

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Puxton & Hewish

Clerk: Donald Hill

18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, Somerset BS49 4JG
Tel: 01934 835578 Mobile: 07774 125578 e-mail: clerk@puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk

You are summoned to a Council Meeting on Thursday 6th July 2017 at 7.30pm in The Village Hall

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

Don Hill - Clerk

A G E N D A & A G E N D A N O T E S

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3. **PUBLIC SESSION - 15 minutes:** Residents may raise matters affecting the parish.

4. **REPORTS - Ward Cllrs Report** - Cllr Leimdorfer.

5. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** - 1st June, to be agreed and signed.

6. **MATTERS ARISING NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE**

7. **POLICING AND TRAFFIC**

Crime: police.uk April: A complaint has been registered with the PCC about the ineffectiveness of this site due to it being 2-3 months out of date and having no effective follow-up information.

A370: A370 monitoring is done by Traffic Police - now a tri-force serving 3 forces... i.e., very stretched. The replacement motorcycle officer will be operational early July. Policing pressures mean those with an active SpeedWatch get priority support. We need volunteers to re-start SpeedWatch.

When is speeding is at its worst (i.e. day, evening or nights): on which day or days (eg Thursday evening bikers): and on which particular stretches of the A370?

8. **NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL MATTERS**

Blocked gully: outside The Firs in Puxton Road. Reported. NSC in direct negotiation the The Firs (recently sold stc) as their domestic drainage runs into the gully - an old and now rare arrangement.

St Anne's School Repair: Why did the lights remain on the last day, when no work done? Enquiry out.

Maysgreen Lane: New 30mph signs and posts on order.

A370 Street Light: at the J21 side of the Wick Lane repaired.

St Annes Graveyard Hedges: Site meeting held. NSC in direct contact with residents and producing a programme of improvement and maintenance once all their similar sites have been assessed.

Palmer's Elm Farm Ditch: No response re further information request to complainant.

J21 traffic light syncing: When last reported, the traffic light operation and syncing seemed greatly improved, however when traffic was backing up from the West Wick roundabout and Queensway works this was causing the lights to go out of sync. These lights are maintained by Highways England and NSC will investigate further with them.

Wick Lane: NSC have completed jet-patching of the whole road.

A370 Highways Issues: There are three ongoing issues that have been increasingly rattling residents and the Parish Council in Puxton of late. They all relate to the A370 between Junction 21 of the M5 and Congresbury. Whatever thread we use in dealing with them 'through the usual channels', they end up hitting the budget wall. No money available, therefore nothing can be done. In the meantime they are set to become more and more intractable in the longer term:

Stonebridge Farm (Enforcement):

The residents of Heathgate Paddock have suffered appallingly from, sometimes up to 10 lorries per 20 minutes, churning up dust and muck immediately outside their property, which sits opposite the entrance to Stonebridge Farm. So bad has the situation been that they are in the process of seeking reparations from North Somerset Council. It appears that NSC planners are powerless to enforce the conditions of their planning permission due to inept wording of those conditions. The bringing in of landfill is sure to continue for some 6 weeks at least - it has been murmured that it may go on for the rest of 2017.

The key Stonebridge Farm issues are:

A complaint - Whilst wheel washers are apparently on the premises they are not being used - and such is the wording of the planning condition that their use cannot be enforced. So users of the busy A370 have been subjected to a fog of dust on dry days and a sea of mud on wet ones.

A concern - that what is going on at the site may be significantly in contravention of the permission as originally granted; a concern that enforcement are understaffed - or for some other reason disinclined - to investigate.

Gullies

A370 Blocked Gullies towards J21: The gullies in the Banwell part of the A370 towards J21 need to be hand dug to clear. NSC claim that they do not create flooding issues as they are, so their clearing appears not to be a priority. The community says they do cause flooding onto the A370 which is clearly a traffic danger, particularly in the dark.

A370 Blocked Gullies outside Spring Cottage, opposite SJH Machinery: These gullies are known to present flood problems, but according to the correspondence history, are not the subject of particular concern to Highways. Our Area Engineer, Nick Raymond, is investigating the current blockage with a view to their being jetted.

The Pavement

A footpath runs between J21 of the M5 and Congresbury, on the 'to Bristol' side of the A370. It is the only means of safe communication along this stretch of road and in places has, over many years, become so overgrown that it appears NSC are loathe to start clearing it for fear of what costly re-construction horrors may lie hidden. Something has to be done to this vital community link, which, in some significant places, is fast degenerating to the point of unusability - particularly by those with wheelchairs or prams etc. The Area Engineers for Puxton and Congresbury have voiced concerns about the problem - but it is one for Highways to resolve and they have stubbornly not done so.

What we are seeking is that we can all work towards some realistic and affordable long-term solutions - particularly to the footpath crisis. A response to these issues is awaited from NSC.

Highway Weight Limits: Having found old signage, re a lorry restriction, in a hedge at the start of Wick Lane, the Clerk sought clarity on exactly which road in the Parish are subject to 7.5 ton limits. Puxton Lane is subject to a 7.5 ton limit re the Oldbridge River Bridge. Wick Lane is not subject to any weight restriction - ergo, the old, faded sign hidden in the hedge at the A370 should be removed.

9. OTHER ISSUES

Broadband Speeds: CDS workshop due after appointment of a contractor: progress remains slow.

NSC Free Flowers: Cllr Popperwell to update.

Hewish & Puxton Village Hall: a funding sub-committee is in place and updates are imminent.

Village Map: Missing section and Map to Cllr Corbett for safe-keeping. No response from Cat Lodge.

10. FINANCE

2017-18 Accounts: pre-circulated with meeting papers.

2016-17 Audit: External Audit in progress.

Cheques for Signature: 10012 ... HMRC re PAYE £147.80 10013 D Hill re purchase of Parish Map section X14 £25.20

11. PLANNING (Latest enforcement Case Report - May 2017)

New:

Decisions Due: 17/P/1028/F New field entrance. **17/P/1170/CUPA** Trotters dwelling. **17/P/1230/LDE** Oakacre - use of dwelling without the agricultural occupancy condition.

Granted: 17/P/1082/LDE Murphy's; flat.

Appeal: No 17/3167087: Puxton Park re planned nursery school.

12. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: In the Village Hall on the 7th September 2017 at 7.30pm.