in April 2012. Villages of Wraxall & Failand are designated as 'Countryside villages', so have no settlement boundary but are part of the Green Belt. Development for agricultural or recreational purposes are permitted. However, The Elms retains a settlement boundary. Affordable Housing will be provided by our neighbours, Nailsea & Long Ashton. There will be no development in gardens but substantial agricultural building can be converted into holiday lets.

**PROW** Cllr. Robinson reported that Cllr. Pratt has been working on several Rights of Way – through Tyntesfield, North Somerset Agricultural ground, to Wraxall School, Sustrans cycle route & a Riverside Walk. The Bridleway through Tyntesfield is now operational.

**OLYMPIC TORCH** The torch will come through Failand between 7.33am and 7.44am on Wednesday 23 May 2012. It will be carried by Linda Nutting who has links with CHSW. It is hoped to have a banner suspended from a tractor stating 'Wraxall & Failand Parish Council welcomes Linda Nutting etc.' and a photographer to publicise and record the event.

**QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE** An oak tree is to be planted in the grounds of Failand Village Hall with a marker stone to commemorate the event. The ROW by the side of the river, when completed, is to be named the Jubilee Path. The Church are planning a Garden with water feature in the Churchyard and a donation towards this may be made by the PC. We had thought that this would cost in the region of £3000 but Peter Sapsed explained that it is now to be the Church's Jubilee memorial and will be in the region of £7000 plus seating and water feature (say £10,000). He said that all contributions would be welcome.

**ROAD SAFETY** Parts of B3128 and B3130, Tower House Lane & Wraxall Hill have been re-surfaced. Some pot-holes have been repaired but there are still some to be done. Road markings have been improved including ones at the GE Oil & Gas roundabout. No action has yet been taken re the problem of vehicles turning right out of Budgens. NSC have not responded to our request for a lower speed limit on the B3128.

**TRANSFER OF ASSETS & SERVICES** NSC are reviewing what has to be provided. They are talking to PC's. If assets & services are transferred to PC it must cost less than currently. D/Cllr. Cook said that PC's are underrated. They could do things better, if not cheaper,

**FINANCE** With the current financial climate the PC set the Precept with only a 5% increase to make provision for costs associated with Neighbourhood Plans. The reserves, to respond to National Grid's proposed route for Pylons, remain largely intact.

In conclusion The Chairman thanked the Councillors, District Councillors Bob Cook & Charles Cave, Liaison Officers Richard Blows & previously Sally Varley, Our Neighbourhood Beat Officer PC Adam Clarke & PCSO's Charlotte Thompson & Gary Lewis, David Shattock, Ian Malpas, John Chapman, John Ives, the Clerk and the residents who support the PC.

The meeting closed with thanks from the Chairman to all those attending.

