

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the Annual and Ordinary Meetings of The Council Held at 7pm on Thursday May 9th 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*

Present: Cllrs Lynda Redding (Chair), Jim Corbett, Clayton Penfold, Helen Riddell
In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)
Public Attendance: 2

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

032/24 APOLOGIES

Cllrs P Penfold, Butterfield, Ellis; NSC Cllr Thomas

033/24 ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR & ASSOCIATED PAPERWORK

The Chair addressed the election of Chair and Vice Chair. It was unanimously agreed, without discussion, that Cllr Redding would be re-appointed as Chair and Cllr Corbett would be re-appointed as Vice Chair. Cllr Redding completed the necessary Declaration of acceptance of office as Chair.

034/24 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Redding was, again unanimously, re-appointed to to represent the Council on the NSC Standards Sub-Committee as and when called upon.

035/24 AGREEMENT TO RE-CONFIRM RECENTLY APPROVED GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The Governance documents for 2024-45 were individually reviewed in detail at Minute 019/24 of the February meeting of the Council, in the context of the financial year 2024-25 and then duly posted to the website together with an index and signed risk Assessment. The meeting agreed that this framework of Governance should remain in place for the coming political year from May 2024 to May 2025.

036/24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT *(this report was read out at the Annual Residents' Meeting, immediately following).*

Meetings

The Parish Council held meetings on the first Thursday of each month except August, as usual, and February as we were not quorate due to illness. It is unfortunate that yet again we were unable to hold our May meeting on the first Thursday as the Hall was requisitioned as a Polling Station.

Agendas

We have had a steady stream of planning applications, mostly fairly routine. We were disappointed that North Somerset Council maintained their resistance to allow permission for any house to be built that is not on the footprint of an existing barn. We feel that young families of residents are being forced to move away from the parish because of a lack of suitable accommodation.

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. Damage to the roads caused by heavy traffic continues to be reported. Our concern about increased traffic through Puxton when the Banwell bypass is being constructed and after it is completed fell on deaf ears.

Safety along the A370, especially in front of the school, is of concern. There have been several minor accidents and near misses at school drop off and pick up times. We have been in communication with the Principal Engineer responsible for neighbourhood traffic and road safety voicing our concerns and asking that the speed limit be reduced. The response was to explain why

this is not possible for reasons that do not seem logical. We are seeking a grant to purchase a Vehicle Activated illuminated sign to alert drivers to their speed and the speed limit. This will also collect data on the speed and volume of traffic.

The central refuge has been installed to aid crossing the ever busy A370 at Hewish. The Parish Council has paid the agreed £4,300 towards the cost of the refuge. The new bridge across the Oldbridge river was scheduled to be built this year but has been delayed. We have not been informed when this will be re-scheduled. The bridge has to be strengthened, NSC assure us there will be a width restriction on the new bridge.

Finance

*Another uneventful year, the precept was £10,082. The online banking continues to facilitate payments. We are grateful to our Clerk for managing our finances, accounts and audits efficiently.
Lynda Redding*

Lynda Redding - May 2024

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

037/24 APOLOGIES

Cllrs P Penfold, Butterfield, Ellis; NSC Cllr Thomas

038/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

Dispensations apply to resident Cllrs re the setting of the precept, and to all Cllrs relating to Village Hall matters)

None

039/24 PUBLIC SESSION 15 minutes - Contributions are limited to 3 minutes: they should be concise and to the point

There was no public session

040/24 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on April 4th 2024 were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

041/24 GOVERNANCE

The Annual Governance Statement, being Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023-2024 was approved and signed.

042/24 PLANNING Details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>

- i. **New: 19/P/0815/FUL** Puxton Park car park: new consultation material was received for comment by May 1st. This was circulated to Members and the comment to NSC planners below was noted and ratified.

Puxton Parish Council reviewed the new consultation material circulated for review by May 1st via email. They say no reasons to divert from their comment of June 6th 2019: 'No objection: it is realised that these sorts of changes are part of keeping attractions like Puxton Park 'vital'.

