

PUXTON AND HEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

Life At the Heart of the North Somerset Levels

Autumn 2018

Congratulations to St Anne's Church Academy on reaching it's 150th Birthday this year!

HEWISH & PUXTON VILLAGE HALL LTD

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee - Registered Charity Number 1178504

We set out to raise £180,000 for the purchase and re-furbishment of our Village Hall. The first hurdle has been crossed: purchase of the Hall freehold was completed in July, for £85,000, plus £200 for search fees and £350 for necessary solicitors costs. A huge vote of thanks has to go to both Nick Redding, our solicitor at Barrington & Sons of Burnham, and to David Plaister, the estate agent who set the purchase deal up for us at no charge.

£5,000 each, from just 9 residents (or £2000 each from 23!), would see us achieve the matched funding target needed to reach our £180,000 goal and get the major refurbishment goals achieved!

In 1965, the Hall's charitable status was put in place by the Hewish Social Committee, who



worked with such endeavour to get a lease on the land and to then build the Hall. Many of the groups forming that Committee are now, sadly, no more and there was a need to update the charity trust deed. This is now done; the original charity being replaced by a new one in the form of a company limited by guarantee. The new Charity is still run by Trustees, who also act as the Directors of the Limited Company. Initially these Trustees/Directors are the same people who were the Trustees of the original Charity. They are also "Members" of the Company (think of them as akin to shareholders in an ordinary limited company).

In the old Charity, all the Trustees had to resign at the end of each AGM. Public from the surrounding area could attend the AGMs to raise issues and they would then vote into office the Trustees for the forthcoming year. Under the updated structure, those entitled to vote at AGMs are called Members. In the worst case scenario, under

the old Charity, Trustees could be held liable personally for the total of any indebtedness at the winding up of the Charity. In the new Charity, Members will pay £10 to join and that represents the amount they guarantee to make available in the event that the Charity should close with outstanding debts: ie, the risk of each member is limited to the guaranteed amount that they contribute when they join - which amount will be held in a separate ring-fenced account.

At the first AGM next February, all the existing Directors must resign, but can present themselves for re-election. At future AGMs, only one third of the Directors must resign, thereby giving the governance process more stability.

For the Articles of Association, click on the 11th April 2018 entry - Resolutions - at:

<https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/company/11180713/filing-history>

We have three further hurdles to cross! **1.** To get members; **2.** to achieve our fundraising target and **3.** To re-establish a Social Committee from among the Membership to focus on a programme of worthwhile and fun Community events that will, in a 21st century way, revive the social energy that gave birth to the hall in the first place.

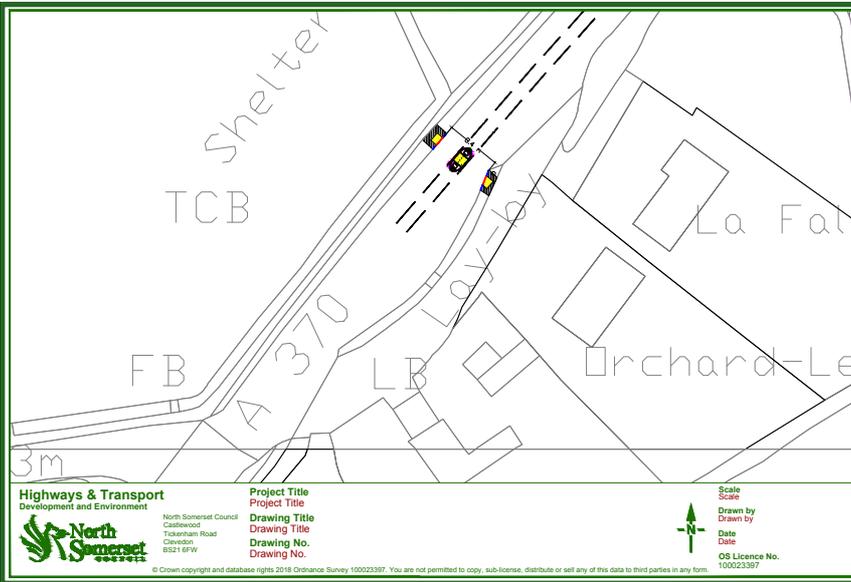


A NEW CENTRAL REFUGE ON THE A370

We have five bus stops along the A370 - The Beacon Works, Puxton Lane, The Full Quart, Palmers Elm and Villa Farm.

Recent changes to school transport services have exposed the appalling problems bus users - and everyone else of course - experience in trying to cross this busy road. Whilst crossings or central refuges would be a boon, trying to engineer them into the exiting road system is not easy.

However, a start has been made. We have an opportunity for a central refuge to be put in at the Palmers Elm bus stop, near the Wick Lane and Maysgreen Lane junctions.



At some £8,500, such a facility does not come cheap, and these days Parish Councils are expected to contribute all, or at least some, of the costs to such schemes. We are discussing, with North Somerset Council, the possibility of the Parish contributing half the cost to the proposed central refuge in the expectation that this will prompt its inclusion in their programme of work to be completed during the 2019-20 financial year. We will keep you posted!

FASTER BROADBAND

At last we have the prospect of faster broadband for those who do not benefit from being served by BT's cabinet 19 on the A370. Gigaclear is the company laying the necessary fibre cables along our lanes. Once the infrastructure is in place residents will have the opportunity to subscribe to a fibre to property service that will provide a fibre right to you internal phone connection. This will be vastly superior to the existing fast broadband service, which only takes the fibre cables to the green

roadside cabinets - leaving the old copper wires to do their best on the journey from the cabinet to your premises. Fibre to premises does not come cheap. Subscribers will pay £40-£80 per month depending on the speed selected; there will be a £100 activation fee and a charge of some £130 for a fibre connection from the subscriber's front door to their telephone. For business and for many private homes, this will prove an invaluable service. For others it will prove an unwarrantable or an unaffordable expense.

GREAT WAR VETERANS REMEMBERED

At the centenary of World War I ending, thoughts turn to those, locally, who gave their lives in that war. St Saviours has two plaques giving names; does anyone have family connections with any of these people, or information about them?



L/C Herbert John Atherton
Pte John Henry Bishop
Pte Fred Cox
Pte Charles Dykes
Pte William Richard Kimmins
Pte Reginald Charles Neath
Lce-Corpl William Edward Palmer

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