

# PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

*Puxton & Hewish: in the North Somerset Council Ward of Congresbury & Puxton*

**Clerk: Donald Hill - 18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, North Somerset BS49 4JG**

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## Minutes of the Meeting Held at 7pm on Thursday March 7th 2024

*All meetings are held at 7.00pm in the Village Hall unless stated otherwise -  
Although under no obligation to, Dan Thomas, our NSC Ward Cllr, attends when possible*

*The meeting started at 7.10pm*

**Present:** Cllrs Lynda Redding (Chair), Victoria Butterfield, Peter Penfold, Clayton Penfold, Helen Riddell

**In Attendance:** Don Hill (Clerk)

**Public Attendance:** 2

### 011/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs J Corbett, M Ellis, D Thomas (NSC)

### 012/24 DECLARATIONS *(Dispensations apply to Cllrs re percept setting, and Village Hall matters)*

None

### 013/24 PUBLIC SESSION

**RE THE BARN NEXT TO OAKACRE OF A370:** 24/P/0320/LDP (see minute 015/24 below) relates to this barn having permission to be converted to a domestic residence. The owners are seeking to expand the footprint of the barn to a size that will accommodate their granddaughter and her children, who have been forced away from the parish due to a lack of suitable family accommodation being available. It has long been the view of the Parish Council that this parish will die if current rigid policies against the provision of housing for its young people continue to be adhered to. The space provision here is being prepared for presentation to NSC as a planning application for appropriate enlargement by the demolition of the existing barn and its replacement by a building appropriate to the needs of a local family. Every Councillor was in agreement that the right and decent thing to do will be not to dismiss the anticipated application out of hand, but to consider it within the context of the community future this parish is so urgently seeking to ensure. *The ethos that drives the Parish Council's concerns are to be expressed by the Clerk to the the agents acting in this anticipated application.*

### 014/24 LAST MEETING MINUTES + Matters Arising

January 4th 2023 minutes were agreed and signed.

### 015/24 PLANNING *Details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>*

i. **New: 23/P/2593/FUL** Land Opposite The Full Quart, Off Bristol Road (A370), Hewish: Change of use of equestrian land to Gypsy and Travellers site of 10 pitches with associated development including the erection of day-rooms and creation of hardstanding for each pitch. A response to NSC planners was due, agreed and sent before the meeting and was ratified here. **23/P/2738/FUL** Conversion of 2 barns to houses. Villa Farm Bristol Road Hewish - update of an earlier application. **24/P/0157/FUL** Barn conversion opposite Heathgate Farm. Fulfilment plan for conditions on approved application 23/P/2050/MMA. **24/P/0320/LDP** Barn next to Oakacre, Bristol Road. Application 23/P/1813/CQA to convert the barn to a dwelling house was given deemed approval due to no decision having been reached by NSC with 56 days. This application seeks to regularise the lawfulness of the proposed development and to provide certainty for all parties.

**No objections were raised** in relation to applications 23/P/2738/FUL, 24/P/0157/FUL or 24/P/0320/LDP. *Clerk to so inform NSC planners.*

ii. **Decisions Due: 19/P/0815/FUL** Puxton Park car park. **22/P/3067/OUT** Haybow Village (Banwell PC). **23/P/2338/FUL** Mayfield Farm gateway. **23/P/2796/LDE** Flavours. **23/P/**

2782/AOC Discharge of Conditions on application 23/P/1374/FUL Maysgreen Lane barn.  
23/P/2556/FUL The Grange Cider House.

- iii. **Approved: 23/P/0609/FUL** Puxton Park Operating Framework. **23/P/2796/LDE** Flavours: Certificate of lawfulness for confirmation that the existing use of the first and second floors at the listed address is Class C3. *The NSC Decision Notice can be found at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=S5V3FQLPGTV00>*
- iv. **Refused: 23/P/2676/CQA** Conversion of agricultural building to domestic accommodation off Puxton Lane.