24/P/0745/CM2 Flavours ground floor conversion to two flats. In realising that this form of application cannot be refused, the meeting pointed to the continuing disgraceful and unhygienic dumping of rubbish in the area designated to be 'the garden'. (It was also reported at the following Annual Parish Meeting that, despite having an 18 space car park, residents park on the highway outside other properties in this small community lane, thus depriving those properties of visitor parking.). The meeting decided to ask NSC if the application can be conditioned to demand that the property be kept up to a proper level of cleanliness and order. They also plan to check, via North Somerset Council's Community Response Officer, to see if it is possible to arrange some monitoring or intervention to ensure that community standards are upheld. **Clerk to Action.**

ii. Decisions Due:

- (a) **19/P/0815/FUL** Puxton Park car park.
- (b) **22/P/3067/OUT** Haybow Village (Banwell PC).
- (c) **23/P/2782/AOC** Discharge of Conditions, Maysgreen Lane barn.
- (d) **23/P/2593/FUL** Land Opposite The Full Quart.
- (e) **23/P/2738/FUL** Villa Farm barn conversions.
- (f) **24/P/0157/FUL** Barn conversion opposite Heathgate Farm.
- (g) **24/P/0143/FUL:** Gypsy/Traveller site below Heathfield Park
- (h) **24/P/0567/LPD** 1 Council Houses
- (i) **24/P/0604/FUL** Hewish Barn

iii. Approved:

- (a) **24/P/0320/LDP** Barn next to Oakacre
- (b) **24/P/0598/CRN:** Manor Farm West Wick Agricultural building

iv. Training Centre for Disabled Young Adults: The detail relating to this topic has not been provided, so the matter will be put on the agenda after it has.

043/24

FINANCE

i. 2024-25 Accounts: were reviewed, reconciled against the bank statement and approved.

ii. 2023-24 Accounts:

- a) The Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2023/24 Form 2 was approved and signed.
- b) The 2023-24 internal auditor's report was noted: it contained no adverse comments.
- c) AGAR Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2023/24: see Minute 041/24 above.
- d) The AGAR Section 2 – Accounting Statement 2023/24 was approved and signed.
- e) The 2023-2024 Bank Reconciliation was approved and signed.
- f) The external auditor's conflict of interest form revealed no conflicts of interest and was signed to confirm that situation.

iii. Payments Due: P Smith, Internal Auditor £50.00. The payment was authorised

044/24

PARISH MATTERS

i. A370. Signage and Speed Issues - Especially around St Anne's School:

- (a) Police DCB (data collection box) erection awaited.
- (b) Grant application result awaited re Police Sign Indicator Device (SID) fund.
- (c) There have been several near-miss traffic incidents around pick up and drop off times at St Annes. As well as the earlier reported flooding between The Full Quart and the School, there is now flooding directly outside the school which is causing users of the path to have to step off the path onto the fast and dangerous highway. The warning sign approaching the school from the Congresbury side is not working properly. **Clerk to report these concerns to NSC.**

ii Annual Parish Meeting : Fly-tipping : Village Agent flyers: - these three flyers were printed and delivered to residents' homes.

iii. Dolmoor Lane Fly-tipping: No response has been received from NSC re possible help with this problem. **Cllr Thomas is seeing if his intervention can prompt some action.**

iv. Post Box by the Green in Puxton Road: new box on a pole due.

v. Puxton Road/Puxton Lane triangle: The meeting decided to remove this item from the agenda. Cllrs will continue to monitor the situation and will raise the matter again if needed.

- vi. **A370 Footpath:** This is becoming overgrown and dangerous for users again. It is too important an issue to be dropped from the agenda despite NSC's claim not to be able to prioritise the work.
- vii. **Potholes and Verge Collapses:** The NSC Area Officer is moving around the area organising that these be repaired. It will still take many weeks before the backlog of work can be caught up with across the district.
- viii. **NSC Car Parking and Waste Consultations:** This council's comments were relayed to the NSC Cllr leads and have been acknowledged.
- ix. **Community Bleed Kits:** These are provided by the police and fit as attachments to defibrillators. St Anne's School is looking into the police offer as they have a defibrillator.

045/24 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: The 'blockage' will remain, but NSC are to install a new kissing Gate adjacent to it.
- 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.

046/24 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Riddell has noted improvements in the natural environment and particularly mentioned the increase in the number of brown hares.

Cllr Redding reported that she will be away on June 6th, when the next meeting is due, and sends her apologies.

047/24 NEXT MEETING - Thursday June 6th 2024 in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm