

# 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 September 4th 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, Jim Corbett, Clayton Penfold, Peter Penfold, Helen Riddell

**In Attendance:** NSC Ward Cllr Dan Thomas, Don Hill (Clerk)

**Public Attendance:** 0

### 070/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mel Ellis

### 071/25 DECLARATIONS: *(Dispensations apply to Cllrs re percept setting, and Village Hall matters)*

**Cllr Redding** re planning references to Solar Farm projects outside the parish, which are similar to a project her family are connected with.

**Cllr P Penfold** re planning application 25/P/1098/FUL as cable will cross his land.

**Cllrs P Penfold and C Penfold** re planning applications 24/P/0143/FUL and 23/P/2593/FUL as owners of Gypsy/Traveller sites.

### 072/25 PUBLIC SESSION *15 minutes - contributions limited to 3 minutes: they should be concise and to the point*

No public session

### 073/25 LAST MEETING MINUTES

July 3rd minutes were agreed and signed.

### 074/25 PLANNING *Details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>*

i. **New:** None

#### ii. **Planning applications reviewed electronically since the July 3rd meeting and ratified here:**

a) **25/P/0246/FUL:** New Orchard Farm Hewish - Change of use of land from agricultural to business to site a mobile office unit; retrospective. No objections.

b) **25/P/1424/LDE:** Caffle, Bristol Road Hewish: Professional submission to regularise application reference 25/P/0156/LDE which was privately submitted and granted. No objections.

c) **25/P/1328&9/LDE:** Puxton Moor Farm - 2 existing barns; retrospective. No objections.

d) **25/P/1418/FUL:** *(Kingston Seymour PC)* Solar Farm at Yew Tree Farm. No objections.

e) **25/P/1520/FUH:** Harrys Barn East Hewish Lane - single story extension. No Objections.

f) **25/P/1098/FUL: Dolemoor L Solar Farm (Congresbury PC).** Puxton Parish Council has reviewed this application by email. It lies on the boarder between this parish and the site parish of Congresbury and has not thus far proved controversial in reaching this point. The Council are pleased to see that the applicant has given good consideration to the biodiversity of the area and the proposal is sympathetic to it. These biodiversity aims will ideally be a condition of a granted application - for example: Maximum removal of hedges 32m - An Arboricultural Method Statement and finalised Tree Protection Plan to be completed prior to development being commenced - Perimeter to have appropriate fencing - Rhynes to be protected during construction, during the lifetime of the solar park and during decommission - Any site access during construction and for ongoing maintenance to be constructed sympathetically to the area - When the site reaches end of use it is to be returned to Greenfield status and decommission not to have any negative environmental impact.

**vii. Decisions Due:**

- a) **22/P/3067/OUT:** Haybow Village (*Banwell PC*).
- b) **24/P/0143/FUL:** Gypsy/Traveller site below Heathfield Park.
- c) **23/P/2593/FUL:** Gypsy/Traveller site opposite The Full Quart.
- d) **Note re applications b) and c) above:** The Secretary of State referred application c) above back to NSC for decision. Applications b) and c) above were considered by the NSC Planning and Regulatory Committee on October 20th 2025. Paperwork for this meeting can be found at <https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=149&Mld=1290&Ver=4>. In summary, Officers recommended both applications for approval and the Committee recommended both applications for refusal. Both applications will come before the committee again at a future meeting for the refusal decision to be ratified. (Whilst the meeting minute is not explicit, it might be presumed that the refuse decision may *not* be ratified). Cllr Redding reported that she has visited the Moorland Park site which was clean and obviously well run. Moorland Park has 45 pitches, with 40 further pitches provisioned for in the current NSC local plan. She proposed, on the basis of what she has seen, that this Council support further development of Moorland Park rather than increasing pitch provision by 19 via the subject applications. Cllrs Corbett and Ridell agreed and Cllr Redding will incorporate this decision into her further representations to the Planning and Regulatory Committee.

**v. Approved**

- a) **19/P/0815/FUL:** Puxton Park car park.
- b) **25/P/0523/FUL:** Glebe Cottage Puxton - conversion to two homes.

**vi. Enforcement:** NSC planners confirm that there is one ongoing case being investigated.

**075/25 FINANCE**

- i. **2025-26 Accounts:** The accounts to date were reviewed and approved against the bank statement.
- ii. **Air Ambulance Grant Request:** The Council receives many such requests, but does not have a donations provision in its budget because, with Principal Authorities increasingly pulling away from servicing Parish needs, there is much to be provisioned for in terms of parish maintenance. The fund raising Barn Dance in September 2024 in aid of Air Ambulance was referenced as a possibly more effective way of contributing.
- iii. **Payments Approved:** HMRC re PAYE Jul/Aug/Sep £240.60. **Clerk to action**
- iv. **Bank Mandate:** It is possible to update this online via the support of a minuted resolution of the Council. Members unanimously agreed that Councillors Ridell and Ellis be added to the Mandate, which will mean that all 6 Members will be included as signatories. Cllr Riddell completed the necessary personal information form. **Clerk to progress.**

**076/25 PARISH MATTERS**

- i. **A370: St Annes School Signage and Speed Issues being monitored by Cllr Redding:**
  - a) **Gully overflows:** NSC require pictures of flooding before they will investigate.
  - b) **Road Safety:** St Annes Speed Watch scheme. The police lead has been in touch and Cllr Redding has volunteered to join the team. It is hoped that a training session can take place in the next few weeks to get the scheme under way.

