
PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Puxton & Hewish

Clerk: Donald Hill

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Minutes of the Meeting Held at 7pm on Thursday 7th April 2022

All meetings are held at 7.00pm in the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Phil Neve, our 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 Redding (*Chair*), Jim Corbett, Peter Penfold, Clayton Penfold, Helen Riddell (the arrival of Cllrs Corbett & Riddell were delayed by some minutes after the start of the meeting)

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 6

032/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Phil Neve (NSC) due to essential presence at rearranged Congresbury PC meeting.

033/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS: (*Dispensations apply to all Cllrs resident in the Parish re the setting of the percept, and to all Cllrs relating to Village Hall matters*).

None.

Before the meeting got under way, the Chair read the notice at the head of the agenda:

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.

This was followed by an impassioned plea by the Chair, prompted by constant, long-term, vilification from a particular source, for an understanding of the efforts involved by local families to fund and build the hall, and the huge amount of willing and voluntary effort that has gone into securing its future since it was learnt that the lease was due to lapse. She also stressed the vital contribution of free local professional efforts that have been put in by a range of people to help the project progress affordably.

Cllr P Penfold added his full support - echoed by the other Members - in the face of the deeply felt hurt and frustration underlying the plea of the Chair. He also pointed out just how much personal effort and commitment Cllr Redding has contributed to the purchase, renovation and running of the Hall during the past five years - redolent of the commitment of the original families - including that of Cllr Redding, whose members poured so much effort into establishing the Hall in 1965.

034/22 PUBLIC SESSION 15 minutes - Contributions are limited to 3 minutes: they should be concise and to the point

The key (apparently only) protagonist against the survival of this wonderful community asset was given 4 minutes to make a statement. The Chair deemed this to have been a repeat of a range of past issues that have been constantly put to the council in person or by email over the past few years: these issues have already been dealt with and were not related to current agenda matters. This person stayed for the duration of the meeting. He purported to be recording the meeting (a legal right, but being done without the courtesy of seeking the permission of those present) and

also purported to be ringing the police to report his maltreatment during the public session. The police did not attend.

No other public contributions were made.

- 035/22 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING** March 3rd minutes were agreed and signed.
- 036/22 GOVERNANCE:** The Annual Governance Statement, being Section 1 of the Annual Internal Audit Report 2021-2022 was approved and signed.
- 037/22 PLANNING** Details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>
- i. **New: 22/P/0288/FUL:** Amendments to recently approved 21/P/3150/CQA. **No Objections.**
 - ii. **Decisions Due: 19/P/0815/FUL** Puxton Park car park.
 - iii. **Granted: 22/P/0015/FUH Villa Farm:** rear extension.
 - iv. **Planning Appeal: 20/P/1438/FUL** Park and Ride near Heathfield Park on A370 - noted.
- 038/22 FINANCE**
- i. **2021-22 Accounts:**
 - a) Year end accounts had been circulated for review were agreed, and will now go to the internal auditor, together with the AGAR forms. **Clerk to process.**
 - b) AGAR 2021-22 Part 2 - The Certificate of Exemption from external audit, was agreed and signed.
 - c) Section 2 of the Annual Internal Audit Report 2021-2022 - The Accounting Statement, was agreed as a true record of the accounts, and was signed.
 - d) The financial year-end 2021-2022 Bank Reconciliation was agreed and signed.
 - ii. **Budget Adjustment to be ratified:** Movement of £200 from Parish Maintenance head to Other Costs head. This adjustment to the 2022-23 budget was agreed unanimously.
 - iii. **Payments Due: Cllr Redding** re her cash-with-order purchase of Jubilee Mugs - £266.02. **ALCA** Annual Sub - £99.43. These two invoices were presented to the meeting and approved for payment. **Clerk to process.**
- 039/22 HIGHWAY MATTERS**
- i. **Oldbridge River Bridge:** New bridge planned for 22-23 financial year.
 - ii. **Puxton Lane/Puxton Road Finger Post:** Re the stolen finial, a replacement is on order and Adrian Leonard, who renovated the post, has offered to fit the finial free of charge. Cllr Corbett asked that, if possible, it be secured in a theft-proof way. **Clerk to so inform Adrian.**
 - iii. **Banwell bypass and building project (shaping the emerging parish highway strategy):** There is an NSC consultation running, which does not provide for an online response from those areas, such as Puxton, that will have to cope with a significant consequential increase in already problematic rat-run traffic through the parish lanes linking the A371 with the A370. A draft written response was reviewed and its general thrust agreed to. **Clerk to prepare this as a formal response to be agreed by email and sent to NSC by the consultation deadline of April 22nd.**
- 040/22 OTHER MATTERS**
- i. **NSC Footpath initiative:** Cllr Redding received a report from NSC about upgrading proposals to some paths. Most of her proposals had been accepted and much of the work has already been completed. A summary of the report is appended to these minutes. Cllr Corbett said that each year, Councillors and others used to walk a selection of the footpaths to ensure they remained open and to note their condition. Cllr Redding does do this now, but finding a team of volunteers to do it on a more organised basis may prove difficult.
 - ii. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** Following a recent board meeting of Hewish & Puxton Village Hall Ltd, the charitable company running the Hall, Cllr Redding presented a draft programme of events for the Jubilee Celebration to be held at the Hall on Sunday June 5th. Members agreed that this was a good and well balanced programme. Cllr P Penfold offered

