

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Puxton & Hewish: in the North Somerset Council Ward of Congresbury & Puxton

Clerk: Donald Hill - 18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, North Somerset BS49 4JG

Tel: 01934 835578 Mobile: 07774 125578 e-mail: clerk@puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk Website: puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk

You are Summoned to a Council Meeting in the Village Hall **at 7.30pm** on **Thursday September 4th 2025**

All are welcome, unless precluded by a procedural resolution. You will not be entitled to speak, except within the Public Session

Don Hill - Clerk

AGENDA & AGENDA NOTES

We have a vacancy for a Councillor - contact the Clerk or a Councillor, in the first instance, to apply

It is expected that members of the public attending Parish Council meetings will be respectful of the Councillors and of all attendees. Unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated and the offender will be asked to leave. Parishioners will be invited to speak for 3 minutes in the Public Session. Their contribution must be to do with an agenda item or on current matters only and should be in the form of a statement; to be noted and followed up as necessary. It is at the discretion of the Chairman to suspend standing orders so that contributions from the public can be sought during the meeting if it is thought to be useful.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS** (*Dispensations apply to Cllrs re percept setting, and Village Hall matters*)
3. **PUBLIC SESSION 15 minutes** - contributions limited to 3 minutes: they should be concise and to the point
4. **LAST MEETING MINUTES**
July 3rd minutes to be agreed and signed.
5. **PLANNING** Details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>
 - i. **New:**
 - ii. **To Ratify:**
 - a) **25/P/0246/FUL:** New Orchard Farm Hewish - Change of use of land from agricultural to business to site a mobile office unit; retrospective. No objections.
 - b) **25/P/1424/LDE:** Caffle, Bristol Road Hewish: Professional submission to regularise application reference 25/P/0156/LDE which was privately submitted and granted. No objections.
 - c) **25/P/1328&9/LDE:** Puxton Moor Farm - 2 existing barns; retrospective. No objections.
 - d) **25/P/1418/FUL:** (Kingston Seymour PC) Solar Farm at Yew Tree Farm. No objections.
 - e) **25/P/1520/HUH:** Harrys Barn East Hewish Lane - single story extension. No Objections.
 - f) **25/P/1098/FUL: Dolemoor L Solar Farm** (Congresbury PC). Puxton Parish Council has reviewed this application by email. It lies on the boarder between this parish and the site parish of Congresbury and has not thus far proved controversial in reaching this point. The Council are pleased to see that the applicant has given good consideration to the biodiversity of the area and the proposal is sympathetic to it. These biodiversity aims will ideally be a condition of a granted application - for example: Maximum removal of hedges 32m - An Arboricultural Method Statement and finalised Tree Protection Plan to be completed prior to development being commenced - Perimeter to have appropriate fencing - Rhynes to be protected during construction, during the lifetime of the solar park and during decommission - Any site access during construction and for ongoing maintenance to be constructed sympathetically to the area - When the site reaches end of use it is to be returned to Greenfield status and decommission not to have any negative environmental impact.
- vii. **Decisions Due:**
 - a) **22/P/3067/OUT:** Haybow Village (Banwell PC).

- b) **24/P/0143/FUL:** Gypsy/Traveller site below Heathfield Park.
- c) **23/P/2593/FUL:** Gypsy/Traveller site opposite The Full Quart.
- d) Secretary of State referred application c) above back to NSC for decision.

v. **Approved**

- a) **19/P/0815/FUL:** Puxton Park car park.
- b) **25/P/0523/FUL:** Glebe Cottage Puxton - conversion to two homes.