- ii. **Fly-tipping/Litter picking:** The Parish Maintenance contractor is to have delegated powers to search and follow up on fly tipping. After a site meeting at Dolemoor Lane NSC will be providing the necessary kit for this to happen.
- iii. **Highway Verge Erosion on Puxton Lane:** Responses awaited from two NSC online reports logged by Cllr Redding.
- 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. **Bus Shelters** - It was accepted that NSC plans for the removal of Puxton bus shelters will go ahead. The bus stop poles will be replaced. Cllr Riddell pointed out that there currently appears to be no NSC support for access maintenance around the bus stops. Given the huge amount of overgrowth on both sides of the A370 the Parish Maintenance team can but do their best to keep the bus stops accessible.
- vi. **Defibrillator at Village Hall:** The WI will purchase the defibrillator, the Village Hall will install and manage it and the Parish Council will pay the annual service charge. **Clerk to provision for maintenance in the Council's 2026-27 budget.**
- vii. **Parish Maintenance: A370 Footpath:** Test clearance of a section of path delayed due to a machinery fault: **Flailing** is due to be done by NSC but no timetable available. **Footpath from Old Post Office to Palmers Elm** reported as in need of cutting back again - it was done in July. A new Maysgreen Lane sign needed and has been requested from NSC. Cllr Riddell reported that the cutting back will be done as soon as possible, but no firm date is yet available.

## 077/25 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

### Cllr Riddell

**Flower boxes:** have been decorated and planted out in Puxton Village. Sadly a large one opposite Briarwood Farm in Puxton Road has been stolen.

### Cllr P Penfold

**Pedestrians and the A370:** Both sides of the A370 are now impassable in many places all the way to Congresbury. There has been no flailing and no trimming back of the grass on the footpath. There are many places along the footpath where the overgrowth completely covers the footpath with the only way past being to step out onto the fast moving A470 highway. On the opposite - to Weston - side of the road the lack of flailing means traffic is having to pull out - swerve - to avoid colliding with the thick overgrowth. Cllr Riddell confirmed above that, in the context of maintaining access to the bus stops in the to Weston direction, the overgrowth is too high for our Parish Maintenance crew to tackle. Cllr P Penfold says this neglect has been going on for the past 3 years. It took him some 5 years of pressure to get the footpath cleared; due to the lack of an ongoing maintenance programme it is now back in as bad a state as it was before - as well as actually being unusable in many sections due to the overgrowth being so tall and spreading right out over the footpath to the highway. Something will have to be done, so **this matter will move into the body of the agenda so that decisions can be made on how to proceed.**

### Cllr Corbett

**Banwell Bypass:** During the construction of the bypass all sorts of diversions are likely to be in place as work progresses. Once the bypass is completed all sorts of rat runs are likely to develop to find routes between the A370 and the A371. What assurances do we have that traffic management will be effected in a safe and orderly fashion? Cllr Redding contacted the planners at an early stage in the process and received assurances that traffic flows will be diligently monitored. Hopefully scepticism will not need to be the ruling watchword over the coming years as this project progresses.

### Cllr Redding

**Flags:** Flags have been appearing in the parish apparently as elements of protest. Cllr Redding joined a Zoom session between Parish Council Chairs and MP Tessa Munt recently and queried with others what their stance was on the issue. There appeared to be more diffidence than strategy in how to address the problem, if problem it was. In terms of enforcement, clear and evident breaches of the law will require police intervention. The issue remains inconclusively poised.

**ALCA:** There are a range of ALCA courses on offer and Members should contact Cllr Redding if they are interested in joining any.

### 078/25 GOVERNANCE

- i. **Preparing for Assertion 10:** (AGAR 2025/26). The Clerk has provided Members with an initial briefing on this provided by ALCA. He will be working his way through the necessary headings to ensure that this Council is well placed to answer the assertion positively. Progress will be shared with Members and further ALCA briefings are expected.
- ii. **Community Governance Review** NSC's consultation report lists a 'no action' result for Puxton PC following our completion of their survey. On a size basis, we are already provisioned for our maximum of 7 councillors. There is to be a 2nd consultation, in which Members confirmed that they will have nothing more to add. The Clerk will respond to the consultation when it opens.

### 079/25 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 2nd October 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**The meeting closed at 9pm**