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# PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Puxton & Hewish

**Clerk: Donald Hill**

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## Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday 2nd February 2017 at 7.30pm in Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Amanda Edwards, Peter Penfold, Jim Corbett

**In Attendance:** Cllr Tom Leimdorfer (NSC) (who left the meeting early), Don Hill (Clerk)

**Public Attendance:** 2

*With the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Clerk asked the attending members to appoint one of themselves as chair of the meeting. Cllr Penfold was elected and took the chair. The meeting started at 7.35pm.*

**15/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Cllrs Popperwell, Sully and Wilson

**16/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
Cllr Edwards lives next door but one to the planning applicant at The Firs. Although she has no interest, she felt it appropriate for the sake of complete transparency, to note this.

**17/17 PUBLIC SESSION**  
No matters were raised.

**18/17 REPORTS - Ward Cllrs Report** - Cllr Leimdorfer.  
**COUNCIL MEETING (10th January):** a) **Core Strategy** - referred policies were finally accepted based on the Inspector's November 2016 report. (b) **Council tax** minimum payment for lowest income working-age households kept at 24.5% - the highest in the region and in the highest 15% nationally. NSC issues over 11,000 non-payment court summons notices a year.

**EXECUTIVE MEETING (7th February):** will recommend a Council Tax rise of 4.75%, (including the 3% levy earmarked for an increase in funding adult social care). This will not cover the shortfall in social care funding, with a projected overspend of £4.8m in the current year. Hence more cuts are proposed in the budget, including a further cut in the Public Health budget. Other budget cuts include reduction of staffing for Children's Centres and libraries, phasing out school support services and deferral of highways schemes. There will be increases in car parking charges. The Local Government Association has warned the government that local authorities face a funding gap of over £5bn in the next three years.

**PLANNING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE (January):** NSC officers recommended approval of the Gladman application off Wrington Lane, Congresbury, but members supported my proposal for refusal by 9 votes to 8. This item will be brought back to the February meeting because, despite adoption of the Core Strategy, officers feel under pressure to approve applications against policy for fear of losing appeals. There is a new planning application for housing which would result in an access road onto the A370

between the Smallway junction and the bus stop. Cllr Leimdorfer had a meeting with John Penrose MP to exchange views about the Joint Spatial Plan and the proposed 'garden village' of up to 5,400 dwellings between Banwell, Sandford and Churchill (it will pay for the Banwell by-pass). They were broadly in agreement about alternative ideas. A pre-application re some 20 homes in Congresbury's Station Close (near Sousta Greek Taverna) is just outside the settlement boundary and possibly represents future similar scale applications arising adjacent to or near settlement boundaries.

**19/17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th January 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

**20/17 MATTERS ARISING NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE**

None

**21/17 POLICING AND TRAFFIC**

**A370 Traffic & Crime:** [police.uk](http://police.uk) November: 1 burglary at Kiara lay-by; 1 'other theft' on the A370 in the area of 'The Grange'. Cllr Penfold noted that this information was too little and too late to be of significant use. *(Clerk's Note: With her apology, Cllr Wilson reported three collisions on the A370 during the past month - one outside her own house requiring police, ambulances and recovery trucks, holding up traffic for several hours).*

**Horse/Farm Watch:** Police are trialling a text service - on 81819 - for the reporting of information about suspected crime - suspicious or criminal activity - details of people/vehicles, stolen goods or livestock being offered for sale etc. This information came via Cllr Popperwell and HorseWatch. All useful and worthy of promotion said Cllr Penfold, especially as rustling is a constant and worrying feature of rural life.

**SpeedWatch:** 3 volunteers to date. Still no further offers of help.

**22/17 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL MATTERS**

**Palmers Elm Bristol-end junction:** White-lining has been done.

**Wick Lane:** From the M5 side of the rail bridge, pot holes are appearing regularly because the surface is basically worn out. The worst areas will continue to be patched during the winter. Next financial year the area is being considered for jet-patching, which will give the surface a new lease of life. It was noted that, with direct access to J21 of the M5 so congested, Wick Lane is becoming a rat run to approaching the junction from the Hewish direction.

