

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 7pm on Thursday 7th October 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

Due to one-off timing issues for some members the meeting started at 7.25pm.

Present: Cllrs Jim Corbett (*Vice Chair & Meeting Chair*), Peter Penfold, Clayton Penfold, Hellen Riddell

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 1

070/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Lynda Redding - NSC Cllr Phil Neve (*he was to attend but was unable to: he provided specific input re minute 077/21 below re Maysgreen Lane*).

071/21 WELCOME TO NEW CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR

Cllr Helen Riddell, a retired police sergeant, finally made it into Membership of the Council after lockdown and meeting cancellation delays had been intervening since May. She was warmly welcomed by everyone.

072/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

Whilst one is strictly not needed, Cllr Riddell pointed to a connection with the Redding family in relation to the new planning application at Minute 075/21 and did not comment on this application.

073/21 PUBLIC SESSION (*15 minutes - Contributions are limited to 3 minutes: they should be concise and to the point.*)

The applicant re 21/P/2320/FUL at Minute 075/21 below, explained the justification and background for the application.

074/21 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING: September 2nd minutes were agreed and signed.

075/21 PLANNING *Details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>*

New Applications: 21/P/2320/FUL The Grange - Conversion of Poultry Building to Glamping Cabin. This project, set in a field out of public vision, was considered a positive asset to the rurally touristic reputation of the parish. No objections were raised. **Clerk to so report to NSC Planning.**

Decision Due: 19/P/0815/FUL P. Park car park. 21/P/1063/AOC Mendip View Conditions Discharge.

Approved: 21/P/1800/FUL Elm Farm - barn conversion.

Refused: 20/P/1438/FUL Park & Ride, Heathfield Park.

076/21 FINANCE

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

Payments Due: Adrian Leonard September parish maintenance £288.00. Agreed for **online payment**.

077/21 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- i. **Maysgreen Lane - Implementation of a 20mph speed limit:** This possibility emerged from the lane having to bear additional traffic relating to the National Grid pylons project. Large commercial vehicles and agricultural contractors' machinery are already heavy users of this tortuous single-lane carriageway - and they use it at speed. Although the lane does not fit elements of the nationally set

criteria for a 20mph speed limit, it is patently ludicrous to deny the need for one. Real need must override national 'regulations' if lives are not to be put at risk. Cllr Neve is keen to support the Council's efforts to reduce traffic speeds on Maysgreen Lane - and, indeed, on other roads in the Parish. He is motivated by the belief that it is important to reduce the dominance of motorised vehicles (not to ban or remove them) and to 'slow things down' so that walkers, cyclists and riders are more able to use the lanes in safety and comfort and also to respect the agricultural needs of the community. Cllr Corbett echoed these concerns and - notwithstanding the special needs of the ever-so-narrow Maysgreen Lane - stressed the need for the similar treatment of other links to the Maysgreen Lane 'loop' - Puxton Lane and Puxton Road. The meeting was grateful for Cllr Neve's support and asked the **Clerk to develop the Council's case with NSC.**

- ii. **A370 Pedestrian Crossing:** Installation due. **Clerk to chase.**
- iii. **A370 link between Old Post Office and Palmers Elm:** to be done by works team; date awaited
- iv. **A370 lay-by blocked gullies:** These have been identified and their emptying ordered. .
- v. **A370 Overgrown Hedging:** Bow Cottage to St Anne's School. NSC currently organising flailing. This particular stretch needs cutting back enough - and be kept cut back enough - so that it does not block the way of footpath users. Cllr C Clayton reported seeing a wheelchair user - unable to step out into the dangerous road - having to tunnel their way through low hanging, soaking wet overgrowth.
- vi. **A370 Village Entry Planters:** Cllr C Penfold is in touch with a possible sponsor based in Smallway, and is awaiting a proposal.
- vii. **A370 Unlicensed Large Commercial Signs:** There appear to be no illegal signs.
- viii. **Wick Lane Railway Bridge:** The Wick Clerk reports that cyclists are ignoring the 'Obey Red Lights' signs we put up in 2017. The sign on the A370 side if the bridge is to be realigned and the vegetation cut back.
- ix. **Puxton Lane/Puxton Road Junction:** at a successful Hall Cafe session at the Village Hall on September 25th, a resident expressed concern about safety at this junction: he has seen near misses and feels it is an accident waiting to happen especially with the increase in works traffic. He thinks it should be 2 solid lines on one side and dotted lines on the other to make it clear whose right of way it is. The area officer is going to take photos of the area and report to the responsible NSC officer to see what can be done. **Clerk to follow up.**
- x. **A370 White Lining:** Cllr Redding has had reported some possible errors in the new white-lining following recent surfacing works. At Maysgreen Lane, NSC say that people can stop on hatching to turn as the centre line is broken. As the A370 is surfaced-dressed, to install gaps would involve covering over existing markings as burning off will damage the dressing surface. Instead, NSC propose to leave the markings to fade as vehicles over-run them, and adjust future re-marking as appropriate. (They will monitor the position, in case driver behaviours do change). Opposite Chestnut Farm, turning into the Storage Station from Congresbury towards WsM there is a line suggesting an intention to install a turn-right gap that was not carried out: all the Broken hatching remains in place. NSC report this to be a keep left arrow: these are installed at locations prior to the central markings changing from intermittent lines to solid lines, which are there to prevent overtaking.

078/21

OTHER MATTERS

- i. **Public Footpaths:** Outcome of NSC footpaths initiative still awaited.
- ii. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022:** Village Hall party.
- iii. **Councillor Dedicated PC Email Addresses?** Our website host charges £18 per email address. Cllr Riddell noted the cost and thought members might consider a dedicated email address of their own; an idea she is investigating for herself. Members by and large felt that the nature and volume of council emails did not warrant dedicated email addresses, which would tend to put council business at one-remove from their general communication flows. Rather than being ruled out, the consensus was that individual website-tied email addresses were not needed, at least for now.
- iv. **Use of Notice Boards:** Village Hall board re-erected after the repair of £800 of vandalism (which, together with a series of other incidents, the police are investigating). Duplicate keys are now available for the Hall and Village Green boards.

- v. **NSC Welcome Back Fund:** This fund has not proved a realistic vehicle for the holding of a business open day in the hall. Members agreed that a strategy for knitting local businesses into the community fabric of the parish would be welcome. To be discussed more fully at the November meeting.

079/21 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Corbett: i) Has Flavours opened a shop, if so, should it have been the subject of planning permission? ii) Maysgreen Lane at Cheese Factory: notwithstanding the appalling state of the verge, the actual edge of the highway is now beginning to disintegrate. **Clerk to progress both these reports.**

Cllr Redding (in absentia): There is a public footpath running along Maysgreen Lane by Puxton Court Farm and farmyard as indicated on the **NSC footpath map attached** to and forming a part of these minutes. This right of way was added as part of the conditions for Puxton Park planning. The path is fenced on both sides near the farmhouse. This is completely filled with brambles making it impassable (**see attached photo**). The path next to a farm building was fenced next to the road but this fence is on the ground. This has at least made it possible to mow the verge but again it is impassable because the fence is on the ground. If both fences were removed it would be easier to clear the path and make it usable. This path would be a valuable asset now as there is increased heavy traffic along Maysgreen Lane due to the Hinckley Point connection work on pylons with their entrances off Puxton Road. There are people living in Puxton who walk to the bus stop on the A370 along Maysgreen Lane. **Clerk to discuss possibilities with NSC Footpaths Officer.**

080/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday November 4th in the Village Hall at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.25pm