

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 7.30pm on Thursday July 3rd 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

Present: Cllrs Lynda Redding, Mel Ellis, Clayton Penfold.

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 2

054/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs J Corbett, H Riddell, P Penfold, Ward Cllr D Thomas

055/25 DECLARATIONS: *(Dispensations apply to Cllrs re percept setting, and Village Hall matters)*

Cllr Redding re the Solar Farm at Minute 058/25 i, which is similar to a project her family are connected with.

056/25 PUBLIC SESSION *15 minutes - contributions limited to 3 minutes: they should be concise and to the point*

- i. Concerns were raised about Flavours again. It is believed to have been auctioned off in sections and there is concern about the legitimacy of the process and the likely outcomes. 12 points of concern were raised which the **Clerk will raise with NSC Planning Enforcement.**
- ii. At the end of the Public Session a parish resident, accompanied by a witness, entered the Hall (from who's property he is barred by a Hall edict issued by their solicitor), and served a notice, signed by 6 voting residents of the parish, to the Chair. The notice requested that a Parish Meeting be called to review 'information put before us'. The Chair acknowledged receipt of the notice. The resident was asked to leave by the Chair. The Clerk, in conformance with police advice, was about to ring them re the resident's presence in the Hall. Finally, Cllr Redding - firmly - 'ordered' the resident to leave, which he and his witness then did.

057/25 LAST MEETING MINUTES

June 5th minutes were agreed and signed.

058/25 PLANNING *Details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>*

- i. **New: 25/P/1098/FUL** Dolemoor L Solar Farm (Congresbury PC). This was not quorate for discussion. **Clerk to circulate to all Councillors (except Cllr Redding who declared an interest at Minute 055/25 above) for comment.**
- 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/0523/FUL: Glebe Cottage Puxton - conversion to two homes.**

- iii. **Calling in to NSC's Planning and Regulatory Committee: Applications 24/P/0143/FUL and 23/P/2593/FUL above:** Members were consulted on this after it was rumoured that planners were minded to pass these applications without them being passed to NSC's Planning and Regulatory Committee for review and decision. Both applications and all associated paperwork have in fact been 'Called In' to the Secretary of State for review and decision by planning inspectors. We believe that this process is likely to take several months.

059/25 FINANCE

- i. **2025-26 Accounts:** were reviewed and approved against the bank statement.
- ii. **Payments to be Approved:** Refund of expenses to Cllr Riddell re the purchase of a litter picking trolley approved per June meeting Minute 051/25 vii a: £368.99 (ratified).

060/25 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **A370: St Annes School Signage and Speed Issues being monitored by Cllr Redding:**
- a) **Police DCB** (data collection box): This box collects data that can be use for prosecutions. It is deemed unlikely to get to us due to there being a backlog of some 500 sites at which it is in demand. Since our request the Council have acquired a Speed Indicator Device (SID), which, although not providing Vehicle Recognition Data, is providing useful 24/7 information on traffic flows and speeds.
- 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:** The Parish Maintenance contractor having delegated powers to search and follow up on fly tipping still being investigated by Cllr Thomas. An update on the site meeting with NSC re Dolemoor Lane fly tipping is due at the September meeting.
- iii. **Highway Verge Erosion on Puxton Lane:** Responses awaited from two NSC online reports logged by Cllr Redding.
- iv. **A370 Footpath:** Test clearance of a section of path delayed due to a machinery fault.
- v. **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.
- vi. **Bus Shelters** - Request for their retention with NSC. Response being pursued by Cllr Thomas. Cllr Riddell suggests that the Council would undertake cleaning of the shelters if they were to remain. The Clerk pointed out that, maybe, NSC will condition such a move by this Council being responsible for the ultimate cost of the removal of the shelters. They have an NSC estimated life span of some 5 years and their removal, now, by NSC would be costed in as part of their bus improvement grant.
- vii. **Defibrillator:** The WI are discussing the possible installation of a defibrillator at the Village Hall. If this project goes ahead the Parish Council would, in principal, undertake to fund the annual maintenance costs subject to the submission of estimates. A suitable location has been suggested by the Hall.
- viii. **Parish Maintenance:**
- a) **Hand Cart for Litter Picking:** Purchased per June Minute 051/25vii a) at £368.99 against authorised price of £400 and added to Asset Register.
- b) **Flowers for Planters:** The meeting noted that they were, bar some due for the 'Village Green' in Puxton, planted out and looking good.

061/25 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Ellis

Once again, significant traffic hold ups at the Congresbury traffic light are causing chaos of both traffic and peoples travel timetabling. This is doubly frustrating because on a significant number of occasions there appears to have been no work being done by contractors replacing the gas main. The suggestion was ruefully put that a complaint about the chaos should be sent to NSC, but it was not followed through because NSC must be weary worn over complaints about traffic management during a long string of roadworks along this section of the A370.

Cllr C Penfold

Sections of the A370 footpath need flailing for road safety reasons as overgrowth is forcing users onto the highway - ie could be done even during the down-season for such work due to bird nesting. Sections between Kara Farmhouse and At Anne's School were noted. **Clerk will raise the problem with Cllr Riddell.**

Cllr Redding

Information Commissioner's Office (ICO): Challenge to an ICO decision by a parish resident:

There was a three hour judge-led tribunal held via the internet on June 25th, which Cllr Redding attended as an observer. ICO did not attend, but submitted their 'bundle' of evidence - this is apparently not unusual. The resident attended, working from his own bundle of evidence. The case revolves around a complaint by the resident to ICO that he was not provided with the full set of available information that Puxton Parish Council should have made available to him in relation to their 2022-23 accounts. ICO ruled that it was reasonable to presume that the full available accounting information had been provided, which the resident disputes. A judgement in the case will be given a few weeks from the hearing date.

North Somerset Community Response Team: Continuing vexatious interference at the Village Hall prompted Cllr Redding to contact the newly reconstituted NSC Community Response team, that deals with Anti-Social Behaviour. They are currently unable to assist, because the two officers currently employed are paid for by Weston Town Council and are confined to operating within that boundary.

Vexatious Requests and Complaints policy - A policy for dealing with abusive, persistent or vexatious requests/requestors, and/or complaints/complainants: The Council has just one resident to whom letters of restriction apply under this policy. The behaviour which prompts the need for these letters is constant, and therefore the subject of ongoing review: during June alone 10 Freedom of Information Requests and 15 Internal Reviews were requested from the same parishioner. Most received a reply. Cllr Redding reminded Members that a new Letter of Restriction is on its way.

Trespassing on Hall Property: This evening's trespass as at Minute 056/25 ii above, will be reported to the police as is usual in relation to such an incident.

070/25 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 4th September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9pm