
PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Puxton & Hewish

Clerk: Donald Hill

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Minutes of the Annual & Ordinary Meetings of The Council at 6.30pm on Tuesday 17th May 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.

In Attendance: Cllr Phil Neve (NSC), Don Hill (Clerk) 2 members of the Avon & Somerset Police Force

Public Attendance: 4

A member of the public who has been excluded from any involvement with the Parish Council due to his repetitive, damaging and long-term vexatious behaviour, refused to leave the Hall when asked to do so by the Chair. The senior police officer present required this person to accede to the request from the Chair at which point that person left.

For the avoidance of doubt the Chair read out the opening Agenda note that was developed as a result of the needs to manage vexatious behaviour, and which she was compelled by circumstances to read out before the April meeting as well:

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.

The meeting then commenced.

043/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None

ANNUAL MEETING

044/22 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

It was unanimously agreed that the Current chair (Lynda Redding), and the current Vice Chair (Jim Corbett) remain in post for the year to May 2023. Cllr Redding completed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair.

045/22 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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

046/22 RECONFIRMATION OF RECENTLY APPROVED GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK FOR 2022-23

The Council reviewed its Governance documentation earlier in the year and agreed it at Minute 029/22iv of the March 3rd meeting. That agreement was unanimously re-confirmed by Members here as providing the approved governance framework for the coming year.

Cllr Riddell arrived at 6.38pm

047/22 CHAIR'S REPORT

This report was one of the meeting papers. It was read out, duly noted and forms part of these minutes, *as attached*.

ORDINARY MEETING

The Chair welcomed the members of the public in attendance

048/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS: *(Dispensations apply to resident Cllrs re setting the percept, and to all Cllrs relating to Village Hall matters).* No declarations of Interest.

049/22 PUBLIC SESSION *15 minutes - Contributions are limited to 3 minutes: they should be concise and to the point*

Western Power supply issues: during the recent storms trees fell across some power lines. In Puxton Road there was confusion because some properties had power and others didn't. Similar problems arise when BT Open Reach work requires Western Power to turn off supply. Cllr Corbett, a former power engineer, undertook to brief the Clerk so that this minute could be completed. The explanation lies in the way supply to properties is dispersed from the local supply pole. The subject supply is 3 phase; ie there are 3 wires running off the main pole, with each wire serving a separate group of homes. If a wire is damaged, only the homes served by that wire get cut off. The usual complaint is that suppliers take too long to repair faulty line, but in the particular instance lines were being damaged across vast areas of the UK and repairs in some areas took a long time.

050/22 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING

April 7th minutes were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

051/22 PLANNING *Details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>*

- i. **New:** **22/P/0817/FUL** SJH Machinery site change of use. **22/P/0969/EA1** proposed re-application re lapsed 2014 approval of a solar farm at New Orchard Farm, Puxton Lane. The meeting found no cause object to either of these applications. *Clerk to so notify NSC.*
- ii. **Decisions Due:** **19/P/0815/FUL** Puxton Park car park. **22/P/0288/FUL:** Amendments to 21/P/3150/CQA.
- iii. **Planning Appeal:** **20/P/1438/FUL** Park and Ride near Heathfield Park on A370.

052/22 FINANCE .

- i. **2022-23 Accounts to date:** for information, were noted. The Clerk reported that the accounts provided to the meeting tallied with the bank statements as of this day.
- ii. **2021-22 Accounts:** Query free audit completed. Public Notice to be posted by June 6th.
- iii. **Payments Due: Cheque: 273:** L R Redding reimbursement of Jubilee Mugs outlay (agreed at April meeting but not registering for online payment) £266.02. **Online: re Audit - Phil Smith** £45.00. **re Parish Maintenance** Adrian Leonard £288.00. *All disbursements agreed.*

053/22 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- i. **Puxton Lane/Puxton Road Finger Post:** New finial awaited; it will be securely fixed.
- ii. **Banwell bypass and building project:** The NSC consultation response was agreed via email and delivered to NSC on April 20th.
- iii. **Puxton Lane:** Highway subsidence beside the open section of rhyne just past the Garden centre. The area has been coned off by NSC highways, with no firm repair date in prospect. *Cllr Neve undertook to investigate further.*

054/22 OTHER MATTERS

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Cllr Redding updated the meeting and confirmed that some 90 free tickets, out of 100, have already been distributed. Members discussed various logistical aspects of the arrangements in which they are involved, including revised music arrangements, due to Covid; the 'children count' for Jubilee mug distribution; the hog roast and vegetarian alternatives; the drinks arrangements, including bring-your-own; and the raffle. There was particular joy at news that an ice cream van will be in attendance!