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#### FINANCE

- i. **2023-24 Accounts:** Accounts to date. These were reviewed and noted.
- ii. **Payments Authorised: Zurich Insurance** Renewal £244.72. This payment was agreed to and made after the cancelled February meeting and ratified here. **HMRC** re PAYE for Jan/Feb/Mar £214.20.
- iii. **2024-25 Budget:** Precept request was acknowledged by NSC.
- iv. **Clerk's pay:** standing order increase authorisation was signed. **Clerk to process after March 20th.**

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#### PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Triangles at Puxton Village and Wick Lane:** Painting the tarmac surrounding the Puxton triangle has been a success, albeit the turning into Puxton Road from the Oldbridge River direction still needs extreme caution.
- ii. **A370. Signage and Speed Issues:**
  - a) Police DCB (data collection box) erection awaited via our local police contacts. An approach to the PCC re this and motor cycle speed checks outside St Annes School referred back to the DCB deployment and the need for an analysis of its subsequent results before any further action by the police could be considered.
  - b) A grant application is with NSC re the purchase of a SWARCO Speed Indicator Device (SID); if successful, we would purchase a SWARCO SID. NSC highways have given clearance for fixing to signposts along the A370 and along Puxton Lane, Puxton Road and Maysgreen Lane. We are waiting for NSC Street lighting to agree.
- iii. **Publicity Flyers:** Various flyers can be distributed to households over the coming months as and when they are available:
  - (a) **Fly-tipping: Village Agent** - these two are ready for printing and circulation.
  - (b) **Wind Turbines: Clerk to research availability of NSC policy suitable for a flyer.**
- vi. **Littleton Steel:** Cllr Redding explained the concerns of residents to the owner, who undertook to monitor and improve the situation within the bounds of operational necessity.
- vii. **Dolmoor Lane Fly-tipping:** The Clerk has contacted NSC. A response has been awaited from the responsible NSC officer. **Clerk to chase.**
- viii. **Turning right into Maysgreen Lane from the A370 from Wsm:** The road markings here are confusing. When first reported, NSC deemed it too expensive to put the matter right. This council has brought the matter to NSC's attention again, but their non-response seems to confirm an intention to leave the situation as it is until the road becomes due for re-painting.

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#### PROJECTS AWAITING FURTHER ACTION FROM NSC

- i. **Footpaths:** 4 items:
  - Path 399628 - New kissing gate overgrown, making access to field impossible
  - Path 398631 - obstruction to access from the road on the corner
  - The roadside path at Puxton Court Farm: fence removal. Re-fit of exposed wires on pole.
  - Path at Wick Lane M5 bridge: Blocked - volunteers to clear (and make-safe trees?).
- ii. **Wick Lane Rail Bridge:** More regular weeding and overgrowth clearance, and clear, well maintained pedestrian markings, and 'Beware, Pedestrians' notices at either end needed.

iii. **Potholes:** 1 on the A370 side of the Railway Bridge not yet deemed large enough for repair.

**019/24 GOVERNANCE**

**2024-25 Document Review:** The documents had been circulated, reviewed and agreed prior to the meeting: this work was ratified here, and the Risk Assessment for 2024-25 was signed by the Chair and the Clerk. **Clerk to upload the reviewed documents to the website.**

**020/24 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**Cllr Butterfield**

**Potholes:** There are an increasing number of bad potholes along the lanes, some of which are becoming dangerous. Many have appeared and grown recently due to the exceptionally heavy rains. The Clerk said that he has had confirmation from NSC that they are concentrating on getting these filled over the next few weeks, with area officers marking them up for repair and repairs having been done in some places.

**Removal of Post Box by the Green in Puxton Road:** This happened on February 1st with no prior notification to residents. **The Clerk undertook to see if an explanation was forthcoming from Royal Mail.**

**Cllr Redding**

**ALCA Chairmans' Meetings:** Cllr Redding attended the first of these Zoom sessions and may attend the next one. Whilst there is a lot to learn, much of it revolves around matters that do not tend to involve such a small Council as Puxton.

**Vexatious Complaints:** Yet another complaint on an historical matter, that has been thoroughly dealt with, has come in via the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). It will be dealt with in the usual way.

**Smashed Glass Thrown into Hall Car Park:** The periodic throwing of glass into the car park seems to have abated, as the police were informed of each event and appear to have taken some positive steps to deter it from happening.

**Obstructive Parking in East Hewish Lane:** A report has come in that some half a dozen large vehicles - believed to belong to residents staying at The Full Quart - are parking down the side of the Pub and impeding traffic flow down this narrow section of road. The reporter said they approached the pub's owner asking why the vehicle were not parking in the very large car park, but claims that they did not get a satisfactory response. Whilst there is not a restriction to parking on this section of highway, it is an offence to do so in a manner that impedes the proper use of the highway by other users. The problem will be monitored.

**021/24 NEXT MEETING - Thursday April 4th 2024 in the Village Hall at 7pm.**

**The meeting closed at 8.15pm**