VI. **Enforcement:** One ongoing case.

6. **FINANCE**

- i. **2025-26 Accounts:** to be reviewed and approved against the bank statement.
- ii. **Air Ambulance Grant Request.**
- iii. **Payments to be Approved:** HMRC re PAYE Jul/Aug/Sep £240.60

7. **PARISH MATTERS**

- i. **A370: St Annes School Signage and Speed Issues being monitored by Cllr Redding:**
 - a) **Gully overflows:** NSC require pictures of flooding before they will investigate.
 - b) **Road Safety:** St Annes Speed Watch scheme - update from Cllr Redding.
- ii. **Fly-tipping/Litter picking:** The Parish Maintenance contractor having delegated powers to search and follow up on fly tipping still being investigated by Cllr Thomas. An update on the site meeting with NSC re Dolemoor Lane fly tipping is due at the September meeting.
- iii. **Highway Verge Erosion on Puxton Lane:** Responses awaited from two NSC online reports logged by Cllr Redding.
- iv. **A370 Central Refuges:** NSC responses awaited on internet applications re bus stops at The Full Quart, Moorland Park and Puxton Lane and related road safety improvements.
- v. **Bus Shelters** - Request for their retention with NSC. Response being pursued by Cllr Thomas.
- vi. **Defibrillator at Village Hall:** Progress report.
- vii. **Parish Maintenance: A370 Footpath:** Test clearance of a section of path delayed due to a machinery fault: **Flailing** is due to be done by NSC but no timetable available. **Footpath from Old Post Office to Palmers Elm** reported as in need of cutting back again - it was done in July. A new Maysgreen Lane sign needed and has been requested from NSC. Update from Cllr Riddell.

8. **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

9. **GOVERNANCE**

- i. **Preparing for Assertion 10:** (AGAR 2025/26)
- ii. **Community Governance Review** NSC's 2nd consultation.

10. **NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 2nd October 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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Minutes of the Meeting Held at 7.30pm on Thursday July 3rd 2025

All meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall unless stated otherwise

Although under no obligation to, Dan Thomas, our NSC Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Lynda Redding, Mel Ellis, Clayton Penfold.

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 2

054/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs J Corbett, H Riddell, P Penfold, Ward Cllr D Thomas

055/25 DECLARATIONS: *(Dispensations apply to Cllrs re percept setting, and Village Hall matters)*

Cllr Redding re the Solar Farm at Minute 058/25 i, which is similar to a project her family are connected with.

056/25 PUBLIC SESSION *15 minutes - contributions limited to 3 minutes: they should be concise and to the point*

- i. Concerns were raised about Flavours again. It is believed to have been auctioned off in sections and there is concern about the legitimacy of the process and the likely outcomes. 12 points of concern were raised which the **Clerk will raise with NSC Planning Enforcement.**
- ii. At the end of the Public Session a parish resident, accompanied by a witness, entered the Hall (from who's property he is barred by a Hall edict issued by their solicitor), and served a notice, signed by 6 voting residents of the parish, to the Chair. The notice requested that a Parish Meeting be called to review 'information put before us'. The Chair acknowledged receipt of the notice. The resident was asked to leave by the Chair. The Clerk, in conformance with police advice, was about to ring them re the resident's presence in the Hall. Finally, Cllr Redding - firmly - 'ordered' the resident to leave, which he and his witness then did.

057/25 LAST MEETING MINUTES

June 5th minutes were agreed and signed.

058/25 PLANNING *Details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>*

- i. **New: 25/P/1098/FUL** Dolemoor L Solar Farm (Congresbury PC). This was not quorate for discussion. **Clerk to circulate to all Councillors (except Cllr Redding who declared an interest at Minute 055/25 above) for comment.**
- ii. **Decisions Due:**
 - a) **19/P/0815/FUL** Puxton Park car park.
 - b) **22/P/3067/OUT** Haybow Village (Banwell PC).
 - c) **24/P/0143/FUL: Gypsy/Traveller site below Heathfield Park.**
 - d) **23/P/2593/FUL Update re Gypsy/Traveller site opposite The Full Quart.**
 - e) **25/P/0523/FUL: Glebe Cottage Puxton - conversion to two homes.**

- iii. **Calling in to NSC's Planning and Regulatory Committee: Applications 24/P/0143/FUL and 23/P/2593/FUL above:** Members were consulted on this after it was rumoured that planners were minded to pass these applications without them being passed to NSC's Planning and Regulatory Committee for review and decision. Both applications and all associated paperwork have in fact been 'Called In' to the Secretary of State for review and decision by planning inspectors. We believe that this process is likely to take several months.