055/22 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Redding

- i. **A370 Planters:** A big thank-you to Cllr Clayton Penfold for servicing the planters.
- ii. **The Church Drive:** A 2nd big thank-you to Clayton for repairing the Church driveway. The other Members endorsed these words of thanks.
- iii. **Website Clarity:** NSC received a complaint about the way the Chair's role as our representative on the NSC Standards Sub-Committee was described on our website. An explanation from the Chair satisfied NSC. *(Clerk's post meeting note: a comma was missing. The entry has been re-worded for greater clarity).*
- iv. **Delivery of flyers for the Jubilee Party and for the Annual Resident's Meeting:** It was wonderful to see volunteers coming forward to help with the delivery of flyers: another huge thank-you - to them!!

Cllr Corbett

- i. **Barriers on Puxton Lane and Puxton Road:** NSC Highways again, as indicated from the minutes above, appear to be kicking a dangerous road safety issue into the long grass.
- ii. **Maysgreen Lane:** The Cheese factory bend continues to be dangerous. NSC have persistently refused to offer up an effective repair, so the highway edge falls away dangerously. It consequently floods regularly, at which times the drop-off of some inches - is totally hidden from motorists' views as they they are forced to veer left to avoid fast and large approaching vehicles. An accident or a costly claim on NSC is bound to happen.

Cllr Corbett is aware that he raises such issues at every meeting; but until NSC step-up-to-the-plate and do something about them, he is duty bound to keep pressure on them. *(He did so before re the Highway flooding near Council Houses)*

056/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There is no meeting in June as it falls during the Jubilee Holiday. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in the Village Hall at 7pm **on July 7th 2022: Cllr P Penfold apologised for being unable to attend.**

The meeting closed at 7.15pm

Annual Meeting - 17th May 2022 at 6:30pm

Report of the Chair

Meetings

The Parish Council held the last allowable Zoom meeting in May 2021. At this meeting our Chair, Jim Corbett, asked to stand down due to ill health. It was unanimously agreed that the then Vice Chair, Lynda Redding, become Chair and Jim Corbett continue as Vice Chair.

Due to Covid it seemed prudent to cancel the June and July meetings and, as usual, we had no August meeting. Since then our meetings have been “real-life” and monthly, starting at 7pm. In September we welcomed a new co-opted member of the Council, Helen Riddell.

Agendas

We have had a steady stream of planning applications, mostly fairly routine.

The speed of vehicles along our lanes are always a concern and we continue to urge North Somerset Council to consider reducing the speed limits. The additional traffic caused by the National Grid activity has led to us to seek a 20mph limit along Maysgreen Lane. Damage to the roads caused by heavy traffic continues to be reported.

The two major works are scheduled to be completed this year, 2022-23. The central refuge type pedestrian crossing across the A370 at the lay-by and bus stop will be better than nothing but I am aware we need more to help pedestrians cross this busy road in other places. The new bridge across the Oldbridge river is planned to be done this year but is dependent on the recruitment of an additional engineer to manage the project. This is a controversial project as many parishioners have voiced their concern at losing this lovely old bridge and are worried that a wider bridge will encourage yet more heavy fast traffic along Puxton Lane. Unfortunately, we are told the bridge has to be strengthened, NSC assure us there will be a width restriction on the new bridge.

Finance

Another uneventful year. The online banking continues to facilitate payments. We are grateful to our Clerk for managing our finances, accounts and audits efficiently. We have budgeted £4,000 to pay half the cost of the pedestrian crossing.

It has been a “getting back to normal” year but I am mindful that for some, things will never be the same as they were pre-pandemic. We hope you feel comfortable joining us for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations on Sunday June 5th.

Lynda Redding

May 2022