**23/17 PARISH MAINTENANCE**

**Parish Maintenance:** Notice Board, Public Seats and Puxton Lane/Road Finger Post update. Scheduled for completion before the financial year end - hopefully during February.

**Parish Maintenance:** Village Keeper Services: due to start from April 1st 2017. A plan of work will be prepared nearer the date.

**Holy Saviour Church Graveyard Upkeep:** Cllr Popperwell met David James, the Warden. Basic upkeep is carried out twice per year. The parish office need to know exactly what Cllr Penfold is proposing - thinning back the hedges to their original width; a one-off job. **Clerk to report this to the Rosemary West at the Parish Office (833126) with a view to getting permission for the work.**

## 24/17 OTHER ISSUES

**Broadband Speeds:** Virgin media - whatever the work site staff say is happening on the A370 - are not offering broadband services to Hewish. There will, as with the other potential providers, have to be a significant registration of interest concentrated along individual roads. CDS 2nd phase roll-out workshop: Cllr Wilson hopes to attend - date awaited. *Clerk to chase NSC for date.*

**Free Flowers from NSC:** Due May or early June. Cllr Edwards suggested there may be enough for other locations than the 4 planters - Puxton, Village Hall entrance, for example.

**Hewish & Puxton Village Hall:** Flat roof leaked badly; it has been repaired so often it has had to be replaced. This is in addition to the other updating work most of which is nearing completion. A report on longer term plans awaits due information on the lease position.

**Village Map:** Cllr Corbett brought the map - the focus of much pre-meeting interest; it was passed to the *Clerk who will contact Chris Short (833764) re evaluation/valuation.*

**Cooption of Councillors:** A vacancy still exists.

## 25/17 FINANCE

**2016-17 Accounts to date:** pre-circulated to members, reviewed and noted.

**2017-18:** Precept request has been acknowledged by NSC.

**Hewish and Puxton Community Fund (HPCF):** Account open. Funds due for transfer.

**Cheques & Standing Order variation for Signature: 100100** Zurich Insurance £240.35. **100003** Puxton Parish Council - transfer to Cambridge & Counties Bank re Hewish & Puxton Community Fund £41172.25. **SO Variation** re Clerk's pay. Cllr Edwards signed; the meeting agreed that the *Clerk arrange for Cllr Popperwell to provide the 2nd signature.*

*(Clerk's note: Cheques 100001 & 100002 missed and therefore cancelled 2/3/17)*

## 26/17 PLANNING

**NEW: 17/P/0035/F** The Firs (Gambia), Bristol Road - single storey side extension. No objections. *Clerk to so report.*

**GRANTED: 16/P/2833/F** Land off Maysgreen Lane: Construction of hardcore track.

**DECISION DUE: 16/P/2100/F** South Farm, Puxton Lane, Agricultural building. **16/P/2634/F** Puxton Park; Office to Nursery. **16/P/2976/LDE** Gooseacre Annexe. **16/P/2843/F** Heathfield Park Hewish: Change to storage containers. **16/P/3016/F** SJH Engineering, Equipment store.

**ENFORCEMENT CASES** November report. Cllr Corbett raised Traveller's Rest; originally raised last month at Minute 13/17. *Clerk to send a copy of the Enforcement Cases list to Cllr Corbett.*

## 27/17 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

**Cllr Corbett:** Highway edges in Maysgreen Lane and Puxton Road are breaking up at the edges. this is a peril to cars forced off the highway by wide vehicles. *Clerk to inspect and report to Nick Raymond, NSC area engineer.*

**Cllr Edwards:** Street light at the J21 side of the Wick Lane junction is not working, having been fixed in November. It has been reported twice to NSC with no result. *Clerk to chase.*

## 28/17 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Thursday 2nd March 2017 in the Village Hall *Cllr Corbett offered his apologies as he will be away.*

**The meeting closed at 8.35pm**