059/25 FINANCE

- i. **2025-26 Accounts:** were reviewed and approved against the bank statement.
- ii. **Payments to be Approved:** Refund of expenses to Cllr Riddell re the purchase of a litter picking trolley approved per June meeting Minute 051/25 vii a: £368.99 (ratified).

060/25 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **A370: St Annes School Signage and Speed Issues being monitored by Cllr Redding:**
 - a) **Police DCB** (data collection box): This box collects data that can be use for prosecutions. It is deemed unlikely to get to us due to there being a backlog of some 500 sites at which it is in demand. Since our request the Council have acquired a Speed Indicator Device (SID), which, although not providing Vehicle Recognition Data, is providing useful 24/7 information on traffic flows and speeds.
 - b) **Gully overflows:** pictures of flooding needed by NSC before they will investigate.
 - c) **Road Safety:** St Annes Speed Watch scheme awaiting training schedule.
- ii. **Fly-tipping/Litter picking:** The Parish Maintenance contractor having delegated powers to search and follow up on fly tipping still being investigated by Cllr Thomas. An update on the site meeting with NSC re Dolemoor Lane fly tipping is due at the September meeting.
- iii. **Highway Verge Erosion on Puxton Lane:** Responses awaited from two NSC online reports logged by Cllr Redding.
- iv. **A370 Footpath:** Test clearance of a section of path delayed due to a machinery fault.
- v. **A370 Central Refuges:** NSC responses awaited on internet applications re bus stops at The Full Quart, Moorland Park and Puxton Lane and related road safety improvements.
- vi. **Bus Shelters** - Request for their retention with NSC. Response being pursued by Cllr Thomas. Cllr Riddell suggests that the Council would undertake cleaning of the shelters if they were to remain. The Clerk pointed out that, maybe, NSC will condition such a move by this Council being responsible for the ultimate cost of the removal of the shelters. They have an NSC estimated life span of some 5 years and their removal, now, by NSC would be costed in as part of their bus improvement grant.
- vii. **Defibrillator:** The WI are discussing the possible installation of a defibrillator at the Village Hall. If this project goes ahead the Parish Council would, in principal, undertake to fund the annual maintenance costs subject to the submission of estimates. A suitable location has been suggested by the Hall.
- viii. **Parish Maintenance:**
 - a) **Hand Cart for Litter Picking:** Purchased per June Minute 051/25vii a) at £368.99 against authorised price of £400 and added to Asset Register.
 - b) **Flowers for Planters:** The meeting noted that they were, bar some due for the 'Village Green' in Puxton, planted out and looking good.

061/25 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Ellis

Once again, significant traffic hold ups at the Congresbury traffic light are causing chaos of both traffic and peoples travel timetabling. This is doubly frustrating because on a significant number of occasions there appears to have been no work being done by contractors replacing the gas main. The suggestion was ruefully put that a complaint about the chaos should be sent to NSC, but it was not followed through because NSC must be weary worn over complaints about traffic management during a long string of roadworks along this section of the A370.

Cllr C Penfold

Sections of the A370 footpath need flailing for road safety reasons as overgrowth is forcing users onto the highway - ie could be done even during the down-season for such work due to bird nesting. Sections between Kara Farmhouse and At Anne's School were noted. **Clerk will raise the problem with Cllr Riddell.**

Cllr Redding

Information Commissioner's Office (ICO): Challenge to an ICO decision by a parish resident:

There was a three hour judge-led tribunal held via the internet on June 25th, which Cllr Redding attended as an observer. ICO did not attend, but submitted their 'bundle' of evidence - this is apparently not unusual. The resident attended, working from his own bundle of evidence. The case revolves around a complaint by the resident to ICO that he was not provided with the full set of available information that Puxton Parish Council should have made available to him in relation to their 2022-23 accounts. ICO ruled that it was reasonable to presume that the full available accounting information had been provided, which the resident disputes. A judgement in the case will be given a few weeks from the hearing date.

North Somerset Community Response Team: Continuing vexatious interference at the Village Hall prompted Cllr Redding to contact the newly reconstituted NSC Community Response team, that deals with Anti-Social Behaviour. They are currently unable to assist, because the two officers currently employed are paid for by Weston Town Council and are confined to operating within that boundary.

