
PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Puxton & Hewish

Clerk: Donald Hill

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These minutes have been agreed by Members electronically, but will remain draft until ratified at our September 2nd meeting

Minutes of the Annual & Ordinary Zoom Meetings at 7pm on Thursday 6th May 2020

All meetings are held at 7.00pm in the Village Hall unless stated otherwise

Stuart Treadaway, our Ward Cllr, attends when possible

There are vacancies for further Councillors - please contact a Councillor or the Clerk if you are interested in becoming involved

Present: Cllrs Jim Corbett (Chair), Lynda Redding, Peter Penfold, Clayton Penfold.

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

045/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ANNUAL MEETING

046/21 ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

It was unanimously agreed that the Current chair (Jim Corbett) become Vice-Chair and the current Vice Chair (Lynda Redding) becomes Chair for the year to May 2022. Cllr Redding will complete a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Clerk to record changes with NSC and website.

047/21 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Redding to continue as our representative on the NSC Standards Sub-Committee.

048/21 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Pre circulated, noted and forming part of these minutes, as attached.

ORDINARY MEETING

049/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

050/21 PUBLIC SESSION

There was no public session

051/21 MEETING MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2021 were agreed for signature by the Chair.

052/21 GOVERNANCE

Annual Governance Statement Approval: In relation to the Annual Review of Governance documents (Minute 020/21 of the February 2021 meeting), Section 1 of the 2020-21 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) - The Annual Governance Statement - was pre-circulated with the meeting papers, was reviewed, agreed, and will be signed by the Meeting Chair and Clerk as a true representation of the Council's internal governance controls.

- 053/21 PLANNING** (For full application details visit <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>)
New: **21/P/0808/FUH** Rosemary Cottage, Wick Lane - single storey side and rear ground floor extensions to main dwelling and extension to rear of garage to create summer house. **No Objections**
21/P/1063/AOC Mendip View Business Park - Discharge of conditions 19 (Ecological Constraints), 20 (LEMP), 22 (Surface water), 23 (Foul drainage) and 25 (CMP) on application 19/P/2633/FUL (for information only).
Decisions Due: **21/P/0676/FUL** Willow Farm Drive. **21/P/0511/FUH** Tile House Studio Extension. **20/P/1438/FUL** Park & Ride adjacent to Heathfield Park. **20/P/2790/FUL:** Puxton Court Farmhouse: 3 dwellings. **19/P/0815/FUL Puxton Park** car park. **20/P/1756/FUL** Opposite Full Quart; stables.
Approved: **21/P/0417/FUH** Chestnut Court: Extension.
Refused: **21/P/0542/AGA** Willow Farm Barn (proposal does not constitute permitted development).
- 054/21 FINANCE**
i) 2019-20 Accounts: Internal audit now complete.
ii) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 (AGAR): Certificate of Exemption – “AGAR 2020/21 Part 2” & Section 2 - “Accounting Statements 2020-21”: each reviewed, agreed and signed off. **Accounts to be posted to web with Exercise of Public Rights notice at due date.**
iii) 2020-21 Accounts: These were pre-circulated, reviewed and noted.
iv) Payments: (via online banking). **Phil Smith** Internal Audit £45.00. **APS** Parish Maintenance £288.00
- 055/21 OTHER MATTERS**
Maysgreen Lane: Possible candidate for 20mph speed limit? NSC may be extending 20mph zones. Government’s guideline average speed needs to be as low as 24mph for a 20mph zone to be installed. **Clerk to sound out NSC.**
Public Footpaths: Outcome of NSC footpaths initiative awaited.
A370 Village Entry Planters: Due to volunteers leaving the area and, very sadly, one dying, care of these planters has lapsed for the past two years. Immediate neighbours to the planter at the J21 entry to Hewish have offered to plant it up and water it this year. Cllr Redding will write to to thank them and assure them of our support. In July, thought will be given to both this planter and its counterpart at the Congresbury entry to Hewish. Hopefully a sustainable planting and maintenance regime - which includes regular watering and soil maintenance of course - can be put in place. If it cannot be, the planters will need to be capped to prevent the growth of the unsightly weeds we have seen recently.
- 056/21 ITEMS MONITORED BY CLERK** (shared with Area Officer each month)
A370 Pedestrian Crossing: Installation due.
Puxton Road: Work re flooding at Council Houses appears to have been done. **Clerk to confirm via NSC.**
A370 link between Old Post Office and Palmers Elm: to be done by works team; date awaited
- 057/21 COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS**
Cllr Redding: Holy Saviour Churchyard - Cllr Redding has been able to put together a maintenance team to carry on the ground-keeping so successfully started last year in conjunction with volunteers from Congresbury. The Hewish & Puxton team is larger for 2021 and will hopefully be able to carry a greater burden of the work needed to look after this cherished site, where many local families maintain graves. All are welcome to join the next tidy up sessions on May 21st, June 12th, July 3rd at 11am.
- 058/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday July 1st in the Village Hall at 7pm ***

* June Meeting Date: Evolving Covid-19 regulations mean it will not be possible to hold parish council meetings - electronic or in person - from 7th May until June 21st: therefore there will be no Parish Council meeting in June. Members agreed that future meetings should continue to start at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

Puxton Parish Council Annual Meeting - via Zoom - 6th May 2021 at 7pm

Report of the Chair

Meetings

Covid has meant the past year has been extraordinary, and perhaps less busy, than a normal year.

There was no meeting in April.

Following guidance, there was no Annual Residents' Meeting in 2020. A ruling came out that electronic signatures would not be acceptable on audit documents, so a brief meeting was held in the car park of the Village Hall, towards the end of May, to sign off the the audit papers and to ratify the pre-agreed annual meeting matters.

The next meeting was in July and was our first attempt at a virtual meeting. Luckily, although some of us had previously had no cause to use Zoom, we got the hang of it, and were lucky that, with notoriously poor signals in parts of our parish, all Councillors were able to get a good enough broadband signal to manage meetings.

With, as usual, no meeting in August, We re-started Zoom meetings (at 7pm rather than at 7.30pm) on the 1st Thursday of each month.

After May 6th 2021, latest sources of guidance (as usual somewhat conflicting) mean that we will not be able to hold meetings, electronically or in person, until June 21st 2021.

Agendas

In July we had 12 planning applications going through the NSC system, and a healthy flow of these continued to appear from month to month... some contentious, but most fairly routine.

There were also a range of highway issues that looked as though they would be severely slowed down by an overstretched workforce. As some were dealt with others appeared, of course, but the main future 'event' will be the replacement of the Oldbridge River bridge, for which NSC now have planning permission. We are also expecting a central reservation to be installed on the A370 in the area of the bus stops near Palmers Elm.

Everyone is seriously concerned about the NSC delays in rectifying the drainage issues at Council Houses in Puxton Road. The road floods on a bend and is an invitation to skid to an unwary driver. The floods often make the road impassable for pedestrians and cut off the entrance to at least one of the houses.

Finance

An uneventful year. Key recurring expenditures are now managed via bank standing orders. Cheque handling has proved a bit of a challenge during Covid, with our creditors proving to be very tolerant of delays enforced by the various-lockdowns. We have now got online banking to secure a smoother payment provision and to cover payments in the event of any future lock-down problems.

All-in-all then, an unusual year, from which we hope to move on positively as we emerge from the Covid crisis - a process which may take years rather than months.

CLLr Jim Corbett - Chair
May 2021