

# 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 7.00pm on Thursday May 1st 2025

*All meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall unless stated otherwise*

*Although under no obligation to, Dan Thomas, our NSC Ward Cllr, attends when possible*

*For quoracy reasons the meeting started at 7.30pm*

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

*Present: Cllrs Redding, P Penfold, M Ellis. The Clerk. No public (this line added after signature)*

#### 030/25 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Jim Corbett, Clayton Penfold, Helen Riddell (arrived at end of meeting and stayed for Annual Parish Meeting), NSC Cllr Dan Thomas (*who attended the Annual Parish Meeting*)

#### 031/25 ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR & ASSOCIATED PAPERWORK

Cllr Redding introduced the need to elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the political year May 2025-May 2026. It was agreed that Cllr Redding should continue as Chair and Cllr Corbett as Vice Chair (he having been consulted earlier in the day on his willingness to continue). The office of Chair requires the annual completion of a Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which Cllr Redding completed. The office of Vice chair is optional and there is no requirement for the annual renewal of the Declaration of Office for that post.

#### 032/25 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

**Representative to NSC Standards Sub-Committee:** Cllr Redding was re-elected to this post unanimously as Cllr Ellis had less flexibility to attend if called upon to do so.

#### 033/25 AGREEMENT TO RE-CONFIRM RECENTLY APPROVED GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The extensive Governance documentation for the Council was reviewed and updated during February/March 2025 for the 2025-26 financial year. The meeting confirmed that that documentation would hold for the May 2025 to May 2026 Political Year also.

#### 034/2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (*to be presented via the Annual Residents' Meeting, immediately following and attached as an Annexe to these minutes*).

### ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

#### 035/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

As at minute 030/25 above

#### 036/25 DECLARATIONS: (*Dispensations apply to Cllrs re percept setting, and Village Hall matters*)

None

#### 037/25 PUBLIC SESSION: 15 minutes - Contributions are limited to 3 minutes: they should be concise and to the point

**Fly tipping** was discussed against a backdrop of NSC's absence of an effective contact protocol and the fact that there is neither adequate funding nor personnel to resolve the issues raised. If the Parish Maintenance contractor had delegated powers to search and follow up on fly tipping (an area in which he has experience), it would help ease the burden on NSC and provide a deterrent to fly-tippers: a matter to be raised with our NSC Cllr Thomas (this happened in the immediately following Annual Parish Meeting).

**Highway Verge Erosion on Puxton Lane:** NSC are using re-constituted material to repair highway verges. This material does not last and breaks away into the verges and rhynes; blocking the rhynes

and giving the impression to motorists that that verge areas are passing places where they are not. An extension of the logs and posts system used on part of Puxton Lane may provide a solution? **Cllr Redding undertook to report the highway verge problems via the NSC online complaints system.**

**038/25 LAST MEETING MINUTES + Matters Arising:**

The April 3rd 2025 minutes were agreed and signed.

**039/25 GOVERNANCE:** The Annual Governance Statement, being Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024-2025 was approved and signed.

**040/25 PLANNING** Details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>

i. **New: 25/P/0674/LDE:** Hewish Barn - Lawful commencement of development. **25/P/0867/CRN** - Manor Farm Barns change of use. *Both applications for information.*

ii. **Decisions Due:**

- a) **19/P/0815/FUL** Puxton Park car park.
- b) **22/P/3067/OUT** Haybow Village (Banwell PC).
- c) **24/P/0143/FUL:** Gypsy/Traveller site below Heathfield Park
- d) **23/P/2593/FUL** Update re Gypsy/Traveller site opposite The Full Quart.
- e) **25/P/0501/AGA:** The Grange Wick Lane - Spur to existing field track
- f) **25/P/0523/FUL:** Glebe Cottage Puxton - conversion to two homes.
- g) **25/P/0576/FUL:** Middleton Motor Care Hewish - new workshop and store

iii. **Approved: 25/P/0352/AOC:** Hewish Barn next to Oakacre Discharge of some conditions

**041/25 FINANCE**

i. **2025-26 Accounts:** were reviewed and approved against bank statement.