Vexatious Requests and Complaints policy - A policy for dealing with abusive, persistent or vexatious requests/requestors, and/or complaints/complainants: The Council has just one resident to whom letters of restriction apply under this policy. The behaviour which prompts the need for these letters is constant, and therefore the subject of ongoing review: during June alone 10 Freedom of Information Requests and 15 Internal Reviews were requested from the same parishioner. Most received a reply. Cllr Redding reminded Members that a new Letter of Restriction is on its way.

Trespassing on Hall Property: This evening's trespass as at Minute 056/25 ii above, will be reported to the police as is usual in relation to such an incident.

070/25 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 4th September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9pm

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL INCOME & EXPENDITURE: 1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026 (Precept £12752.00)

DATE		BANK					GENERAL FUND EXPENSE ANALYSIS												OPERATING FUNDS				
2025-2026	ITEM	CH Minute	IN	OUT	BALANCE	Stmnt	NOTES	Clerk	Clk/Cltr Exp	Hall Hire	Parish Maint	Ins/Subs Audit	Pub-licity	Other Costs	Web Site	Bank Chrgs	TOTALS	VAT	Election Pro	Capital Prov	General Fund	Total Op Funds	
Apr 1	Funds Bought Forward				13,444.84														2130.14	6401.00	4913.70	13444.84	
	OPERATING BAL B/F				13,444.84	142													2,130.14	6,401.00	4,913.70	13444.84	
Apr 1	ALCA Sub	BACS		116.16	13,328.68	143						116.16					116.16				116.16		
	Clerk's Pay & Expenses	SO		355.30	12,973.38	143		321.00	34.30								355.30				355.30		
	Village Hall Hire	SO		22.92	12,950.46	143				22.92							22.92				22.92		
	NSC Precept		6376.00		19,326.46	143											0.00		500.00	1,500.00	4,376.00		
	Bank Charges			5.00	19,321.46	143										5.00	5.00				5.00		
	P Smith Internal Audit 2024-25	BACS		63.00	19,258.46	143	Agrees					63.00					63.00				63.00		
					19,258.46												0.00				0.00		
May 1	Clerk's Pay & Expenses	SO		355.30	18,903.16	144		321.00	34.30								355.30				355.30		
	Village Hall Hire	SO		22.92	18,880.24	144				22.92							22.92				22.92		
	Bank Charges			5.00	18,875.24	144										5.00	5.00				5.00		
					18,875.24												0.00				0.00		
Jun 5	HMRC PAYE Apr/Mau/Jun	BACS		240.60	18,634.64	144	Agrees	240.60									240.60				240.60		
	Clerk's Pay & Expenses	SO		355.30	18,279.34	145		321.00	34.30								355.30				355.30		
	Village Hall Hire	SO		22.92	18,256.42	145				22.92							22.92				22.92		
	H Riddell refund Helping Hand Inv			368.99	17,887.43	145					368.99						368.99				368.99		
	Bank Charges			5.00	17,882.43	145	Agrees									5.00	5.00				5.00		
					17,882.43												0.00				0.00		
Jul 3	Village Hall Hire	SO		22.92	17,859.51	146				22.92							22.92				22.92		
	Clerk's Pay & Expenses	SO		355.30	17,504.21	146		321.00	34.30								355.30				355.30		
	No bank Charges after July				17,504.21	146											0.00				0.00		
	Bank Charges			5.00	17,499.21	146	Agrees									5.00	5.00				5.00		
					17,499.21												0.00				0.00		
Aug 1	Village Hall Hire			22.92	17,476.29	RT				22.92							22.92				22.92		
	Clerk's Pay & Expenses			355.30	17,120.99	RT	Agrees	321.00	34.30								355.30				355.30		
					17,120.99												0.00				0.00		
Sep 4	Clerk's Pay & Expenses			355.30	16,765.69			321.00	34.30								355.30				355.30		
	Village Hall Hire			22.92	16,742.77					22.92							22.92				22.92		
	HMRC PAYE Jul/Aug/Sep			240.60	16,502.17			240.60									240.60				240.60		
					16,502.17												0.00				0.00		
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