

## Minutes of the Meeting Held at 7pm on Thursday 2nd September 2021

*All meetings are held at 7.00pm in the Village Hall unless stated otherwise  
Phil Neve, our Congresbury & Puxton NSC 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 Lynda (Chair), Jim Corbett, Peter Penfold, Clayton Penfold

**In Attendance:** Cllr Phil Neve (NSC) Don Hill (Clerk)

**Public Attendance:** 1

*Cllr Phill Neve, our new ward councillor for Congresbury and Puxton, was warmly and informally welcomed to the meeting.*

### **059/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Helen Riddell, re Minute 060/21 as a new work role meant an unexpected change of shifts.

### **060/21 NEW CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR**

Helen Riddell's application was discussed and unanimously agreed to via email. Due to cancellation of our July meeting, Helen's role as a Councillor only becomes effective by agreement at this meeting, and completion of the necessary paperwork. **Clerk to arrange for the completion of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Register of Members' Interests.**

### **061/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**

None

### **062/21 PUBLIC SESSION** (15 minutes - Contributions are limited to 3 minutes: they should be concise and to the point.)

Reports of vandalism at the Village Hall are concerning. Minute 066/21 Governance, below, also suggests that security is becoming an issue for the Council. The Chair, in referring to the Minute below said the governance documents concerned were simply updating earlier formats of governance documentation (the NSC version of the Vexatious Behaviour Policy had been our guidance on that topic to date). The issue of vandalism at the Hall is a matter for the Hall and is currently in the hands of the police. It would, therefore, be inappropriate to comment further.

### **063/21 MEETING MINUTES FOR PC AND ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETINGS + MATTERS ARISING**

5th May 2021 was the date of the last meetings. Regulatory contradictions meant our June date did not allow of a meeting, our July meeting had to be cancelled and, as usual, there was no meeting in August. Minutes of both May meetings, having been agreed electronically by attendees, we ratified here, and the Chair duly signed them as accurate records.

**064/21 PLANNING** (Full details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>. New applications may be listed on the Monday immediately prior to the meeting; if so, details will be pre-circulated to Councillors and be included within this agenda)

#### **New Applications**

**21/P/1800/FUL** Elm Farm, East Hewish - conversion of barn to one bed bungalow. It was established that the justification for this application was as declared in the application. On

that basis, it was supported, with no objections being raised. This view was duly reported to NSC planners on August 9th and is ratified at this minute.

## Decisions Due

**20/P/1438/FUL** Park & Ride, Heathfield Park.

**19/P/0815/FUL** Puxton Park car park.

**21/P/1063/AOC** Mendip View Discharge of conditions.

## Applications Approved

**20/P/1756/FUL** Opposite Full Quart; stables.

**21/P/0511/FUH** Tile House Studio Extension.

**21/P/0676/FUL** Willow Farm Drive.

**20/P/2790/FUL:** Puxton Court Farmhouse: 3 dwellings.

**21/P/0808/FUH** Rosemary Cottage extension.

## Applications Approved but electronically agreed comments to be ratified

**21/P/1432/FUL** Rose Cottage Wick Lane Change of use garden room to bedroom. Whilst some members did not object, others objected to the application because, whilst ostensibly a straightforward application for a change of use, the argument for the change revolves around the need to accommodate a third family member, on an occasional basis, in a house with three bedrooms already.

**21/P/1320/FUL** Workshop/store - via email - No objections, but will the site will be too congested? The comments relating to these applications were ratified at this minute.

## 065/21 FINANCE

**2020-21 Accounts:** Pre-circulated with meeting papers, reviewed and noted.

**Payments Made** (*online - to ratify*): **HMRC PAYE** April-June £198.00 **Adrian Leonard** June Parish Maintenance £288.00, July Parish Maintenance £288.00.

These payments were agreed electronically and were ratified here by definition as the accounts presented above were accepted as a true record.

**Payments Due:** **HMRC PAYE** Jul-Sep £198.00 **Adrian Leonard** August parish maintenance £288.00. The meeting agreed that these payments should be made and that this minute will stand as the authorisation for these payments.

## 066/21 OTHER MATTERS

**Maysgreen Lane:** NSC are seeking to extend 20mph speed limit zones within village environments. Maysgreen lane would appear to be an obvious candidate because it is beset by heavy volumes of traffic, a significant amount of which is large commercial lorries and agricultural contractors vehicles. It is, essentially, a single track lane with passing places. The traffic speeds might stretch the average 24mph that is stipulated within the central government guidelines for the imposition of a 20mph limit: neither does it fulfil the requirement for there to be significant housing on **both** sides of the road. Cllr Neve pointed to such issues in other areas of North Somerset and stressed that bureaucratic obfuscations should not be allowed to impede the outcome of a logical and necessary goal. It was agreed that the Council should pursue the goal of a 20mph speed limit along Maysgreen Lane.

**Public Footpaths:** Outcome of NSC footpaths initiative awaited.

**A370 Village Entry Planters:** A sustainable planting and maintenance regime might be possible via sponsorship. Self-sustaining 'pot-bound' shrubs were a possibility, but would need a regular maintenance regime. Cllr Corbett suggested the judicious planting of daffodils on the kerbside. Cllrs Redding and C Penfold agreed to pursue the issue to a solution.

**Village Hall Wi-Fi:** the grant possibilities to effect this seem less positive than as originally presented. Hall management will pursue possibilities and let hall users know as and when a positive outcome is in sight.

**Governance:** ratification of the **Vexatious Behaviour Policy** and updated **Code of Conduct**, were agreed unanimously.

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022:** Beacons on the Somerset levels are counter-intuitive. However, a party in the Village Hall was proposed and Cllr Redding, in her role as Chair of the Hall Management company, undertook to develop this idea with the Hewish & Puxton Village Hall Ltd board. It was acknowledged that this Council would support the event in ways that were deemed 'mutually appropriate' to the event and its purpose.

**2023 Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review:** Initial proposal is to put Puxton and Hewish in the Wells Constituency and rename it 'The Wells and Mendip Hills Parliamentary Constituency'. Any change will not alter the local government boundaries of North Somerset Council, of which we will remain a Parish within the Congresbury and Puxton Ward. Members were ambivalent about this proposal but, in accepting that it was an initial idea being floated for consultation, agreed to await more solid proposals before entering any debate about the efficacy of such a move.

**Parish Council Facebook Page?** After discussion, it was decided not to pursue the idea.

**Website Cllr Information Update:** this data has just been updated by the Clerk: Helen Riddell's details need to be added and the NSC team informed.

**Councillor Dedicated PC Email Addresses?** There are pros and cons to this increasingly used and ALCA recommended practice. After a discussion, it was agreed the the Clerk will investigate the setting up of such accounts with the website provider and report back with costs and recommendations.

**Use of Notice Boards:** Lynda proposed a more positive use of the parish notice board on the green in Puxton Road and the hall notice board once it has been repaired post-vandalisation: she will follow up getting key duplicates cut or, if necessary, the supply of a new lock from Arien Designs of Cheddar.

**Unlicensed Large Commercial Signs:** have reportedly appeared for caravan Storage on A370 Hewish: Cllr Corbett to supply location details to enable the Clerk to follow up with our NSC Area Officer.

## 067/21 ITEMS MONITORED BY CLERK *(shared with Area Officer each month)*

**A370 Pedestrian Crossing:** Installation due.

**A370 link between Old Post Office and Palmers Elm:** to be done by works team; date awaited

**Blocked gullies:** Gullies at A370 The Old Post Office lay-by are reportedly blocked: Our NSC Area Officer will check all the lay-by gullies on the A370 through Hewish and get them emptied as needed.

**Puxton Road:** Work re flooding at Council Houses has been done.

## 068/21 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

**Cllr C Penfold:** Hedging along the A370 footpath between Bow Cottage and St Anne's School is seriously overgrown in places: this is causing a hazard for path users, who are having to step out onto this dangerous road at these places, to get past. Clerk to liaise with Area Officer to get the overgrowth cut back.

**Cllr Corbett:** Concerned about **potholes**. The Clerk reported that those along Puxton Road from the Church to Maysgreen lane are on a works list to be repaired. **The area alongside the cheese factory boundary in Maysgreen Lane** is in a dangerous bend and continues to be in need of a long term repair or being developed as a passing place. As so often minuted by Cllr Corbett, the state of the edging at this point has the potential to contribute to a serious accident.

**Cllr Redding:** The new biodigester has been installed at the Village Hall; this completes all the major work on the current updating plan. A celebratory party, perhaps in November, is being considered... watch this space. Also, the Hall is planning 'Drop-In Coffee Mornings' on some Saturdays to develop a social hub for the community. If the idea takes off it could also provide a time where residents can meet their councillors.

**069/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Thursday October 7th in the Village Hall at 7pm

**The meeting closed at 8.16pm**