ii. **2024-25 Accounts:** Items a - f below were checked, approved and signed:

- a) Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2024/25 Form 2 (agreed and signed at April meeting)
- b) 2024-25 internal auditor's report.
- c) AGAR Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25: see agenda item 5 above
- d) AGAR Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25
- e) 2024-2025 Bank Reconciliation.
- f) External Auditors Conflict of Interest Form (agreed and signed at April meeting)

iii. **Payment Approved:** P Smith, Internal Auditor £63.00

**042/25 PARISH MATTERS**

i. **A370: St Annes School Signage and Speed Issues being monitored by Cllr Redding:**

- a) **Police DCB** (data collection box): erection awaited.
- b) **Gully overflows:** pictures of flooding needed by NSC before they will investigate.
- c) **Road Safety:** St Annes Speed Watch scheme awaiting training schedule.

ii. **Fly-tipping/Litter picking:** Puxton Lane/Puxton Road/Dolemoor Lane continue to remain under review. Cllr Riddell is following up a source of assistance with such work via the probation service.

iii. **A370 Footpath:** Details of a machine that could do the work were inconclusive. Our Parish Maintenance contractor said he has machinery that would do the work and will be happy to slot it in to his schedule. **Cllr Riddell to liaise on this.**

iv. **A370 Central Refuges:** NSC responses awaited on internet applications re bus stops at The Full Quart, Moorland Park and Puxton Lane and related road safety improvements.

v. **Parish Maintenance:**

- a) **Puxton Litter Bin:** now removed.
- b) **Hand Cart for Litter Picking:** Options to be reviewed in June against **information from Cllr Riddell.**
- c) Flowers for Planters: Cllrs Riddell and C Penfold awaiting delivery.

vi. **NALC Course on Fundraising:** The National Association of Local Councils is running a course (cost £35) in September on local government fund raising. Cllr Redding is minded to participate. The meeting agreed that she should.

#### 043/25 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

**Cllr Redding** reported continuing emails, Freedom of Information requests and Internal review requests from our only complainant and ongoing handling of consequent multiple cases before the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) including an appeal against one of their decisions for us, which is to be heard at the end of June.

#### 044/25 NEXT MEETING: Thursday 5th June 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8pm

## ANNEXE - REPORT OF THE CHAIR

### Meetings

The Parish Council held meetings on the first Thursday of each month except August, as usual. In May and June we had to make way as the Hall was requisitioned as a Polling Station on the first Thursday and in February we had to cancel the meeting as we were inquorate due to a course attendance and work commitments.

### Agendas

We have had a steady stream of planning applications, mostly fairly routine. Despite the housing shortage North Somerset Council maintain their resistance to allow permission for any house to be built that is not on the footprint of an existing barn.

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 but there seems to be little in the budget for anymore than temporary filling of potholes.

The Parish Council now own a Speed Indicator Device, it is installed next to the Full Quart at the moment. We secured a grant from the Police Community Trust of £5,000. The SID plus a dedicated laptop cost £5,795. The laptop is needed as the SID collects data on speed and volume of traffic as well as showing the speed of approaching traffic. This data can then be analysed with the provided software. North Somerset regulations require the SID to be moved every few weeks and then not returned to the same spot for a few months. We have started placing it on the A370, first near the school and then by the bus stops.

The central refuge installed by the Wick Lane bus stops has made crossing the road much easier there. Several parishioners have highlighted the difficulty in crossing the road between the other bus stops in Hewish and there was an incident of a child being knocked over while catching the bus to school. Thankfully they were not seriously injured but it could have been so much worse. I have filled in the appropriate form asking NSC to look at the A370 speed limits and the possibility of more central refuges. I was able to supply them with the data from the SID. We await news of any outcomes.

Fly tipping, particularly along Puxton Lane and Dolemoor Lane, is getting worse. We are investigating ways of deterring offenders and of gathering evidence to identify culprits.

We have not been informed when the new bridge across the Oldbridge river 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 £12,752. The online banking continues to facilitate payments. We are grateful to our Clerk for managing our finances, accounts and audits efficiently.