assistance with the raffle, for which the donation from National Grid of a generous food hamper has got the prize list off to a good start. Detailed arrangements, including printing and delivery of the proposed publicity poster, will now go ahead.

- iii. **Annual Residents' Meeting:** The Clerk agreed to prepare and print a leaflet publicising this event, to be circulated with the Jubilee leaflet. No charge would be made for this work.

041/22 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Everyone is concerned at the highway subsidence beside the open section of rhyne just past the Garden centre, on the left hand side of Puxton Lane. **Clerk to report this to the Area Officer for most urgent attention.**

042/22 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Neither the Chair, nor the Clerk are able to make the scheduled 1st Thursday date - May 5th - for the May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Residents' Meeting, both of which are mandated to be held during May.

Members agreed that **Tuesday 17th May** would be the date of the May meetings as under. As already agreed and publicised, there will be no meeting in June as its scheduled date marks the beginning of the Jubilee Holiday.

The next meeting of the Parish Council, and the Annual Residents' Meeting will both be held on Tuesday May 17th 2022 in the Village Hall, as under:

6.30pm: The Parish Council:

This will include the Annual Meeting of the Council and will be followed at 8pm by the Annual Resident's Meeting.

7.30pm: The Annual Residents' Meeting:

This is an open meeting of residents at which they may raise matters of concern or interest within or directly affecting the parish. Any matters arising from the Annual Residents' Meeting that need to be progressed are passed to the relevant body to ensure that that happens. We hope there will be a good attendance and a lively discussion.

The meeting closed at 8.06pm

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

summary of email from NSC Project Access Officer - 4th April 2022

I have now walked the routes nominated by the Parish and happy to say that most of the work requested has already been completed by a colleague of mine. The list below was the original submission and I am aware of other work in the location I can update you on. If there are other paths that require more attention I am happy to look at these again

Puxton 1 AX24/1/10 07783, 07784, 07785

Maintain existing path. Commences on A370 at 402644 going south to meet footpath going along the river from Waterman's Bow. One stile of the A370 but no other stiles at the field boundaries

Oldbridge River by the motorway has recently had gates installed . Further along the route over the A370 has also seen new gates installed. The path across the railway lines and out to the A370 does have stiles and contact is being made to have this reviewed with Network Rail. Where this meets Wick Road there is a further stile where the landowner is resistant to change.

Puxton 2 AX24/25/10

Maintain existing path. Right of Way on May's Lane, between Maysgreen Lane and Puxton Lane. 2 wooden footbridges, 1 at North end one at south end.

This path is clear and fit for use and has recently had two new bridge and gates installed on link paths either side

Puxton 3 AX16/46/20

Maintain existing path. Foot path off Puxton Road at Willow Farm. Wooden footbridge

This footpath is clear for use and has recently installed gates. It does however link to a footpath with stiles nominated later which the landowner does not want changed

Puxton 4 AX16/52/30

Maintain existing path. footpath gate at The Elms 401648. New gate put in a couple of years ago.

Footpath gate in good order, no change required

Puxton 5 AX28/25/20 01483, 07083, 01414

Improve signage. Bridge across Oldbridge River 391646. Metal footbridge.

New gates and way-marker signs installed at location

Puxton 6

Upgrade a permitted path. Connects footpaths at Phipp's bridge SW to Oldbridge river. Field gates with no styles and one amateur style.

This path is not a Public Right of Way and the Improvement Budget cannot be used here. As a permissive path it falls outside the criteria for Public Rights of Way Improvement however changes to the location can be made with landowners consent if approached

Footpath from the A370 by the Full Quart to the Oldbridge River.

There are three stiles on this route, two of which the landowners have previously stated that they do not want changed. The stiles are recently installed and fit for purpose. The stile on the A370 we understand is now under new ownership. It is my opinion that the three stiles should be changed at the same time or not at all, rather than encourage walkers with limited mobility to a dead end.

I am happy to discuss these issues further and welcome any feedback that you may have.