

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Puxton & Hewish

Clerk: Donald Hill

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 7th February 2019

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

Present: Cllrs Jim Corbett (*Vice Chair & Chair of the Meeting*), Peter Penfold, Clayton Penfold, Lynda Redding

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

Public Attendance: 2

014/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllrs Sue Popperwell and Jim Howard

015/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS - none

016/19 PUBLIC SESSION - no matters raised

017/19 WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - Cllr Leimdorfer

Children's Public Health Services: At the January meeting of Council, it was noted that forthcoming changes to commissioning of adult community health services by the BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group will have an effect on the health visiting and school nursing services. It was agreed that the various options should be considered jointly by Health Overview & Scrutiny and Children & Young People's policy & Scrutiny Panels prior to a decision by the CCG.

Mendip Vale Medical Practice: On January 9th, permission was granted for the new surgery to be built on the Smallway. A road safety report said that both a light controlled (Puffin) and an uncontrolled island pedestrian crossing were feasible with some technical problems to overcome and it gave no preference for either. NSC Highways recommended an island crossing but Cllr Leimdorfer's amendment was accepted to keep both options open pending discussion of detailed designs.

Weston General Hospital: The CCG proposes that Weston Hospital A&E should be open with consultant led medical urgent and emergency care from 8.00 am to 10 pm, supported by overnight GP out of hours service 24/7 with the possibility of direct admission to the hospital. The 'critical care' service will be downgraded from 'level 3' (intensive care) to 'level 2 (high dependency) which will result in complex surgery cases moving to other hospitals. The hospital aims to be a 'centre of excellence' for elderly and frail patients and to perform a greater volume of operations which are not highly complex. It also aims to strengthen the provision for acutely unwell children.

Budget: The NSC budget for 2019-20 come to Council for approval on the 19th February. It proposes a Council Tax increase of 2.75%. The capital works programme includes the relocation of an expanded Baytree Special School, retaining the current site for extra places for children with moderate learning difficulties. The aim is to reduce the need for high cost out-county placements.

Climate Emergency: Cllr Bell and Leimdorfer submitted a motion, to be debated on February 19th, calling on Council to recognise the Climate Emergency as highlighted in the recent IPCC report, to take active steps to make North Somerset carbon neutral by 2030 and call on the government to provide powers and resources to make this possible.

018/19 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - 3rd January 2019 were agreed, and signed by the Chair.

019/19 MATTERS ARISING NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE - none

020/19 NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL MATTERS - none

021/19 OTHER MATTERS

Litter Picking: Cllr Redding has been approached about a possible litter pick. Two people pick Wick Lane, one picks part of Puxton Lane and one picks part of Puxton Road. These are occasional and individual commitments. There was a successful Parish Council organised pick in 2016 which MacDonalds took part in. The only parish member who turned up was the organiser: MacDonalds were not keen to participate in 2017. There are NSC sponsored help kits and equipment available to PCs via Glendale. There are a range of

administrative issues such as health and safety, CRB, insurance etc that have to be attended to if the PC runs a litter pick: all manageable if there is a solid core of volunteers to do the work. It is presumed that the A370 is probably too dangerous for such an exercise. In small parishes, groups of like-minded folk tend, typically, to have annual unofficial events which rely more on common sense than regulation as their core stimulus. This, combined with residents keeping the patch outside their own properties tidy, seems to suffice. If a core of volunteers were to emerge - strenuous efforts over the years produce such for Community SpeedWatch have not worked thus-far - there is no reason why the Parish Council could not act as the coordinating force behind a litter picking programme.

022/19 FINANCE

2018-19 Accounts: pre-circulated with meeting papers, review and noted.

Standing Order: variation re Clerk's pay signed.

Cheques: 100233 Zurich Insurance Annual Premium.

023/19 PLANNING (*Latest Enforcement Report December 2018*)

Decisions Due: 18/P/4721/FUL Heathfield pitches. 18/P/5131/FUL Weston College Centre (Cllr Corbett, who was not at the January meeting, was not alone in expressing concern at the ever intensive development of the Puxton Park site, so apparently at odds with the planning criteria that prevent developments in other areas of the Parish).

Granted: 18/P/4899/FUH Briarfield dormer.

Enforcement: Land opposite the Full Quart - a reportedly occupied static caravan, running a generator and draining waste into the ditch. NSC Enforcement investigating.

024/19 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr P Penfold: The Lanes - Expressed continuing frustration at the filthy state of some of the lanes, which we understand NSC are chasing alleged offenders about, but so far with little apparent success. **A370 Footpath** - Equally frustrating, and potentially more dangerous, is the state of the A370 footpath which, despite an offer from a resident to do the work, NSC pilot work and an NSC commitment to proceed with a significant section, continues to get worse with no sign of improvement works on the horizon. **Burial Grounds** - It is understood that, with no long term provision within the Congresbury and Puxton Ward, the planned new ground in Yatton will be used. There is a suggestion circulating that this new ground will only be available for cremations: if this is the case, what plans will there be for burials? **Clerk to follow up on the highways issues via our Area Engineer and on the burials query with the Yatton PC Clerk.**

Cllr Redding: Town and Parish Forum - Cllr Redding attended a recent Forum and outlined the main agenda topics. There was an explanation of the new Glendale **Parks and Open Spaces contract**. A discussion of the NSC **Litter and verges clearance** - spraying once a year and flailing twice a year. Members commented that there was no litter pick, no spraying and only one rather hit-and-miss flail per year. Apparently the Forum concluded that litter picking was best done by local initiative - but not on the A370 perhaps? **Social Isolation and Loneliness** was the headline agenda item: the role of Community Connect and its various sponsoring agencies in pointing people to services, activities and support agencies was explained. A summary of these Forums is usually circulated. If one appears for this one the **Clerk will circulate it to Members.**

Cllr Corbett: Planning - members were reminded of the need to exercise vigilance re possible breaches of planning regulations that may become apparent within the Parish. **Maysgreen Lane** - contrary to assurances given to our Area Engineer, NSC did not repair the disintegrating edge of the highway running alongside the cheese factory. The Clerk said the Area Engineer raised this with him this afternoon. **Clerk will add it to his list of ongoing matters.**

025/19 ONGOING ITEMS BEING MONITORED BY CLERK

Puxton Road Drainage at Wyndham Grange: on job list : **Puxton Lane Grip** on work programme : **Puxton Rd sign by Puxton Lane junction:** Temporarily on bank : **Puxton Lane:** Appletree Wall: with NSC Structures : **A370 Footpath:** 1st section start date due. **A370 Central Refuge:** Confirmation & timetable due : **Oldbridge River Bridge:** Repaired. Timetable for new bridge due.

Completed Works: Gully at Council Houses: Emptied on Jan 7th.

026/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Thursday 7th March 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm