

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Puxton & Hewish

Clerk: Donald Hill

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st February 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Peter Penfold (Acting Chair), Jim Corbett, Clayton Penfold

In Attendance: Cllr Tom Leimdorfer (NSC), Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

014/28 APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAIR: Cllr Peter Penfold was elected unanimously, without a vote.

015/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs Sue Popperwell & Jim Howard

016/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS: None

017/18 PUBLIC SESSION - no public attendance

018/18 REPORTS - Ward Cllrs Report

NSC topics:

North Somerset Carbon Dioxide Reduction Target is to be set at 50% reduction in emissions by 2035 (consistent with the Climate Change Act). This endorses the objectives of North Somerset Climate Coalition, which held its first annual gathering in November. It is acknowledged that transport (45% of carbon emissions) is the biggest challenge and the aim to reduce travel by car has implications for future development plans.

Weston-super-Mare Transport Enhancement Scheme outlines proposals for a major project to redesign the town centre area (Station Road, Walliscote Road, Alexandra Parade) to reduce traffic dominance, enhance public transport, cycling and pedestrian facilities. The aim is to provide a more integrated, healthy, safe and reliable transport hub. The estimated cost of £4.45m is covered by grants at no cost to the Council unless there are cost overruns.

Better Care Fund Section 75 Agreement establishes a pooled budget between the NHS (Clinical Commissioning Group) and NSC, primarily to integrate responses to people with care needs to enable them to stay at home and avoid hospital admissions; but also to provide reablement. The budget is £22m (two thirds from NSC budget). *(Clerk's note: Reablement is a tool in managing the costs of an ageing population, providing personal care, help with daily living activities and other practical tasks. It encourages service users to develop the confidence and skills to carry out these activities themselves and continue to live at home. It tends to be provided to people who have just been discharged from hospital or are otherwise entering the care system following a crisis.)*

Budget: A sharp **Council Tax increase** of 5.99% (including 3% Social Care Precept), is still the 2nd lowest in the South West. NSC has £1.6m of **reserves**. **Service cuts and savings** total £14.7m. These include cuts of £1.7m to Children's Services, £2.4m in Adult Social Care (approximately balanced by a 'Better Care Fund' grant - see above), £1.8m in Development & Environment (libraries, highways, parks & open spaces), £1m in corporate spending (including reduction in CT support and hence a steep CT increase of some 16% for the poorest). **Equality Impact Assessments** show that the majority of 'high' and 'medium' negative impacts will be on those with low incomes, the elderly and people with disabilities. Few of these negative impacts can be mitigated. Despite the cuts, and the increase in Council Tax, the Council's finances show significant budget risks in eight out of nine areas of risk, mainly around uncertainties re deliverability.

Other Matters:

Puxton: A complaint has been lodged re the planning permission for a field entrance opposite the Full quart (17/P/1028/F). The complainant, an immediate neighbour, says they were not informed.

Weston-super-Mare Hospital: is seeking to merge with the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

Mendip Vale Medical Centre: is seeking to merge with Sunnyside, in Clevedon.

019/18 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING - 4th January 2018 agreed, and signed by the Acting Chair.

020/18 MATTERS ARISING NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE: None

021/18 POLICING AND TRAFFIC:

Wick Lane: On October 11th 2017 a lorry brought down power cables by Grange Business Park, causing a 4 hour power outage. There is a dispute between residents, Western Power and the police over the lack of a prosecution against the lorry driver being pursued by either the police or Western Power. Clerk monitoring

022/18 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL MATTERS

Stonebridge Farm: Awaiting NSC update.

School Transport: E-mail of complaint sent to Sheila Smith and "passed down the line". Cllr Peter Penfold also wrote a complaint and concern appears to be emerging from various other quarters.

A370 Footpath: Area Officer looked at the problem with a contractor. A quote for some trial work, as the basis for assessing the scope and cost of clearing the entire path, is awaited.

Puxton Road Drainage & Puxton Lane Grip: Works awaited - Minute 008/18 refers. Cllr Corbett concerned that the area of flooding reported by the Clerk in January is separate from that being dealt with outside Wyndham Grange. Clerk to put Area Officer in touch with Cllr Corbett so that they can meet to ensure both issues are being addressed.

Puxton Rd/Lane Junction: Signage has been repositioned.

Wick Lane Ditch: Report awaited from Area Officer.

Potholes: Village Green ones done - more marked to do. Maysgreen Lane junction, interim repairs in hand.

30mph Speed Limit on Puxton Road: speed check completed - results awaited.

023/18 OTHER MATTERS

BT Poles: Puxton Lane bridge to Willow Farm: Clearance job ref VOL013-269612756552

File backups: Memory sticks exchanged between Chair and Clerk at meetings is the cost effective option. Cllr Leimdorfer reminded us of the importance of codes and passwords being included - it is also a best practice requirement.

Website: Clerk has home-worked website flexibility... it has some that can be developed as needed.

Councillors: 2 vacancies for co-option.

GDPR (European General Data Protection Regulation): This data protection regulation comes into force at the end of May 2018. It is intended to replace existing law, but, as yet, is surrounded with uncertainty as to exactly how it will impact on Parish Councils. A specialist independent Data Protection Officer has to be appointed from among the staff, or, as in the case of very small Councils, as an external auditor. Guidance from NALC/ALCA is on-going. Meanwhile, the uncertainty is spawning a plethora of 'leaches' eager to exploit the situation. To mitigate this, NSC and BANES have each put together DP auditing services that can cover the legal requirements demanded of Parish Councils: we can use either - the NSC one will cost £375 per year. Members were sensitive to this being an expensive sledgehammer to crack a tiny nut in the context of the virtually non-existent personal data management beyond that of the Clerk and Members. No decisions are demanded of this Council until its exact responsibilities become clear. **Clerk to include this as an agenda item for the next meeting.**

St Anne's School Defibrillator: The School is hoping to install a defibrillator at a point where it will offer public access and is seeking donations in support. Although doubts arise, in rural areas, about issues of speedy access to these machines, with the school, the hall, the pub, the restaurant and the busy A370 all so adjacent, the proposed location is arguably the most appropriate in the parish. There is no budget in place for such a donation, but there will be a small amount still

available in the Community Fund. A sum in the region of £250 from this fund was sounded out as a possible 'Community' contribution. **Clerk to include this as an agenda item for the next meeting.**

St Anne's School Car Park: North Somerset Council currently leases the car park from the Parish Council, the lease expiring in 2028. As the school is converting to academy status by joining the Priory Learning Trust (PLT), it is proposed that NSC assigns the lease to PLT in accordance with clause 16.1 (the Clerk is seeking a copy of the lease from NSC) as one is not in the possession of this Council). NSC are seeking PPC consent, and contact details of the PPC lawyer. This topic will come up as an agenda item at the March 1st PPC meeting, but it was laid before Members here, for an initial reaction. The main provisos in progressing the proposal would be that the PPC expenses involved - it will, for example, have to be progressed by our lawyer - will be borne by NSC/St Anne's (we have no budget provisioned for such costs): also that, in the event that PLT/St Anne's was sold, the car park will revert back to PPC: and that the upkeep of the car park area will become the responsibility of PLT. **Clerk to seek responses to these provisos, hopefully for inclusion on the March agenda.**

024/18 FINANCE

2017-18 Accounts: pre-circulated with meeting papers. Noted.

Community Fund: Council and Hall solicitors liaising re best options per minute 110/18.

Cheque: 100211 Zurich Insurance annual premium £244.72

025/18 PLANNING (*Enforcement Report - Nov 2017*)

New: 17/P/5407/FUH Little Orchard, Bristol Road, two storey rear extension. **No objections.**

Decisions Due: 17/P/2567/F Heathfield pitches.

Granted: 17/P/5074/FUL Agricultural Building in field off Wick Lane.

Refused: 17/P/2649/F Oakacre garage. **17/P/5015/CSA** Puxton Nursery.

Appeal APP/D0121/W/ 17/3179037: re 16/P/2843/F Storage containers at Heathfield Park.

026/18 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS - none

027/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday 1st March 2018, at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm