

Puxton Parish Council

Meeting held on 4th February 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Hewish

Present: Cllrs Sue Popperwell (V Chair & Meeting Chair), Katy Wilson, Andy Butterfield, Mandy Edwards

In Attendance: Cllr Tom Leimdorfer (NSC Congresbury & Puxton Ward), Don Hill (Locum Clerk)

Public Attendance: 5

12/16 Opening remarks

Cllr Popperwell welcomed everyone to the meeting and also welcomed Don Hill as the Locum Clerk. She reported the resignation of Cllr Bruce Cameron, due to pressure of business commitments. Bruce's resignation has to be, reluctantly, accepted, and members asked the Clerk to minute their thanks and gratitude for his involvement and support during the past 16 months. A Notice of Vacancy for a new Councillor will be posted in the noticeboards and on the website tomorrow, February 5th 2016.

13/16 Apologies for Absence

None

14/16 Declarations of Interest

None

15/16 Minutes

The minutes of the 14th January meeting were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chair.

16/16 Public Session

Matters were raised and noted as below:

i Public matters raised

- a **School VAR Lights:** The Council has been assured that these will be in place by the end of March 2016. Despite Cllr Wilson's endeavours (continuing), there is still uncertainty as to exactly what format these lights will take. The Parish is clearly horrified that NSC's legalistic definition of what is or is not a village has been allowed to override what is in the best interest of Children's' safety.
- b **Trading in Lay-by:** cars-for-sale are being parked in lay-bys. As soon as numbers are provided, **Locum Clerk he will follow up the legalities.**
- c **Tipping/Recycling:** Concern was raised before and at the meeting about lorry movements in the Moorland Park area, and whether these might be associated with illegal tipping or recycling activity. Cllr Leimdorfer referred to the Moorland Park 2011 planning application (11/P/1937/F) to create an equestrian centre for their own use. This is being established on a raised and drained site which is requiring the importation of a large amount of groundwork material.
- d **Lorry Movements re Ebdon Road Works:** the meeting was updated re the degradation of Wick Lane verges and the movement of site lorries outside the timetable prescribed within grant of planning permission. NSC enforcement is non-existent and immediate residents' frustrations and complaints have been conspicuously ignored. There was a hint of complainant exhaustion which will surely be only a temporary phenomenon, despite being hugely understandable.
- e **Solar Farm Community Grant:** Elgin Energy have assured a grant of £30-40000 on connection of their Solar Farm off Wick Lane to the National Grid. It was urged that the Council set up a working group well ahead of this time to plan how this grant might be used (within the statutory limits laid down for such use) for the benefit of the Parish. The idea was noted for follow-up. Cllr Wilson is seeking information on Solar Farm progress to date.

ii **Police Report**

Yet again, no Police Report. Whilst it is appreciated that attendance in these constricted times is not always possible, the Police Report **is** expected. Cllr Leimdorfer indicated the Congresbury does get this service. **Locum Clerk will contact PCSO Marie Broomfield to establish a more regularised contact.**

iii **NSC Ward Councillor's Report** (*Cllr Tom Leimdorfer*)

a **Budget**

Government grant funding is reduced by £8.2m. Business Rate income increases by £2.5m. The Executive recommendation to Council includes: a 3.75% Council Tax Rise that will probably be for 3 years and will not preclude the cuts that are currently planned for Home to School transport; Vulnerable Learner Service (Education Psychology & Behaviour Support); Community Family Teams; Day Centre services (with perhaps some increase in direct payment support); Supporting People Services; Pensioners Diamond Travel – limited to use after 9.30am, (currently 9am); grants to Voluntary & Community organisations.

b **Discretionary Rate Relief**

NSC are reviewing discretionary rate relief for voluntary and leisure organisations (scouts, guides, cadets, golf clubs, village halls ...), who traditionally receive a rates bill showing concessionary 100% relief from their headline rates charge. The principle is that all organisations should contribute an element of their rate bill in the same way that even the lowest income council tax payers are required to pay at least 25%. The new charges will apply from April 2017. Temporary relief (up to 100%) can be granted in cases of proven hardship.

c **Core Strategy Sites & Policies Part 2**

The Sites & Policies Part 2 draft document has been approved by the Executive for consultation. This now includes new site allocations for housing developments in Backwell, Congresbury, Langford, Yatton, Clevedon, Nailsea and Weston. Several of these sites are coming forward as planning applications to be determined before the consultation can be completed on the Sites & Policies. Concern remains that this imposed growth from Central Government is set against the lack of corresponding infrastructure growth and service cuts enforced by severe budget cutbacks.

d **Waste Contract and new site for Waste Depot and Transfer Station**

NSC have leased a site on the Westland Distribution Park in Winterstoke Road, owned by St. Modwen, to provide a waste transfer station and depot. This is in anticipation that the new provider of waste contract services will agree to use these new facilities from 2017.

e **VAR lights, A370 St. Anne's School**

These warning lights are due to be in by the end of March, as originally reported in December.

As an addendum to Cllr Leimdorfer's report, concern was raised about the seriously dangerous lane management of the A370 outside the Congresbury Tesco. The meeting was assured that Congresbury Parish Council and Cllr Leimdorfer are acutely aware of how dangerous the entry/exit arrangements are at Tesco and are pressing for a safe solution.

iv **Mendip Vale Medical Practice Report** (*Tom Dalley*)

a Appointments: The surgery group are now offering 'same day appointments'. However, they may not be with the patient's usual doctor, nor even at their usual surgery.

b Nailsea District Leg Club (*part of The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation*): they are at Nailsea Tithe Barn, Church Lane, BS48 4NG. Tel: 07827 233437, and are seeking volunteers to help in their work to relieve suffering from leg ulcers and associated conditions.

c New Website: A new group practice website has now gone live.

- d Specialist GP Trainees:** Drs Saurov Pal, Dan Baumgard and Chris Lear are with the practice until August.
- e Springboard Opportunity Group:** supports North Somerset children (from birth to 5) and their families with additional needs. They operate in Clevedon and Weston and are seeking more volunteers. Learn more by visiting www.springboardweb.org.uk.
- f Befriending:** The Practice are seeking volunteers from among their patients to help older patients who are lonely, isolated or need help to get to the surgery. If anyone likes meeting people, enjoys sharing time with them and is keen to make a difference to their quality of life, contact Mrs Lesley Viney at the Yatton Surgery. Tel 01934 839820 or call in at any of the Practice Surgeries to register an interest.

17/16 Governance

i Locum Clerk

The draft temporary contract had been previously circulated. It was unanimously agreed and signed by the chair and Locum Clerk

ii Governance

There are 20 documents in various stages of approval. These will be circulated in draft before the March meeting and will need to be adopted at the April meeting to satisfy 2015-16 internal audit requirements.

18/16 Ongoing Issues Not Updated via the Public Session

- i Traffic Speed on A370:** Siting of the police mobile speed trailer is arbitrary. Whilst it is particularly wanted around St Anne's School it has been seen in lay-bys well away from there. **Locum Clerk to pursue with Police in conjunction with 16/16 ii above.**
- ii Broadband:** Cllr Wilson is personally pursuing a possible grant from 'Connecting Devon and Somerset' who's map indicates that the A370 corridor through the Parish will not be covered by their superfast broadband upgrade scheme. She will share any positive information that comes from this.
- iii The Old Bridge at Puxton:** Cllr Butterfield is pursuing information about plans for this.
- iv Website:** Cllr Edwards will pass details re the new website to **the Locum Clerk to progress.**
- v Transparency Funding:** This is a grant of £835 towards legally required updating of Parish Councils' accountancy and audit procedures. The Puxton PC grant has been made and paid into the Council's bank.
- vi Coopting Councillors:** A Notice of Vacancy will be posted on February 5th following from Cllr Cameron's resignation. There are three vacancies. If there is no take up from the notice it was agreed that a leaflet for distribution through the Parish will be prepared, to also include details of the May Council AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting and its possible guest attendees/contributors. **Locum Clerk to progress.**
- vii The Village Hall:** Cllr Popperwell is monitoring information about the Hall's future plans.
- viii Canadian Solar Farm:** Cllr Wilson is monitoring the cutting back and planting of screening hedges re this project, having regard to the conditions of the planning permission.

19/16 Finance

i. 2015-16 Accounts to Date

Locum Clerk to bring accounts up to date for the March meeting.

ii. 2016-17 Budget and Precept

Precept of £6360 submitted to NSC and acknowledged.

iii. Bank Mandate

Clerk to organise updating to remove past signatories and include all current Councillors.

iv. Cheques for Signature

Village Hall	Hire for 3 meetings	Ch 100085	£75.00
D Hill	Pay & Expenses for	Ch 100085	£122.55
NSC	May Election Charges	This is overdue as it was sent to Nannette.	

Locum Clerk to prepare a cheque for signature and dispatch as soon as possible.

20/16 Planning

i New Applications

16/P/0231/ADV & 16/P/0253/F – The Round Pond – retrospective, re garage change of use to beauty salon and associated illuminated signs x2 at entrance. No objections. **Locum Clerk to so inform NSC Planning.**

ii Decisions

15/P/2354/LDE Refused **15/P/1894/F** Granted

iii Decision Awaited

15/P/2385/NMA

iv Outstanding Appeal

14/P/2087/F Puxton Park re Lodges

21/16 Exchange of information between Councillors

No additional matters were raised to those already discussed.

22/16 Future Meetings

It has already been agreed that meetings will be held in the Village Hall, at 7.30pm, on the 1st Thursday of every month. The schedule below allows for the tradition ‘no meeting’ in August.

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) has to be held in May, so the Schedule below indicates the 1st Thursday in May as being both the PC AGM and Ordinary Meeting (starting at 7.00pm) and the APM starting at 8pm.

2016	March 3 rd	April 7 th	May 5 th	June 2 nd	July 7 th
	September 1 st	October 6 th	November 3 rd	December 1 st	
2017	January 5 th	February 2 nd	March 2 nd		

This schedule was agreed. **Locum Clerk will to book these meetings.**

23/16 Date of Next Meeting

3rd March 2016

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

CHAIR

Date: