**Parish Council news (from notes from the September meeting).**

**Norton Trailblazers**

Jo Webber, Club Manager from the Norton Trailblazers attended the meeting

Norton Trailblazers is a voluntary club for children over 10 in the village to take part in adventurous activities at the weekend and during school holidays. The activities are intended to foster a spirit of adventure and build confidence and resilience in the children, open their eyes to a wonderful natural world beyond their local area, and encourage a healthy and active lifestyle.

Over the school holidays they ran activity days on the Quantock Hills, Exmoor coast, Dartmoor, and caving in the Mendip Hills. In the future, they hope to run the full range of activities as they did for the Taunton group; these included trips to Lundy Island, the Cornish coast, Gower, Snowdonia and the highlands and islands of Scotland. The group needs equipment for climbing activities. The parish council invited Jo Webber to apply for a grant and were very keen to help the volunteers.

**West Somerset Steam Rally**

The weather on the Saturday was unfortunately very wet and takings were down but many attended on the Sunday when the weather improved. Costs have increased. The bus service was well used and next year it is hoped the vintage buses will return. The stone operation on the Norton site will cease when the temporary planning permission runs out. WSR are then looking to build a carriage shed.

The parish council are looking to purchase a defibrillator for the new playing field, there may be grants available and this is being investigated.

Cllr. Dee Childs has volunteered to manage a facebook page for the parish council and this should be up and running soon.

**Ford Farm development**

The Government is removing the requirement for developers to remove phosphate contamination from housing developments as this will be dealt with by Wessex Water when new treatment plants are opened in approximately 2 years time. This issue has been delaying building on Ford Farm for several years. Developers will, however, still have to install some form of mitigation.

**Bus route no. 25 & 28**

The fare subsidy will continue until March 2024 and the £1 fare to Taunton will continue until the 3 years are up. More use is needed on these routes to prevent cuts to services in 2024.

The bus station will be refurbished and turned into a ‘Mobility Hub’ it should re- open next year.

**Date, time and place of next meeting:**

**Wednesday, 4th October, 2023 at 7.30pm in the village hall.**